Letter from the MEEA President

September 11th was a sad and heart-wrenching day. Our thoughts are with the families, friends, and colleagues of the victims of the attacks. I received numerous emails that week from colleagues and MEEA members who live in the Middle East who sent their condolences and sympathies. In view of the events, it is especially important that we reaffirm the importance of MEEA in strengthening an academic community of economists who work on Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and its interdependence with the rest of the world. Many of the papers presented at MEEA meetings over the last decade have called attention to the problems of poverty, income inequality, trade sanctions, labor markets, gender and of course monetary, fiscal and trade policies. The lack of appropriate institutions including governance and judicial institutions, and the existence of conflicts over territory, water, and religious plague most of the countries in the region. As other parts of the world have gained in economies of scale through regional integration in the last decade, many countries of the MENA region have exhibited declining personal incomes, increasing political instability and increasing religious fundamentalism.

The events of September 11th and the ensuing actions should make the academic scholar associated with MEEA more determined than ever to portray the economic and political realities of the region. MENA is composed of countries which exhibit very different macro and micro dynamics. Yet enhancing productivity through education, ending gender discrimination, increasing labor and trade flows to increase regional cooperation, ending sanctions, settling land and resource disputes, restoring...
Presidential Letter (continued from page 1)

Democratic institutions and dignity can only benefit all the countries in the region. I urge all of you to submit papers or panels which address these issues by responding to our Call for Papers for our January 2003 meeting.

I use this space in our newsletter to give the MEEA community a progress report of our recent activities. The Executive Committee of MEEA and the Board have been discussing for some time the means of delivery of our annual research volume which is part of our membership fee. When our series editor, Jennifer Olmiol, informed us about her decision to resign from her position due to her other commitments, the discussions took on a new momentum. The issue was finally resolved after a vote was taken in October by the Board which temporarily decoupled the membership fee from our publications to give MEEA the breathing space to deliver the back volumes and to examine alternatives. The Board also voted on the new reduced dues which are announced in this newsletter for the coming year. One of the options being considered for the future is for MEEA to produce stand-alone research volumes independent of the membership fee.

We have also revised our by-laws, where, beside other matters, our membership voted to lengthen the terms of future Board and the Executive members. We have mitigated this because of the many changes made to the Executive members go through in learning MEEA matters and in centralizing the numerous tasks associated with running MEEA. With the exceptions of the present Board and the Executive team, the terms for service are being to three years beginning in 2004.

I would like to thank the MEEA Board, Series Editor Jennifer Olmiol, Newsletter Editor Ward Saye, Executive Secretary Jeff Negri and Treasurer Helmut Utorf for the service they have given to MEEA over these last two years. I wish you a very productive new year.

Mike Cinar
Department of Economics, Loyola University Chicago
Middle East Economic Association Meeting
in conjunction with Allied Social Science Associations
January 4-6, 2002  Atlanta, Georgia

January 4, 2002

8:00 a.m.
Atlanta Hilton: Salon E
Trade, Exchange, Institutional and Policy Issues in the Middle East (Poster Session)

Presiding
Jeffrey B. Nugent, University of Southern California

Nare Ann Colton, Drew University, Poverty Allocation and Development in Yemen

Sahar Fazal Birmaher, California State University-Fresno, U.S.-Pakistan, Lobbies, and the Economic Sanctions Against Iran

Merid Sumre, University of Washington, Ethnic Conflict in Low-Confront Society: How Can Institutions Help During Transitions?

Susana Badiei, California State Polytechnic University-Pomona, and Cyrus Bina, University of Minnesota, Iran’s Economy in Perspective: Oil, Capital Formation, and the Rentier State

Nezak Bashamshesh, Radford University, Energy Export and Economic Growth in the Middle Eastern Region: A Test of Thirwall’s Hypothesis

Gaida Bint, Middle Eastern Technical University, and Enas Meniai, Volkswagen Doga, Taxation, Measuring Intra-industry and Marginal Intra-industry Trade: The Case of Turkey

Zain Barka, Université de Tunisie, Export Promotions and the Transformation Strategies: The Algerian Case Study

Nagla Nizam, American University in Cairo, Information Technology and Growth: Will the Software Industry Lead Egypt into a New Economy?

Kasim Dakhllah, Alexandria University, Choice of Exchange Rate Arrangement: Fixed vs. Flexible Rate: Case of Lebanon

G.V. Chona, American University, David and Urwin: The U.S.-Jordan FTA and Economic Development of Jordan

Zeliad Samaa, University of California, Central Bank of Turkey, Exchange Rate Management as a Source of Vulnerability

Mine Clari, Loyola, University of Chicago, Middle East Poverty: Local and National Trends, Nodal Points of Financial Integration

Ayman Kedram, Jeffrey B. Nugent, University of Southern California, Developing the Emerging Stock Markets of the Middle East: Are Their Determinants Different?

Hadi Esfahani, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign, Financial Market Integration

Fawad Naqvi, American University of Paris

Subrah Beled, Denison University

* * *
2:30 p.m.
Atlanta Hilton: Embassy
Roundtable on the Turkish Financial Crisis

Presiding
Mine Clari, Loyola University of Chicago

Nurhayat Bezijs, Representative of the Central Bank of Turkey, New York

Serdar Sayan, Bilkent University

C. Emre Alper, Bilkent University

In Memory of Charles Issawi: Economic History of the Middle East

Presiding
Fatemeh E. Moghadam, Hofstra University

Roger Owen, Harvard University, Issawi’s Notes of Egypt’s “ Lup-Middle Development” Revisited

Svetlana Pimen, Bilkent University, Modern Economic Growth and the Middle East Since 1930

Timur Kurus, University of Southern California, Opportunistic Taxation in Middle Eastern History: Islamic Influences on the Evolution of Private Property Rights

Fatemeh E. Moghadam, Hofstra University, Nomadic Dynamics and the Development of Land Ownership: A Case Study of Iran (1900-1930)

Discussion
Jeffrey B. Nugent, University of Southern California

Hadi Esfahani, University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign

Fawad Naqvi, American University of Paris

Subrah Beled, Denison University

* * *
10:15 a.m.
Atlanta Hilton: Embassy

MEEA Board Meeting
January 4th, 2002
5:30-7:30 P.M.
Hilton: Jefferson Room
(Invitation Only)
January 5, 2001

8:00 a.m.
Atlanta Hilton: Embassy
Palestinian Economy: Problems and Prospects

Presiding
Edward Sadey, Agnes Scott College
Leila Farsakh, SOAS, University of London—Palestinian Labor Migration to Israel: Is It a Finished Story?
Edward Sadey, Agnes Scott College—The Effects of the Peace Process on the Palestinian Economy: Separation, Reunification, and Exiting Intifada
Jennifer Olmsted, Occidental College—Income and Poverty in Palestine: A View of the Past Ten Years

Jinx Tanui, Koc University
Mena Said, International Monetary Fund
Hune Ide, International Food Policy Research Institute

* * *

10:15 a.m.
Atlanta Hilton: Embassy
Demography, Social Contract and Intergenerational Relations in the Middle East

Presiding
Jennifer Olmsted, Occidental College
Sedef Sayin, Koc University—Political Economy of Pension Reform: The Lessons that MENA Countries Can Draw from the Turkish Pension Reform Experience
Tarik M. Yousef, Georgetown University—Demography, Inequality, and Intergenerational Transfers in the Middle East

Hassan Hakimian, University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies, Population Trends and Basic Income Experiences After the Revolution
Jeand Vanos, East Valley State University—Economic Factors on Fertility in the Arab Middle East Countries

* * *

2:30 p.m.
Atlanta Hilton: Embassy
Financial Markets and Flows in the Middle East

Presiding
Nessa Azaid, Delhi University
Halkin (EID) Middle East Technical University—The Nature of Financial in Turbulent Middle East Economic Environments
Hassan Y. Alfi, Ohio State University, and Fatima Al-Saddadi, United Arab Emirates University, FDI and Economic Growth in GCC: An Empirical Investigation
Nancy Gour, Middle East Technical University—Germany's Strategy of Entrance and the Magnetic Mediterranean
Zeynep Onar, Bilkent University, and Sara Basinge, Renault, Middle East Technical University, Performance and Downtime of Petroleum: How Does Equity Impact Reality Mean?
Abdel-Rahman Bedish, Coaches State University, and M. Khaled Hassan, University of New Orleans—Financial Development and Economic Growth in the Middle East

Ahmed Guma and Beza Yehage, Mambet University—International Accounting Standards and Middle East Securities Exchange Markets
Sadie Gledigl, Aberdeen University, Volatility of Real Exchange Rates and an Emerging Market: The Turkish Case

In memoriam
C. Emre Alper, Bogazici University
Shailender Swaminathan, University of Michigan
Magd E. Bish, American University in Cairo
A.F. Alhajj, Ohio Northern University

January 6, 2001

8:00 a.m.
Atlanta Hilton: Dekalb
Political Economy and Policy Issues in the Middle East

Presiding
Sukh Bahadur, Deans University
Farid Soueida, American University of Paris, The Comprehensive Enact of the Classical Islamic Econonics in Islamic
Haluk Kazanci and Erdal Calik, Middle East Technical University, Political Economy of Agricultural Policies in Turkey: Gainers and Losers
A.F. Alhajj, Ohio Northern University, Oil, Economic Freedom, and Human Rights: Is There a Link?

Discussion
Umar Kurram, University of Southern California
Farzad Kazemi, Istanbul University
Merat Sumer, University of Washington
Pavel Alladin, Drexel University
Tarik M. Yousef, Georgetown University

Ignoto Fadlan, Sabanci University

MEEA Business Meeting
January 5th, 2002
5:30–7:30 p.m.
Hilton: Embassy

Housing Instructions
In order to confirm your housing reservation, please contact ABA Housing, Inc.
Make sure to add your reservation to the hotel list if you have not done so.
For further information, call 800-999-3456 or visit www.aba.org/housing

Hotels
Atlanta Marriott Marquis
260 Peachtree Center Ave
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-5516800
Emory University Inn
150 Mahajir Street
Atlanta, GA 30313
404-2231290
Hilton Atlanta
255 Peachtree St, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-5516800
Hilton Garden Inn
105 International Blvd.
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-5516800
Hyatt Regency Atlanta
25 Peachtree St., N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-5516800
Sheraton Atlanta
165 Peachtree St
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-5516800

4 MEEA Newsletter Vol. 12 No. 2
Minutes of the Business Meeting
Continued from page 2

Sobah Bokhi, co-chair of CHARAF, the watchdog for human rights violations in MIDEA region asked the audience for cases to be reported to him. He briefly discussed the case of Shaked Al Ibrahim, a prominent Egyptian sociologist who was jailed last year.

Mina Choin discussed various measures that have been adopted for quality control purposes in MIDEA. She mentioned that a necessary condition for getting published in Topics, the proceedings journal, is to get the papers to the discussants on time. She also mentioned the modified role of MIDEA where "sharings" are automatically moderated for the next two years. The section choses this year are keeping track of incoming number of papers handout. In the audience as well as the quality of papers. She mentioned that good discussants are essential in adding value to papers and as a result MIDEA cherishes good discussants. MIDEA is also in the process of reviewing the 8th Khaleer price for young scholars (defined as dissertation students or scholars up to 3 years beyond the PhD degree) in order to find ways to expand the submission base.

Jeff Nagurn reported that MIDEA activities are growing and as a result MIDEA is increasing the size of the Board with a change in by-laws this year. The members in the audience that they might be tapped to run for elections for the Board.

The business meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mina Choin

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

I am happy to inform you that the Board of Directors has just voted to reduce the annual membership fees beginning January 2003. The following are the fees:

- $25 for Student Members
- $50 for All Members residing in a MENA country
- $100 for Abstract submission fees are reduced to $25 for all persons wanting to participate in one of our MIDEA sessions. The lower membership fee is made possible by the fact that beginning in the year 2002 membership and receipt of the Research in Middle East Economics (RMBE) will be delivered. This delivery will last until these volumes are complete in a timely manner or alternative arrangements are made. While we were happy to distribute volume 4 of RMBE to those who were dues-paying members in 1999, volume 5 (on finance) and volume 6 (on finance) are still in production. These volumes will be distributed to those who paid their dues in the years 2000 and 2001, respectively. Once again, we apologize for the unfortunate delays in delivering these volumes.

The reduced dues, however, will require MIDEA to reduce its mailing and other services to those who have not kept up their memberships to date. Hence, to continue to receive our newsletter, call for papers and access to some features on our website beyond the spring of 2002, you will have to renew your membership for the calendar year 2002.

Anyone unable to do this but wanting to remain on our mailing list, please send the membership form back to me instead of to the Treasurer.

The members also voted to make two changes in the by-laws, one lengthening the terms of its officers from two to three years and increasing the size of the Board from seven to nine. In view of the fact that several of the officers are running for re-election, it was agreed by the Board that the change in terms would not become effective until the next election cycle (2001-2003).

For all those who will be able to join us at the MIDEA meetings held in conjunction with the ASSA meetings in Atlanta, Georgia, Jan 8-9, 2001, please try to attend as many as possible of the MIDEA sessions (on pages 3-4 in this newsletter) and attend our business meeting on Saturday evening January 5. Please feel free to bring students, colleagues and friends. We hope that we will be able to maintain the upward trend in attendance at MIDEA sessions despite the concerns about air travel and world hostilities. Please check our website: http://www.meeaweb.org/ for the latest information about MIDEA activities and announcements.

Jeffrey B. Nagurne
Department of Economics
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0283

New Members 2001

A. Alassar
University of Maryland

A.F. Al-Hijji
Ohio Northern University

Rasha A. Al-Misbah
International Monetary Fund

S. Babul
Harvard University

Ghali Ben Aimed
Free University of Brussels

Nashid Bileh
University of Tunis

Grace V. Dumas
American University

Kasim M. Dakahila
Cairo University

Bipra Dasgupta
World Bank

Bryan Davies
St. Antony's College, Oxford

Atif El Fallah
Cairo University

Hosam Farid
Yale School of Medicine

Ghadeer Gaddeh
Manchester College

Farouq Ghali
University College

Hassan Hanna
American University

Ahmed Hanafi
Manhattan College

EI Faris
University College

Sarah Haddad
American University

Mohamed Kerrou
University College

Hussein Khatia
University College

Mazin Seme
University of Washington

Rana Suhail
Family Business Jordan

E. Nusair
International Monetary Fund

Jamil Wahab
University of Jordan

Mazen Yassin
University of Jordan

Jehad Yassin
Fort Valley College

MEEA Newsletter Vol. 12 No. 2 5
ANNOUNCEMENTS

IBN KHALIDU PRIZE

Reminder that submissions for the Ibn Khaldun Prize for the best paper on one or more Middle Eastern countries by a junior economist (no more than three years after receiving Ph.D.) must be received no later than December 10, 2001 at the following address: Prof. Jeffrey B. Nugent, Dept. of Economics, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0253, USA. The entries will be evaluated by a three person committee.

MEEA-CHRAF

MEEA's Committee on Human Rights and Academic Freedom (CHRAF) monitors infringements of human rights and academic freedom of economists in the Middle East. For information, please contact Co-Chairs at MEEA-CHRAF, Abbas Alasadri or Sherif Behdad. Professor Alasadri may be reached at the Department of Economics, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405, USA, phone 802.656.3064, fax 802.656.8405, email aalasadri@uvm.com.edu. Professor Behdad is at the Department of Economics, Denison University, Granville, OH, 43023 USA, phone 740.587.6404, fax 740.587.6348, email behdad@denison.edu.

WESTERN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION JULY 2002

Jeff Nugent will be organizing sessions for the 2002 meeting of the Western Economic Association, International. The meetings will take place June 29-July 3, 2002 in Seattle, WA. Any one interested in a Middle East or Development (broader defined) related topic who is willing both to present a paper and serve as a discussant on another paper should contact Jeff with a title and complete address and email by January 15, 2002. Those not currently members of WEA will need to pay the registration fees of the WEA which are generally over $150 dollars.

FIRST WORLD CONFERENCE FOR MIDDLE EAST STUDIES SEPTEMBER 10-13 2002

The First World Conference for Middle East Studies was initiated by the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA). It will be a joint congress of the European Association for Middle East Studies (EURAMES), the British Society for Middle East Studies (BRISMES) and the German Middle East Studies Association (DAMOS). For information contact: Gunter Meyer, Centre for Research on the Arab World, Institute of Geography, University of Mainz, D-55099 Mainz (+49 6131 382790, fax: +49 6131 382796; damos@geo.uni-mainz.de, www.geo.uni-mainz.de/damos) Deadline for abstracts in February 15, 2002.

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS IN GENDER, WORK AND FAMILY

The Economic Research Forum (ERF) and The University of Minnesota (UM) are delighted to announce a new six-month graduate fellowship at UM. The ERF-University of Minnesota Fellowship program is affiliated with the UM Population Center. Eligible candidates will work with faculty members from the University’s Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, the Department of Applied Economics and the Industrial Relations and Human Resource Center of the Carlson School of Management on research related to gender, work and family in the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey (ERF region). The fellowship is designed to support researchers committed to a multidisciplinary approach to gender, work and family issues whose research is centered on the analysis of household surveys. Enrollment date for the second round of the ERF-University of Minnesota Fellowship program will be August 2002 - January 2003. The application deadline for the second round will be in March of 2003. Further information can be found at www.erf.org.ee and applications should be sent to ERF-University of Minnesota Fellowship Secretariat, Azza El-Shinawy, Program Officer, Economic Research Forum For Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey, P.O. Box 119, Cairo, Egypt, Tel: (02) 748 5551-337 0810, Fax: (02) 761 6042, Email: ashinawy@erf.org.ee.

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE ECONOMICS AND FINANCE OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA MAY 30-JUNE 1, 2001 BYBLOS, LEBANON

The School of Business at The Lebanese American University in association with the Middle East chapter of the Middle East Economic Association (MEEA) is holding its 4th International Conference on the Economics and Finance of the Middle East and North Africa - May 30-June 1, 2001, in Byblos, Lebanon. Papers in all areas of economics and finance with applications to the Middle East and North Africa are solicited.

Papers presented to the conference will be submitted for publication in the inaugural issue of the Review of Middle East Economics and Finance. Partial funding for travel and accommodation for the conference duration is available. For more information and submission of abstracts (200-word) or full papers by email (as text or PDF attachment), please contact:
Dr. Hassan Dibeh, Conference Co-Chair, LAU, PO. Box 36, Byblos, Lebanon, Email address: gdibeh@launi.edu.lb, Deadline for submission: March 15, 2002. Notification of acceptance: April 1, 2002. Website: www.lau.edu.lb.
New and Recent Titles

As part of the information services to MEEA members, the Newsletter will announce new titles on the political economy of the Middle East. We renew our request to publishers to send us copies of new titles on the political economy of the Middle East.


MEEA-SOAS
JOINT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, LONDON
JULY 2001

London was the venue and July was the month for MEEA’s first European conference, which was hosted by the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of London University. This international conference was a special occasion to mark the twentieth anniversary of MEEA's foundation. Its aim was also to foster international collaboration and promote MEEA’s profile outside the USA.

The theme of the conference was "Global Change and Regional Integration: Embracing the Economic Boundaries in the Middle East and North Africa". The key concern of the conference was to examine the experience of globalization and prospects for regional integration in the MENA region. This gave a focal point for lively and interesting presentations and discussions, which extended over two days and encompassed some 50 papers organized into 13 panels.

The conference was inaugurated with a high profile plenary session launching a special issue of the Economic Journal (June 2001), which contained papers on ‘The Economic Aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict’. In another plenary session, Professor Tony Allen of SOAS was the keynote speaker to offer his vision on solving MENA’s water scarcity problem in the context of the global trading system.

In all, this first international venture for MEEA proved a major success. With as many as 140 participants, we managed to bring together scholars of international reputation from the US, UK, and particularly from various countries in the MENA region (Turkey, Egypt, Algeria, Israel, Tunisia, Lebanon, Iran, Syria, Palestine, etc) as well as economists from the World Bank and IMF to share in their latest research.

We are grateful to SOAS for hosting and supporting this major event and to the Ford Foundation for a grant that helped our MENA participants attend the conference.

If you have any ideas about the next venue and occasion for a joint venture with MEEA, please let us know!

---

Membership

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Middle East Economic Association, please fill out this form and return it to the Treasurer. The membership fee is $25 for faculty and other professionals, $20 for students, and $10 for all members residing in a MENA country.

Name:

Rank & Affiliation:

Professional Address:

Send to:

Bulent Uyar
Treasurer, Middle East Economic Association
College of Business Administration
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0129

---

The Middle East Economic Association, a non-profit international organization, was formed in 1978 and is affiliated with the American Economic Association and the Middle East Studies Association. The main objective of MEEA is to foster scholarship and to establish lines of communication among specialists interested in the Political Economy of the Middle East. Web: www.meeaweb.org