Letter from the MEEA President

Dear MEEA Members, Friends and Community,

The year 2003 has turned out to be another one where some regions of Middle East are in war, strife, economic turmoil, uncertainty and poverty. It is very fitting that our 2nd summer session in University of Versailles (see the Call for Papers on page 8 of this newsletter) in France to be held on June 2003 is on conflict resolution in the MENA areas. I strongly urge you to participate to this conference and contribute to this vital and needed topic. I would like to thank the local organizer, Professor Jacques Charmes of University of Versailles for hosting MEEA's summer session and Prof. Elaheh Ershadian of City University, London for helping plan our summer sites.

Next year will mark the end of my term as President of MEEA. We will be holding elections in the summer of 2003 for the new Board and the new Executive Committee, all of whom will serve a three year term. I am going to be contacting our members for elections next fall. Due to problems we had with mail to and from the MENA region during September and October of 2001, a large majority of our overseas members could not vote in time for the present Board and the Executive Committee. To overcome this problem, I will ask the Board permission for emailed and faxed ballots. Please be sure to vote and to encourage your colleagues abroad to do so as well.

Call for Papers

The Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Middle East Economic Association (MEEA) to be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations in San Diego, California, January 3-5, 2004.

Please send a one-page abstract by March 31, 2003 to:
Jeffrey N. Nugent, Executive Secretary
Middle East Economic Association
Department of Economics
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0253

Note: Absence should be accompanied with a program submission fee of $25 US as well as an annual membership fee for 2003 of $25 US for students and faculty, and $20 for non-MENA residents.
Topics in Middle Eastern and North African Economies
the online journal of MEEA http://www.meeaweb.org

Editor: E. Mine Cinar
Contents of Volume 4, September 2002

*Isawo's Notion of Egypt's 'Lap-sided development' Revisited*,
Invited Lecture by Roger Owen, Harvard University

*Palestinian Labor Migration to Israel since Oslo and Beyond*, by Leila Farahat, University of London

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

*International Accounting Standards and Selected Middle East Stock Exchanges*, by Besaat Basheh and Ahmed Gomaa, Manhattan College

*Classification Tree Analysis Applied to the Middle East and North African Regions*, by E. Mine Cinar, Loyola University Chicago


*Dual Labor Markets and Public Debt: An Illustration Using the Lebanese Example*, by Sheikh Shalamoun, University of Southern California

*Oil and the Rentier State: Iran's Capital Formation 1960-1997*, by Sousan Badiei and Cyrus Blinn, California State Polytechnic University Pomona and University of Minnesota

*The Interpretative Debate of the Classical Islamic Jurists on Riwa (Usury)*, by Farhad Namini, The American University of Paris

President's Letter (continued from page 1)

votes this year to speed up the process. You will be informed of the Board's decision when you get your ballot form.

On a separate note, I am very happy that Dr. Hamid Zangoon, who provided MEEA with dedicated and faithful service as a Treasuerer in the past, has accepted the position of the director of CHITA, MEEA's committee on human rights. We congratulate him and wish him success in this very important endeavor.

The fourth volume of Topics on Middle East and North African Economies, selected electronic proceedings of our last meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, has been published on the web. The table of contents of this volume is listed above. To access the articles on this volume as well as the previous three volumes, please access meeaweb.org and go to its online journal section. The electronic publication of our proceedings has been a success, by the citations the articles received and by the number of unsolicited publications I am now receiving. Topics only accepts selected proceedings of papers presented in MEEA meetings. I encourage you to submit your other articles to the newly established Review of Middle East Economies and Finance journal by our local chapter, Lebanese American University—Byblos. The editor is Prof. Wassim Tahsin. The journal is published by Routledge Press. Information about the journal can be found at www.tandf.co.uk/journals/10868566.html.

I wish you all a very productive and healthy year. I also hope for peace, prosperity, democracy and dignity for the MENA region. Your research and input are crucial in reaching these goals.

Thank you for being part of MEEA's research community.

Mine Cinar
Department of Economics, Loyola University Chicago

MEEA Board Meeting
January 2nd, 2003
6:00-8:00 P.M
Marriott Metro: Potomac Room
(Invitation Only)
Middle East Economic Association Meeting
In conjunction with Allied Social Science Associations
January 3-5, 2003  Washington D.C.

January 3, 2003

8:00 a.m.
Marriot Metro; Salons C & D

Political Economy and Growth in the Middle East (Poster Session)

Presiding
Jeffrey R. Nafziger, University of Southern California

Cyrus Riazi, University of Missouri, The 50th Anniversary of the Coup: Political Economy of Oil and Sovereignty in Iran (1951-1953)

Akhbar Tabart, California State University, Origins of the U.S.-Iranian Economic Relation

Saffiye Ghali, Université de Tunis El Manar, and Pierre Mohsen, Maastricht University, TFP and Economic Potential of the Tunisian Economy

Gal Beno Orion, University of London, Investing in Islam: Australian Holding Companies and the Moral Route to Islamic Industrialisation

MKhalil Hassan, University of New Orleans, and Simon Nourai, American University of Beirut, Financial Liberalisation and Domestic Savings in MENA Countries: A Comparative Analysis

Saraje Gascon, Abzenon University, Volatility of Real Exchange Rate and an Emerging Market: The Turkish Case

Florence Reid, American University of Beirut, Governance and Incentives in Corporatized Public Hospitals: The Case of Lebanon

Halil Erstat, Middle East Technical University, and Hidayet Ozyurt, Central Bank of Turkey, A Panel Approach to Investigating the Persistence in Turkish Real Exchange Rate

Nagla Rizk, The American University in Cairo E-conomics in the Arab Countries: A Brave New Arab World?

Grace V. Chen, United Nations Economic and Social Office for Western Asia, Impacted and Domestic Labor Supply Dynamics in the Arabian Peninsula

Gülay Çınarlı Sensoy, Istanbul University, and Ümit Sensoy, Istanbul Technical University, Import Dependency of Production in Turkey: From 1970's to 1990's

Noury Simeon, Sez Dandanlio Khrader, Middle East Technical University, and Zeynep Onder, Bilkent University, Determinants of Market Reaction to Rights Offering Announcements: Evidence from an Emerging Market

Mohammed S. Al Madhoun and Fathah Anadou, Islamic University of Gaza and University of Bradford, Management and Development: The Training Program for Small and Micro Enterprises in Palestine

Sebnae Fatteh, Eastern Mediterranean University, The Choice between Fixed and Flexible Rates in the Presence of Foreign Shocks

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10:15 a.m.
Marriot Metro; London II

Poverty and Inequality in the Middle East

Presiding
Shah M. Mibrahim, Montgomery College

Mona Said, International Monetary Fund, and Tarik M. Youssef, Georgetown University Demographic, Social and Economic Differentials in Egypt, 1986-1996 Gender

Yusef Ziaa Othman, The Middle East Technical University, and Kinfe Merin Othman, Bilkent University, Measuring Poverty and Inequality in Turkey

Zubaira Bhatlova, Edward Genauer, and Muna Said, International Monetary Fund, Fiscal Decentralization and Poverty Alleviation in Sudan

Kamran M. Badakhsh, Northeastern University, Income Distribution and Economic Growth in Iran

Bladav Saleh Isfahani, and Reza Mohebbi, Khoirandish, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Dynamics of Poverty in Iran

George Shattuck, Northern Illinois University, Egyptian Poverty

Liverpool
Heba Naouar, Cairo University
Kitty Kay Chau, US Department of Agriculture
Nagla Rizk, American University, in Cairo

Sumon Bhabaki, London Business School

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2:30 p.m.
Marriot Metro; London II

Female Labor Participation

Presiding
Fatoum E. Meghdad, Hofstra University

Melanie Arvay, University of Rome, and Meltem Dayligil Taylor, Middle Eastern Technical University, The Role of Local Demand Side Factors in Determining Female Participation in Non-Governmental Wage Employment

Sara Zaree, University of Sussex, and Reem A. Assaad, University of Minnesota, Female Labor Force Participation, Fertility and the Timing of Marriage in Morocco

Fatima El Hammou, University of Pittsburgh, Female Labor Supply of Egyptian Married Women when Self Employment is an Option: Participation and Hours of Work

Hassan El Aab, Koc University, and Cem Babat, Bilgi University, Marital Women's Participation Choices and Productivity Differentials: Evidence from Turkey

Jennifer Stroud, Occidental College, Gender, Culture, Demography and Employment in the MENA Region

Discussion

Hassan Aly, Ohio State University
Parvin Alizadeh, Denison University
Florence Reid, American University Beirut

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January 4, 2003

2:00 a.m. Marriott Metro: Tokyo
Goods and Labor Flows in the Middle East
Presentation:
Hadi Ehabah, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Amelie Constant and Yechanan Shachmurove, University of Pennsylvania
Middle Eastern Immigrants in Germany

Cagida Coklat, and Haluk Coklat, Middle East Technical University
Trade and Labour Market Adjustment in Turkey

Gorry Methner, Carleton University, and Richard Taberek, Eastern Mediterranean University
Feasibility of Microfinance: Cluster Theory and Comparative Advantage Revised on Application to Northern Cyprus

Deborah H. James, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Alternative Paths to Prosperity: Economic Integration among Arab Countries

Edward Sayar, Aga Khan College, The Labor Market Impact of Palestinian Return Migration

Leila Farahani, London School of Oriental and African Studies, Palestinian Employment in Israeli Settlements in the West Bank: Causes and Implications

Hasan Mahimian, City University, London, Water Scarcity and Food Imports in the MENA Region: An Empirical Examination of the "Virtual Water" Hypothesis

Discussions:
Abdul Fititia, Saba University
Hassan Afgan, International Food Policy Research Institute
Mashadiq Choudhary, University of Ruhaid
Sheikh Shawkawaz, University of Southern California

10:15 a.m. Marriott Metro: Tokyo
Capital Flows and Markets in the Middle East
Presentation:
E. Minos Chay, Loyola University Chicago

Asha Ertikis, Citi Newsmaker Reserve University, Israeli and Syrian Foreign Direct Investment in Turkey

Shawki Hamiduddin, Deema University
Linkages and Volatility Transmission Between Oil Markets and Stock Markets of the Six GCC-3 Oil Exporting Countries

M. Kuchir, University of New Orleans
Return Volatility, Predictability and Dynamic Relationships in the EUR Exchange Markets

Susan S. Bambak, Saad Etted, London Business School, Klaus Meyer, Copenahen Business School
Determinants and Impact of MNC's Mode of Entry into an Emerging Market: A Comparison of Egypt and South Africa

Jorge Martinez, University of Central, Georgia State University: Role of Law, Contract Enforcement, and the Level and Maturity of International Lending: Evidence from MENA

Kerim P. Arin, Louisiana State University
Determinants of Privatization Prices: Evidence from Turkey

2:30 p.m. Marriott Metro: Tokyo
Policy Roundtable on the Middle East: Where Is MENA Headed?

Presentation:
Tariq M. Yousef, Georgetown University

Panelists:
Ahmed Zaza, President, Petroleum Finance Company
George Aled, Director, Middle Eastern Department, IMF
Jean Louis Barak, V.P., Middle East and North Africa Region, World Bank

MEEA Business Meeting January 3rd, 2003 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Marriott Metro: London II

Coming Soon - Early 2003

Food, Agriculture and Economic Policy in the Middle East
Volume 5 of Research in Middle East Economics
Published by JAI Press/ Elsevier Ed. by Hans Afgan

Housing Instructions
To make reservations contact WCTC Hotel Reservation Office: 148 West 23rd St, 400, Dearfield, IL 60015
Make your reservations as soon as possible and before they are filled. Contact WCTC at 312-452-6870 for reservations or fax at 312-452-6870. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis.
Full meal service is available at the AEA website www.caasid.org/EAS/AEA/staff

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January 5, 2003

8:30 a.m.
Marriott Metro; Tokyo

Exchange Rates, Money and Industry Structure in the Middle East

Presiding
Kristen Merit Ozcan, Bilgi University

Ida A. Mirakhor, John Carroll University and Magda Kaddour, International Monetary Fund Comparative Analysis of Exchange Rate Fluctuations and Aggregate Economic Activity: Theory and Evidence from Middle Eastern Countries

Rusli A. Al-Mashari, International Monetary Fund, Financial Innovation and Alternative Exchange Rate Arrangements in MENA: An Empirical Estimation of Demand for Money

Alpay Filiztekin, Özer Genççizi, Brunsvik Zeki Orhun, Sabanci University, Capacity Choice, Exchange Rate and Industry Structure

Gühan Canpolat, Bilgi University, Exchange Rate Based Stabilization Programmes in Turkey: establishing or destabilizing?

Yakup Kaçırcı, Middle East Technical University, State and the Private Industrial Capital The Turkish Case

Discussant
Kamran Badshah, Northeastern University Haluk Er fold, Middle Eastern Technical University

Haluk Er fold, Middle Eastern Technical University
Julia Devlin, World Bank

New Members 2002

Mohammad Al-Mashari
University of Bradford
Karim Farnon
Louisiana State University
Ari Ammon
Ben Gurion University
Ali Assaf
University of Windsor
Fayez Awad
Lebanese American University
Sherwin Beshara
London Business School
Celal Capoglu
Bilgi University
Sarhan Mitri
Eastern Mediterranean University
Mehmet Dayyoglu-Taylor
Middle Eastern Technical University
Ghassan Dibah
Lebanese American University
Salih Djoudi
Lebanese American University
Wael El-Araby
George Washington University
Fama El-Hamidi
University of Pittsburgh
Asim Erdik
Case Western Reserve University
Alpay Filiztekin
Sabanci University
Sofiane Ghali
Université de Tunis El Manar
Edwar L. Gimenez
Universidad de Vigo
Mohammed Kallar Hassan
University of New Orleans
Nader Kabbani
Lebanese American University
Yakup Kaçic
Middle East Technical University
Habib Khaddi
World Energy Council Center on Energy Issues in Developing Countries
Sami Khodr
University of Southern California
Denise Elhai Kanu
University of Hawaii
Marina
Wassam Mina
Georgia State University
Ida Mizzau
John Carroll University
Reza Mohammadi-Keshavarz
Virginia Polytechnic and State University
Ihsan M. Nadri
New York University
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Carnegie University
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University of London
Khalid Perzan
Bilgi University
Upo Pianizza
Lebanese American University
Elia Rood
Lebanese American University
George Stavropoulos
Northern Illinois University
Meenakshi Taneja
Eastern Mediterranean University
Allah Showish Farah et al
California State University
Yaghoub Shadmand
University of Pennsylvania
Sajid A. Yousof
Altaf A. R. University
Baraka Zane
University of Thermo
Sami Zarrad
University of Sfax

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

All participants in MEEA sessions in Washington D.C. must be sure that they are registered with the ASSA. Registration can be done online by the website available for the American Economic Association that can be done by doing a Google search for this association and then clicking on the website given. Within that site check “annual meeting”

The MEEA Board meeting this year will be held 6-8 PM in the Potomac Room of the Marriott Metro Hotel on Thursday evening, January 2.

Please note that this is the evening before the conference formally opens.

The MEEA Business Meeting will be held on Friday evening January 3, 3:30-5:30 PM in the National Room of the Marriott Metro.

Everyone please try to attend the Special Policy Roundtable on the Middle East 2:30-4:30 PM in the Tokyo Room of the Marriott Metro Hotel Saturday January 4. Also, please try to attend as many as possible of the MEEA sessions (see pages 3-5 in this newsletter) and attend our business meeting on Saturday evening January 4. Please feel free to bring students, colleagues and friends. Please check our website: http://www.meeaweb.org for the latest information about MEEA activities and announcements.

Jeffrey R. Negretti
Department of Economics
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0253

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

INN KHADLUN PRIZE

Reminder that submissions for the Inh 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 not later than December 5, 2002 at the following address: Prof. Jeffrey B. Nugent, Dept. of Economics, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0235, USA. The entries will be evaluated by a three person committee.

NEW DIRECTOR OF 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.

Note from new Director

I am very pleased to be a part of CHRAF. It is indeed an honor. Success of this organ of MEEA depends on your belief in the idea that all human beings deserve to be free regardless of race, gender, religion, nationality, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. We are living in a rapidly evolving world and each and every one of us could contribute to make sure it is safe, secure, and free for all. The success and failure of CHRAF depends on your cooperation and assistance. I would like you to be involved and spread the word around all economics departments throughout the Middle East about the continuing existence and willingness of this organization to support and defend individual rights by all peaceful means available to us. Please send me list of economic faculty (names, affiliations, addresses, telephone numbers, and emails addresses) in your department so I can send everyone notes about the organization and new developments. Thanks and with best wishes Hamid Zangeneh.

For information, please contact Director of CHRAF, Hamid Zangeneh, Dept. of Economics, Widener University, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013 USA, email Hamid.Zangeneh@widener.edu, or Co-Chairs of MEEA-CHRAF, Abbas Almawri or Soheib Belhad. Professor Almawri may be reached at the Department of Economics, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405, USA, email aalewan@uvm.edu; Professor Belhad is at the Department of Economics, Denison University, Granville, OH, 43022 US, email belhad@denu.edu.

WESTERN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION JULY 2003

Jeff Nugent will be organizing sessions for the 2003 meeting of the Western Economic Association, International. The meetings will take place July 11-15 2003 in Denver, Colorado. Anyone interested in a Middle East or Development (broadly 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, 2003. Those not currently members of WEAE will need to pay the registration fees of the WEAE which are generally over $150 dollars.

NEW JOURNAL IN 2003

REVIEW OF MIDDLE EAST ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

Routledge, Taylor & Francis are proud to announce the release of a new journal for 2003, Review of Middle East Economics and Finance, edited by Wassim Shahin from the Lebanese American University.

Review of Middle East Economics and Finance aims at addressing applied original research in the fields of economics and finance pertaining to the Middle East and North Africa region including Turkey and Iran. Topic areas, although not exhaustive, encompass Monetary and fiscal policies; Labor and welfare economics; International trade and finance; Banking; Financial markets and institutions; Financial instability and crisis; Investment and portfolio analysis. Strong emphasis is placed on empirically based papers. The Journal includes a review section of books dealing with the above topics.

Manuscripts to be considered for publication should be submitted to: Wassim Shahin, Editor, MEEF School of Business, Lebanese American University, PO Box 36, Byblos, Lebanon.

Electronic submissions in a format other than pdf are encouraged and preferred at mosf@lau.edu.lb

GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS IN GENDER, WORK AND FAMILY

The Economic Research Forum (ERF) and The University of Minnesota (UM) are delighted to announce a third round of 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 third round of the ERF-University of Minnesota Fellowship program will be August, 2003- January 2004. The application deadline for the second round will be in February 15th, 2003. Further information can be found at www.erf.org.eg and applications should be sent to

ERF-University of Minnesota Fellowship Secretariat, Anna El-Shintaawy, Program Officer, Economic Research Forum For Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey, 7 Boutsou Hanna st, Dokki, Cairo, Egypt, Tel: (202) 748 5553-337 0810, Fax: (202) 761 6042, Email: aeshintaawy@erf.org.eg.

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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.


CALL FOR PAPERS
MEEA-UNIVERSITY OF VERSAILLES
JOINT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE; JUNE 2003

The Middle East Economic Association (MEEA) is organizing its second European conference in Versailles University 2-3 June 2003. This international Conference is a joint venture with the Centre of Economics and Ethics for Environment Development of the University of Versailles.

The theme of the conference is the economics of conflicts and co-operation in the Middle East and North Africa region. The aim is to provide an opportunity for addressing MEEA’s economic challenges in a global setting characterized by new forms of co-operation and threats of war, which are likely to influence the future direction of the region’s economy.

Papers that address the theme of the conference are solicited. Abstracts should be submitted by 31 January 2003. Decisions for inclusion in the conference will be made by the end of March. Full papers should be submitted by 20 May 2003. Proposals for complete sessions (three to four papers each, with discussion) are also invited. Organizers of proposed sessions should submit abstracts of all papers by 31 December 2002.

Please submit abstracts by mail, fax, or e-mail as word attachment to:
Jacques Charmes, Conference Chair
Centre of Economics and Ethics for Environment Development (CDEE), University of Versailles
47 Boulevard Vauban
78840 GUYANCOURT Cedex
FRANCE
Email: Jacques.Charmes@crd.uvsq.fr;
Fax: +33 1 39 53 00; Tel: +33 1 39 53 75 76

The Middle East Economic Association, a non-profit international organization, was founded in 1976 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

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NEWSLETTER
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Send us news about yourself, other organizations, forthcoming conferences and new publications. Address all communications to the editor:
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Augsburg College
Rev. 3, 06.
eules@aug.sc.edu

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, $10 for students, and $10 for all members residing in a MENA country.

Name:

Rank & Affiliation:

Professional Address:

Fax:

Email:

Send to:

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

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