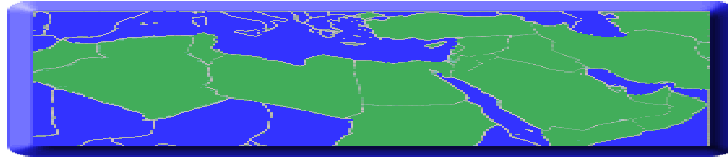


MEEA

Middle East Economic Association

Fifth International Conference



Call For Papers

The Middle East Economic Association (MEEA) in association with the University of Sousse will hold its 5th International Conference on **March 10-12, 2006**, in Sousse, Tunisia. The main goal of this conference is to bring together distinguished economists from all over the world for the purpose of exchanging ideas, data, research findings and policy solutions to common problems on a number of interrelated issues such as Corruption, Trade, Investment, Macroeconomic management, Labour, Growth, Stabilization policies, political economy of policy reforms of relevance to the analysis of the economies of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. It should provide an opportunity for established scholars from different intellectual viewpoints and countries to interact both with each other and with young researchers both inside and outside the region.

Proposed abstracts of papers that address the any one or more of the issues identified above or sub-themes listed below are solicited. To be eligible for inclusion in the conference the abstract should be received **in electronic form by October 15, 2005**. Possible topics need not be restricted to the themes mentioned above but each proposal should show the relevance of the proposed topic to the problems facing countries of the MENA region. Both broad theoretical approaches and specific case studies are welcome, especially if they address conference themes and make use of a comparative perspective. Postgraduate students and scholars from the region are especially encouraged to submit proposals.

Selection criteria by order of importance include: (1) the quality, interest and potential significance of the proposed paper, (2) seeming familiarity of the author with the relevant literature, (3) the quality of past presentations (if any) in MEEA, (4) compatibility of the proposed paper with others that are valued highly and chosen for inclusion, (5) the extent to which the proposal makes reference to (or may be relevant to) more than one country of the region, and (6) the timeliness and originality of the subject matter.

Proposals for **complete sessions** (three to four papers each) are also invited. Organizers of proposed sessions should submit abstracts of all papers by **15 September 2005**. **One page** abstracts submitted on an individual basis should be submitted in electronic form by **October 15, 2005**. Notification of the decision on the inclusion of the proposed paper will be made by December 1, 2005. For selected papers, the full papers including the title of the paper, the author's title, email address, and the revised **abstract of not more than 200 words** and the **JEL classification code** most suited to the content of the paper should be submitted **January 31, 2006**. Abstracts as well as full papers are to be submitted by e-mail (as word or Pdf attachment) to:

meea2006@topnet.tn

Although there is no restriction on length, we would prefer shorter papers (20 pages or less - approximately 5000 words typeset in 12 points) to longer ones. Authors are therefore encouraged to be clear and concise. Delegate distracting details to a short Appendix if need be. Figures and tables must be in the main body of the text. Do not use 'insert here' format.

Deadline for submission of abstracts: October 15, 2005.

Deadline for submission of full papers: January 31, 2006.

Program Committee Co-Chairs

Prof. Jeffrey Nugent
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Dr. Adel Boughrara
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More Information on the conference fees are obtainable from the MEEA website:

<http://www.meeaweb.org>

Or from the local organizing committee:

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Conference Sub-Themes

Corruption & Development in the MENA region

- Theoretical Perspectives of Corruption and Development
- Corruption, Population Planning and Development
- Corruption, Investment Climate and Economic Development.
- National Resources Management and Corruption Control.
- Politics and Corruption in MENA countries.
- A Psychological Perspective of Corruption
- Societal Ethical Values, Corruption and Development.
- Education, Elitism, Corruption and Development.
- Gender Issues of Corruption and Development.
- A Legal Perspective of Corruption.
- Corruption and Human Rights.
- Historical Perspective of Corruption.
- Corruption and Poverty Alleviation.
- Global Dimension of Corruption.

Governance, Institution & Development

- Governance and sustainable development.
- Public sector integrity and corruption (code of conduct and ethics, accountability and transparency rules).
- Institutions and Fiscal Discipline in MENA Region.
- How does Governance affect growth and investment in MENA region (the setting of economic policy, the quality and costs of bureaucratic regulation, and the availability of adequate public services)?
- The role of institutions and the efficiency of institutional change in facilitating development strategies and insuring the foundations of more efficient and more equitable economies and societies.
- How to consolidate the democratic basis of local governance in the MENA region?
- E-Government (reduction of corruption and arbitrary decisions or behaviour)
- Regulatory governance (quality regulation, transparent and accountable, boosting sectoral efficiency and innovation, increasing consumer choice and welfare).

Trade & Foreign Direct Investment

- Bilateral and multilateral trade agreements in the MENA region (past and present).
- Intra-regional trade liberalization: economic evaluation and political feasibility.
- Regional integration schemes (Euro-Med. Initiative; The Arab Free Trade Area, etc.); membership of WTO.
- The effect of macroeconomic policies (fiscal policy, exchange rate policy, ...etc) on the sectoral allocation of labor, and the impact of trade policy (tariff and non tariff barriers) on productivity growth.
- New evidence on the nexus between brain drain and economic development in the MENA region.
- Child labor: causes, implications, and interventions.
- Labor markets and economic integration in the GCC countries: understanding the role of labor mobility.
- Country experiences with liberalization: relatively open economies (Gulf Countries, Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan); relatively closed economies (Iran, Syria, Yemen, Algeria); experiences of oil and non-oil economies.
- Oil and gas markets, OPEC and the new world economy.
- Assessing the employment impact of trade liberalization and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows.
- Implications of Qualified Industrial Zones on trade and FDI performance.

Investment & Finance

- Money and Capital markets in the MENA region.
- FDI and portfolio investment.
- Legal and institutional constraints on trade and foreign investment in the region.
- The role of, and scope for, international joint ventures.
- The scope for financial liberalisation, monetary union and currency blocks.
- Integration into the global financial architecture, scope for and impact of financial crises.
- Capital flows, fiscal policy and management of foreign debt and liabilities.
- Clarify the links between financial markets and the real economy
- The role of the financial sector in the design of macroeconomic policy.

Labor & Human Resources

- Theoretical Perspectives of Corruption and Development.
- Globalisation and labour markets: impact on MENA countries' unemployment, wages and income.
- Liberalization and labour mobility: internal, regional and external migration.
- Labour market reform and flexibility.
- Informalisation and flexibilisation of labour in the region.
- Female labour supply and employment patterns.
- Legal and institutional constraints on labour markets.
- Human capital, education and skills: patterns and implications for regional and international integration.

Macroeconomic Management, Growth & Stabilization

- Explaining growth experience in the region.
- The nexus between trade/financial liberalization and growth.
- Approaches to macro stabilization: Money-based, exchange-rate-based and inflation targeting.
- The political economy aspects of macroeconomic stabilization and structural adjustment; including policies and institutions needed for coping with volatility, and achieving economic diversification.
- The prospects for creating a Monetary Union among the GCC countries, and the nature of monetary policy coordination under this initiative.
- The macroeconomics of fiscal and monetary policies under various exchange rate regimes.
- The macroeconomic implications of public insolvency and/or explosive public debt dynamics.