

Under the patronage of HE President of the Council of Ministers of Lebanon
H.E. Fuad Siniora

Arab Economic Forum

Phoenicia Intercontinental Hotel, Beirut, Lebanon
2-3 May, 2008

Forum Program

Thursday : 1 May, 2008

17:00-19:00 **Registration of participants at the Phoenicia Intercontinental Hotel**

20:30 **Reception hosted by Bank Audi -Audi Saradar Group at Villa Audi, Sofil Gardens**

Day One: Friday May 2, 2008

08:00-09:30 **Registration of participants at the Phoenicia Intercontinental Hotel**

09:30-10:50 **Opening Session:**

- **Mr. Raouf Abou Zaki**, General Manager, Al-Iktissad Wal-Aamal
- **Dr. Francois S. Bassil**, Chairman, Association of Banks in Lebanon
- **H.E. Riad Salamé**, Governor, Central Bank of Lebanon
- **H.E. Abdallah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Industry, Qatar
- **H.E. Amro Moussa**, Secretary General, League of Arab States, Egypt
- **H.E. Zeine Ould Zeidane**, Prime Minister, Mauritania
- **H.E. Fuad Siniora**, President of the Council of Ministers, Lebanon

10:50-11:00 **Keynote address: H.E. Ghassan Tuéni**, Member of the Lebanese Parliament, and CEO and Chairman of An-Nahar Newspaper

11:00-11:30 **Opening of the Forum Exhibition and coffee break**

11:30-12:45 **Session I: Looking Beyond the Oil Boom: What are the Priorities of the Next Phase of Economic Development**

- Major developments and trends in the Arab economies and priorities for the next phase of development.
- Competitiveness of Arab countries in attracting foreign investment, the future reform agenda and challenges ahead.
- Assessing the impact of the on going economic boom on the global standing of Arab economies.
- Building public-private partnerships and increasing private sector participation in development projects.

Chairman: H.E. Badr M. Al Humaidi, Chairman, Triple E Holding, Kuwait

Speakers:

- **Dr. Jassim Al Mannai**, Director General and Chairman, Arab Monetary Fund
- **H.E. Dr. Mahmmoud Mohieldin**, Minister of Investment, Egypt
- **H.E. Dr. Ali Zumae**, Chairman and Managing Director, AREF Investment Group, Kuwait
- **Mr. Moazzam A. Mekan**, Manager - IFC's Advisory Services in the Middle East and North Africa

- **Mr. Ali Aissaoui**, Senior Manager, Economics & Research, Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (APICORP)
- **Dr. Ali Moumen**, Representative in Lebanon, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

12:45-13:45 **Session II: Tackling Inflation and the Future of Arab Currency Peg**

- The threat of rising inflation and risks posed to social and economic development.
- Needed policies and reforms to rein on inflation.
- Can the Arab countries move away from the dollar peg and is this the right time to do it.

Moderator: H.E. Dr. Mohammad Halaiqah, Former Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Jordan

Panelists:

- **H.E. Eng. Sultan Al Mansoori**, Minister of Economy, UAE
- **H.E. Dr. Hamed Kasasbeh**, Minister of Finance, Jordan
- **H.E. Dr. Yousef S. H. Al Zalalah**, Chairman, KGL Petroleum, Kuwait
- **Dr. Henri Azzam**, CEO, Middle East & North Africa, Deutsche Bank AG

13:45-15:15 **Lunch hosted by BankMed at Mosaic Restaurant, Phoenicia Intercontinental Hotel**

15:15-16:30 **Panel III: The Rising Global Power of Arab Capital**

- Investment strategies and growing impact of Arab Sovereign Funds on the international market.
- How can Arab Sovereign Wealth Funds increase their allocation to Arab markets?
- The likely impact of growing requirements for regulating SWFs on investment policies.

Moderator: Dr. Joseph Torbey, Chairman, World Union of Arab Bankers, Lebanon

Panelists:

- **Dr. Jassim Al Mannai**, Director General and Chairman, Arab Monetary Fund
- **HE Dr. Abdullah Al Kuwaiz**, Former Assistant Secretary General - Economic Affairs, the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf - Secretariat General
- **Mr. Iyad Malas**, Chief Executive Officer, MAF Trust, UAE

16:30-17:30 **Panel IV: The Construction Boom and Prospects for the Real Arab Estate Markets**

- Mega projects and the supply-demand situation in the Gulf and regional real estate market: Is there a limit to the market's capacity?
- Is the real estate boom sustainable? What are the risk/reward prospects?

Moderator: Mr. Saeb Nahas, President and Chief Executive Officer, Nahas Enterprises Group, Syria

Panelists:

- **Mr. Salah Al Mayyal**, Vice Chairman of Tharawat Real Estate and Managing Director of Levent Holding, Kuwait
- **Dr. Faysal Alaquil**, Director-Business Development, Construction Products Holding Company, Saudi Arabia
- **Mr. Mounir Douaidy**, General Manager, The Lebanese Co. for the Development & Reconstruction of Beirut Central District (Solidere)
- **Mr. Nabil Sawabini**, Chairman and CEO, MENA Capital, Lebanon

20:30 **Awards ceremony honoring at the Grand Government Serail:**

- **H.E. Abdallah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Industry, Qatar
- **H.E. Ghassan Tuéni**, Member of the Lebanese Parliament, and CEO and Chairman of An-Nahar Newspaper
- **H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin**, Minister of Investment, Egypt
- **H.E. Sheikh Rashid Bin Humaid Al Nuaimi**, Chairman, Municipality & Planning Department-Government of Ajman, UAE
- **Mr. Robert Fadel**, President of Young Entrepreneurs Program "Bader", and Vice Chairman of ABC, Lebanon

The ceremony will be followed by dinner hosted by the President of the Council of Ministers of Lebanon H.E. Fuad Siniora (By invitation only).

Day Two: Saturday May 3, 2008

9:30-10:30 Session V: Developments in the Lebanese Economy and Prospects

- The challenges of economic management under political crisis conditions.
- Some indicators of the recent performance of the Lebanese economy and their implications.
- Why is the real estate market booming and what are some of the best investment opportunities in real estate

Moderator: H.E. Sami Haddad, Minister of Economy and Trade, Lebanon

Panelists:

- **H.E. Dr. Jihad Azour**, Minister of Finance, Lebanon
- **Mr. Nabil Itani**, Chairman and Managing Director, Investment Development Authority of Lebanon (IDAL), Lebanon
- **Mr. Fady Abboud**, President, Association of Lebanese Industrialists
- **Dr. Makram Sader**, Secretary General, Association of Banks in Lebanon
- **Mr. Robert Fadel**, President of Young Entrepreneurs Program "Bader" and Vice Chairman of ABC, Lebanon
- **Mr. Raja Makarem**, Founder and Managing Partner, Ramco, Lebanon

10:30-11:30 Panel VI: The New Banking Paradigm in the Arab Region

- Meeting the rapidly growing demand for project finance, sophisticated retail market products and wealth management expertise.
- Role of foreign banking.
- Regional and international expansion.

Moderator: Mr. Adnan Yousef, President of Union of Arab Banks and Chief Executive Officer of Al Baraka Banking Group, Bahrain

Panelists:

- **H.E. Dr. Jihad K. Alwazir**, Governor, Palestine Monetary Authority
- **H.E. Cheikh Sid El Moctar Ould Chekh Abdallahi**, Governor Adjoint, Central Bank of Mauritania
- **Mr. Fadhel Abdelkefi**, General Manager, INTEGRA- Tunisie Valeurs
- **Mr. Saad Azhari**, Chairman and General Manager, BLOM Bank, Lebanon

11:30-12:00 Break

12:00-12:30 Interactive Session with the H.E. Zeine Ould Zeidane, Prime Minister, Mauritania

12:30-14:00

The Arab Investment Forum

Panelists:

- **H.E. Dr. Mahmmoud Mohieldin**, Minister of Investment, Egypt
- **H.E. Mohamed Abdallahi Ould Yaha**, Minister of Investment, Mauritania
- **H.E. Ahmed Shawir**, Secretary General, Supreme Investment Council, Sudan
- **Mr. Mohamed Omar Chouari**, Director-Operations Dept, The Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation, Kuwait
- **H.E. Dr. Jawad Anani**, Chairman and CEO, Al Baseera Consultancy, Jordan

14:00

Lunch hosted by Association of Banks in Lebanon at Mosaic Restaurant, Phoenicia Intercontinental Hotel

(This program is subject to change as deemed necessary by the organisers)