

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

Arab Economic Forum

17th annual meeting

Phoenicia Intercontinental Hotel, Beirut, Lebanon

April 2 and 3, 2009

WEDNESDAY: 1 APRIL 2009

17:00-19:30 **Registration at Phoenicia Intercontinental Hotel, Beirut**

DAY ONE: THURSDAY, 2 APRIL 2009

08:30-09:30 **Registration at Phoenicia Intercontinental Hotel, Beirut**

09:30-10:45 **Opening Ceremony:**

- **Organizers**
- **H.E. Fuad Siniora**, President of the Council of Ministers, Lebanon

10:45-11:10 **Award Ceremony**

11:10-11:30 **Inauguration of the Conference Exhibition and Coffee Break**

11:30-11:45 **Keynote Address: H.E. Eng. Nader Al Dahabi**, Prime Minister, Jordan

11:45-13:30 **Session I: Dealing with the Fallout of the Crisis on the Economies of the Arab World**

- Outlook for of the global economy and expected impact of rescue plans and economic stimulus measures.
- New Risks and future perspectives.
- Have Arab governments been able to contain the crisis so far?
- What are the policies needed to offset the crisis and resume growth?
- What role for the International Monetary Fund?

Moderator: H.E. Bader M. Al Humaidi, Former Minister of Finance, Kuwait

Panelists:

- **Mr. Masood Ahmed**, Director, Middle East and Central Asia Department, International Monetary Fund
- **H.E. Dr. Jihad Azour**, Former Minister of Finance, Lebanon
- **Mr. Hassan Heikal**, Managing Director, Hermes Investment Banking - Hermes Holding, Egypt
- **Dr. Abdullah El-Kuwaiz**, Former Assistant Secretary General-Economic Affairs, Cooperation Council for the Arab States, Gulf-Secretariat General, Saudi Arabia
- **Dr. Henry Azzam**, CEO, ME and North Africa, Deutsche Bank

13:30-15:30 **Lunch hosted by BANKMED at Mosaic Restaurant at Phoenicia Intercontinental Hotel**

15:30-16:15 Session III: Investing in Education and Human Resources

- Investment requirements in Education.
- Investing in education as a long-term response to the crisis and looming unemployment.
- Role of the private sector in education and prospects for partnerships with the public sector.

Panelists:

- **H.E. Mrs. Bahia Al Hariri**, Minister of Education and High Education, Lebanon
- **H.E. Dr. Ali Zumaie**, Chairman and Managing Director, AREF Investment Group, Kuwait

16:15-16:45 Interactive Discussion with: H.E. Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, Governor, Central Bank of Kuwait

16:45-17:45 Session III: Political Implications of the Crisis and the Future of Joint Arab Cooperation

- Will the crisis affect the political stability of Arab countries?
- Will the crisis have a bearing on joint Arab-cooperation?
- Will the crisis impact the prospect of applying the recent Arab summit's resolutions?

Panelists:

- **H.E. Amro Moussa**, Secretary General, League of Arab States, Egypt
- **H.E. Dr. Barham Saleh**, Deputy Prime Minister, Iraq
- **H.E. Dr. Mohamad Chatah**, Minister of Finance, Lebanon
- **Dr. Abdullah El-Kuwaiz**, Former Assistant Secretary General-Economic Affairs, Cooperation Council for the Arab States, Gulf-Secretariat General, Saudi Arabia

20:30 Reception hosted by Bank Audi sal. -Audi Saradar Group at Sofil Gardens

DAY TWO: FRIDAY, 3 APRIL 2009

09:00-10:15 Session VI: The New Fundamentals of Real Estate Markets

- Arab real estate market from boom to bust: lessons learnt and the shape of the future
- The future of major Arab real estate projects and inter-Arab real estate investment flows.
- The fallout of real estate crunch on the engineering and contracting sectors?

Panelists:

- **Mr. Mounir D. Haidar**, CEO, Sorouh Real Estate Investment and Development
- **Mr. Mounir Douaidy**, General Manager, The Lebanese Co. for the Development & Reconstruction of Beirut Central District S.A.L. (Solidere)
- **Mr. Mohamad Ayash**, CEO and General Manager, Dolmen, Lebanon
- **Mr. Abdullah F. Shakrah**, Chairman, Al Hanoo Holding Company, Saudi Arabia
- **Mr. Fadi Moussalli**, Regional Director, Jones Lang LaSALLE MENA
- **Mr. Nabil G. Sawabini**, Chairman and CEO, Mena Capital, Lebanon

10:15-11:30 Session IV: The Financing Gap and the Future of Banking Industry

- Is there a financing gap? And how serious is it?
- Role of governments in plugging the financial gap.
- Role of banks and local financial markets.
- New ground rules for the regional banking industry.
- What support for banks and how to unlock lending to the economy

Chairman: Mr. Abdulmajeed Al Chatti, President, Kuwait Banking Association

Panelists:

- **Dr. Naaman Al Azhari**, Chairman and General Manager, BLOM Bank, Lebanon
- **Mr. Youssef Nasser**, CEO, HSBC Middle East Bank Ltd.
- **Dr. Robert Eid**, CEO, Arab National Bank, Saudi Arabia
- **Mr. Mahmoud Abed Latif**, Chairman, Bank of Alexandria, Egypt
- **Dr. Michel G. Maila**, Vice President, Risk Management, International Finance Corporation (IFC)

11:30-11:45 **Coffee Break**

11:45-13:00 Session VI: Impact of the Crisis on Arab Industries
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- Is the industry suffering from a contraction of funding?
- The threat of re-emerging protectionism for export-dependent industries
- Effects of the crisis on some Arab Industries (textile, food, construction, engineering)
- Does the industrial sector need incentives to overcome the effects of the crisis?

Chairman: H.E. Ghazi Zaiter, Minister of Industry, Lebanon

Panelists:

- **Mr. Mohamed Bin Yousef**, Director General, Arab Industrial Development and Mining Organization
- **H.E. Dr. Yousef Al Zalalah**, Former Minister of Trade and Industry, Kuwait
- **Mr. Mamdouh Mostafa**, First Undersecretary, Ministry of Trade & Industry in Egypt and Head of The Egyptian Commercial Service (ECS)
- **Mr. Fadi Abboud**, President, Association of Lebanese Industrialists
- **Mr. Abdul Kareem Mohammad Al Amri**, Former President, Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment & Development UAE

13:45–14:15 Session VII: The Crisis and the Challenges facing investment and economic reform

- Offsetting the decline in foreign investment flows.
- Reassessing economic reform: proceed or holdback.

Panelists:

- **H.E. Dr. Adib Mayaleh**, Governor, Central Bank of Syria
- **H.E. Dr. Awwad S. Al Awwad**, Deputy Governor for Policy Affairs, Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority (SAGIA)

14:30 **Lunch hosted by the Association of Banks in Lebanon, at Phoenicia Intercontinental Hotel.**

20:30 **Dinner hosted by the President of the Council of Ministers of Lebanon, H.E. Fuad Siniora, at the Grand Government Serail.**