TOWARDS A NEW DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

ERF 22nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 19-21, 2016 | Cairo, Egypt

Conference Program
Our Mission

The Economic Research Forum (ERF) is a regional network dedicated to promoting high-quality economic research to contribute to sustainable development in the Arab countries, Iran and Turkey.

Our Objectives

Established in 1993, ERF's core objectives are to build strong research capacity in the ERF region, to lead and support the production of independent, high quality economic research, and to disseminate research output to a wide and diverse audience.

Our Activities

To achieve these objectives, ERF carries out a portfolio of activities. These include mobilizing funds for well conceived proposals; managing carefully selected regional research initiatives and providing training and mentoring programs to junior researchers. It also includes organizing seminars and conferences based on research outcomes; and publishing research output through multiple channels including working papers, books, policy briefs and a newsletter – Forum.

Our Network

The ERF network comprises a distinguished Board of Trustees (BOT), accomplished researchers from the region and highly dedicated head-office staff. A not-for-profit organization, the Forum is supported by multiple donors, both regional and international.

Contact Information

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The Economic Research Forum’s (ERF) Annual Conference has become the premiere regional event for economists of the Middle East, where new ideas are born, nourished and promoted; where the community of researchers meet and where excellence is celebrated. This year’s conference will be held in Cairo, March 19-21, 2016. The main theme of the plenary sessions is “Towards a New Development Agenda for Arab Countries in Transition.”

In addition to the plenary sessions, which will feature world-renowned economists, social scientists and policymakers, six parallel sessions will be held daily. More than 40 papers will be presented during these sessions, covering the themes of Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, International Economics, Finance, Labor and Human Development, and Institutional Economics. In addition, two special sessions will be held to showcase the work carried out by ERF on the themes of ‘Labor Markets’ and ‘Natural Resources.’ As always, the closing session will be devoted to celebrating the six winners of what has become a regional mark of excellence: The Best Paper Awards.

**Conference Theme**

Prior to the Arab awakening at the end of 2010 and early 2011, the development strategies of Arab countries underwent big swings, from state-led development strategies to market-based recipes for development. These strategies yielded partial benefits, but they failed to convince the majority of the populations that their standards of living had improved. Then came the uprisings, which provided an opportunity for a new political settlement and opened the door for embarking on a new development agenda. The unsettling observation is that five years on, countries in transition are still searching for answers to at least three main questions: What is the best way to navigate the transition in the short run, while maintaining a balance between pressing political demands and scarce financial resources? In the medium to long run, what should the main features of a new development agenda that meets the aspirations of citizens for inclusive and sustainable growth be? And, since some countries in the region are still mired in bloody conflicts, what can be said about development under these conditions and beyond? These questions will be addressed successively in the three plenary sessions of ERF’s 22nd Annual Conference.

**Plenary Session 1: Navigating the Transition in the Short Run**

The recent Arab uprisings were associated with political instability resulting from the collapse of an old regime and the absence of a new one. In turn, political instability caused economic conditions to deteriorate, while popular demands for privileges by different groups intensified. Navigating the transition, both politically and economically, is thus proving difficult and interim governments in transition countries made different choices to deal with the situation. The speakers in this plenary session will assess the merits of the choices made and their consequences in comparison with other transition experiences.

More concretely, the speakers will address questions such as: Which approach did the transition countries in the region follow, especially with respect to macroeconomic policies? Was the approach expansionary or contractionary? Did they primarily rely on fiscal policy? Was the response adequate or excessive? Moreover, in relation to politics, how did the political landscape constrain policy choices and policymaking? Did economic outcomes impact political developments? How so? More broadly, did governments strike a healthy balance between achieving political and economic objectives or was the focus on political objectives too costly economically?

**Plenary Session 2: Navigating the Transition in the Medium to Long Run**

In the medium to long term, the storm would typically begin to calm down, both politically and economically. Uncertainty begins to diminish, new political institutions emerge and governments would tend to have a longer time horizon than interim governments. Signs of responses to the demands of the revolutionaries for inclusive economic growth should now also be more apparent. The main question addressed in this plenary session is whether or not transition countries in the region, five years after the uprisings, are indeed showing signs of breaking away with past ineffective policies.
More concretely, the speakers will assess progress in Arab transition countries by dealing with such questions as: Are governments in the region beginning to adopt policies that promote sustainable economic growth and structural transformation, for example by adopting new industrial policies and aggressively dealing with major price distortions (like energy subsidies)? Are they embarking on different social policies that not only protect the poor but also empower citizens? Are they pursuing redistributive policies that are different, in terms of scope as well as instruments and approaches, from those in the past? Are they building a solid coalition for reform? Finally, are they or are they not capitalizing on opportunities offered globally, curbing crony capitalism, and reforming the state to be less corrupt and more effective?

**Plenary Session 3: Development under Fire**

For a subset of countries in the region, including Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen, the ongoing conflicts pose the most difficult challenge for the formulation and implementation of a new development agenda. Lacking an acceptable political settlement, governments are too busy with war to focus on policymaking for development. The key questions in this plenary are: What can be done under these conditions in the short run? And what can be done to prepare the ground for sustainable development in the post-conflict era?

In addition, the speakers could address questions such as: What are the root causes of the conflicts? What is likely to happen in the future? And is the economy part of the problem or is it part of the solution?

**Special Events**

For over 20 years, ERF has supported sound research in various fields of economics. In more recent years, special attention was given to a few themes, where knowledge gaps about the region were obvious. The main findings of the work on two of these themes (labor and natural resources) is the subject of the two special sessions this year.

**Labor Markets in the ERF Region**

Issues of employment and unemployment are clearly critical in the ERF region. Yet, not enough analysis was carried out, especially using micro data, to explore how the labor markets in the region function and the root cause of the mismatch between the supply of and demand for labor. Also less understood were issues of migration, informality, gender, and youth employment and the impact of government regulation. Most of these questions have been the subject of intense work by ERF for at least a decade. This session is intended to share the main findings of this accumulated knowledge.

**Natural Resources and Diversification in Arab Oil Exporters**

The ERF region is distinguished by its abundance of natural resources, especially oil. It was therefore necessary to devote time and resources to better understand issues of macroeconomic management and diversification under these conditions. This special session is held to share some of the key findings on these questions. It will cover issues such as the conditions under which oil abundance can be a curse or a blessing, the link between oil revenues and economic growth, and the potential for economic diversification and the role of industrial policy. In addition to discussing macroeconomic policies, attention will be given to macroeconomic institutions, the influence of politics and economic outcomes.

**Other Meetings (Chronologically)**

1. Advisory Committee Meeting
2. Workshop on Employment and Unemployment in Tunisia
3. Thematic Leaders Meeting
4. Finance Committee Meeting
5. Research Fellows Meeting
6. Board of Trustees Meeting
7. Closing and Award Ceremony of the Best Paper Award
**Conference Venue**

- Cairo Marriott Hotel & Omar Khayyam Casino | 16, Saray El Gezira St, P.O. Box 33 | Zamalek, Cairo 11211 | Egypt | Tel: +20 (0)2 2728 300 (Ext: 8165) | Fax: +20 (0)2 2737 3865

**Travel Arrangements**

- In case of any delay in your departure, please send a message or call +2 0100 884 4995 to re-book your hotel reservation and arrange for your airport pickup.
- Upon your arrival in Cairo, “Meet and Assist” services will be provided by a representative from our travel agency, “EXCEL Travel.” The representative will be holding an ERF sign.
- Transportation from the airport to the hotel will be provided to all participants (about 90 minute-trip).
- Concerning departure, please check out and be ready three hours before your flight’s departure time. An EXCEL representative will meet you at the hotel lobby.
- Authors who need to sign their contracts and those who need to collect their ticket reimbursement will need to kindly go to the Sakkara Room.

**Hotel Accommodation**

- Participants will be residing at: Cairo Marriott Hotel & Omar Khayyam Casino | 16, Saray El Gezira | St, P.O. Box 33 | Zamalek, Cairo 11211 | Egypt | Tel: +20 (0)2 2728 300 (Ext: 8165) | Fax: +20 (0)2 2737 3865
- A block of rooms has been reserved at this hotel for all participants attending the conference.
- To speed up the check-in process, please advise the check-in clerk that you are with the Economic Research Forum (ERF) Group.
- Kindly note that ERF does not cover expenses related to laundry, phone calls (local and international), room service, use of the mini-bar, and alcoholic beverages.
- Free internet is available for all in-house guests.

**Meals**

- Group lunches will be served at Cairo Marriott Hotel for participants from March 19th–21st and are covered by ERF.
- For participants arriving on March 17/18 and/or departing on March 22, please have your meals at any of the Marriott outlets for the amount of $40 including only mineral water and soft drink. Any consumption above this limit will be charged directly to the guest.
- The Welcome Dinner will take place on March 19th at 8:00 pm at the Aida Ballroom, Cairo Marriott Hotel.
- You are invited to attend a Gala dinner and a cultural event that will take place on March 20 at 7:00 pm at the Mena House with the Opera Heritage Arabic Music Ensemble. Buses will be ready at the Marriott – Gizera Tower at 6:00 pm.

**Kindly note that**

- All conference papers and the agenda are now available online at www.erf.org.eg.
Pre-Conference Events

18 March

Parallel Sessions

09:00 –
ERF Advisory Committee Meeting (Closed Meeting)
Baharia Meeting Room - Zamalek Tower 1st Floor

09:00 – 16:00
Workshop on Employment and Unemployment in Tunisia (By Invitation Only)
El Fayoum Meeting Room - Zamalek Tower 1st Floor

12:30 – 13:30
Lunch Break

17:00 – 19:00
Thematic Leaders Meeting (Closed Meeting)
El Fayoum Meeting Room - Zamalek Tower 1st Floor

19:00 – 20:00
Finance Committee Meeting (Closed Meeting)
Baharia Meeting Room - Zamalek Tower 1st Floor
**DAY ONE**

8:00 – 9:00  **REGISTRATION** | Aida Ballroom Foyer

9:00 – 11:30  **OPENING AND PLENARY SESSION 1: NAVIGATING THE TRANSITION IN THE SHORT RUN** | Aida Ballroom

**Chairperson:** Abdlatif Al-Hamad (Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and ERF)
**Opening Remarks:** Ahmed Galal (Economic Research Forum)
**Speakers:**
- Hafez Ghanem (World Bank and ERF)
- Mohsin Khan (Atlantic Council)
- Adeel Malik (University of Oxford)

11:30 – 12:00  **Coffee Break**

12:00 – 13:30  **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

**INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS**
Political Economy of Religion

**Verdi Ballroom (2nd Floor of the Palace)**

**Chairperson:** Imed Limam

**Speakers:**
- Hoda El Enbaby and Hoda Selim

**Political Outcomes in Bahrain: Resource Volatility, Fiscal Institutions or Politics?**

**Ali Sarzaeem**

**Discussant:** Tarek Masoud

**FINANCE**
Bank Lending and Credit Growth

**Al Farafra (Zamalek Tower 1st Floor)**

**Chairperson:** Mouna Cherkaoui

**Speakers:**
- Ahmet F. Aysan, Mustafa Disli and Huseyin Ozturk
- Osman Furkan Abbasoglu, Serife Genc Ileri and Yasin Mimir

**Determinants of Credit Growth in Turkey: Does Size Matter?**

**Discussant:** Samir Ghazouani

**MACROECONOMICS**
Fiscal Policy and Growth

**Radames Salon (2nd Floor of the Palace)**

**Chairperson:** Hassan Aly

**Speakers:**
- Karim Barhoumi, Reda Cherif and Nooman Rebei
- Hany Abdel-Latif and Tapas Mishrab

**Stochastic Trends and Fiscal Policy**

**Discussant:** Kamiar Mohaddes

13:30 – 15:00  **LUNCH**

15:00 – 16:30  **SPECIAL EVENT: LABOR MARKETS** | Aida Ballroom

**Chairperson:** Insan Tunali (Koç University and ERF)

**Speakers:**
- Ragui Assaad, Labor Markets in the ERF Region
- Jackline Wahba, Migration and Informality
- Djavad Salehi-Isfahani, Human Capital and Gender
- Richard Freeman (Harvard University)

16:30 – 17:00  **Coffee Break**

17:00 – 19:00  **RESEARCH FELLOWS MEETING (CLOSED MEETING)** | Memphis Salon

20:00  **WELCOME DINNER** | Aida Ballroom
**INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS**
Investment and International Crises
Al Fayoum (Zamalek Tower 1st Floor)

Chairperson: **Amirah El-Haddad**
Speakers: **Rania S. Miniesy and Eman Elish**

Is MENA Different?

Tammuz Alraheb and Amine Tarazi

Local Versus International Crises, Foreign Subsidiaries and Bank Stability

Discussant: **Bernard Hoekman**

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**LABOR AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**
Education and Labor Market
Thebes Salon (2nd Floor of the Palace)

Chairperson: **Isiac Diwan**
Speakers: **Elif Kara**

Does Early Tracking Affect Achievement? The Case of Turkey

Ragui Assaad, Rana Hendy, Moundir Lassassi & Chaimaa Yassine

Where Has All the Education Gone?

Discussant: **Meltem Dayioğlu-Tayfur**

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**MICROECONOMICS**
Growth and Savings
Memphis Salon (2nd Floor of the Palace)

Chairperson: **Bruce Currie-Alder**
Speakers: **Seyit Mumin Cilasun and Semih Tumen**

Do Private Pensions Increase Aggregate Household Savings?

**Mohamed Mekki Ben Jemaa**

Economic, Political and Cultural Proximity and Growth Propagation

Discussant: **Atif Kubursi**
DAY TWO

9:00 – 11:00  **Plenary Session 2: Navigating the Transition in the Medium to Long Run | Aida Ballroom**

Chairperson: Mustapha Nabli (Economic Research Forum)
Speakers: Khalid Abu-Ismail (ESCWA), Shantayanan Devarajan (World Bank), Caroline Freund (Peterson Institute for International Economics)

11:00 – 11:30  **Coffee Break**

11:30  **ERF Board of Trustees Meeting (closed meeting)**

11:30 – 13:00  **Parallel Sessions**

**Institutional Economics**
Value Chains & Illegal Trade in MENA
Verdi Ballroom (2nd Floor of the Palace)
Chairperson: Hassan Hakimian
Speakers: Max Gallien
Unpacking Informality: Towards A Political Economy of Illegal Trade
Julian Hinz and Elsa Leromain
Politics of Global Value Chains
Discussant: Jeffrey Nugent

**Finance**
Capital Assessment and Banks
Al Farafa (Zamalek Tower 1st Floor)
Chairperson: Izzat Atiyas
Speakers: Fatma Chakroun and Fathi Abid
Capital Adequacy and Risk Management in Banking Industry
Mahmoud Haddad and Sam Hakim
Can Gulf Banks Pass the CCAR Stress Tests?
Discussant: Wafik Grais

**Macroeconomics**
Fiscal Governance and Fiscal Federalism
Radames Salon (2nd Floor of the Palace)
Chairperson: Hanan Morsy
Speakers: Mohamed Zaky and Sarah El Khishin
Is There an Urgent Necessity to Strengthen Budgetary Institutions?
Nour Eldin A. Maglad and Eisa Elshwin
Alternative Simulations of Equalization Transfers in Sudan
Discussant: Mahmoud El-Gamal

13:00 – 14:30  **Lunch Break**

14:30 – 16:00  **Parallel Sessions**

**Institutional Economics**
Political Preferences & the Arab Uprising
Verdi Ballroom (2nd Floor of the Palace)
Chairperson: Abla Abdel-Latif
Speakers: Steve Monroe
Shopkeepers in the Shadow of the Arab Spring
Mahdi Majbouri
Income Mobility and the Arab Spring
Discussant: Adeel Malik

**Finance**
Conditional Volatility and Sukuk Return
Al Farafa (Zamalek Tower 1st Floor)
Chairperson: Sultan Abou-Ali
Speakers: Amira Akl and Doaa Akl
Modelling Conditional Volatility & Downside Risk for Istanbul Stock Exchange
Nader Naifour and Shawkat Hammoudeh
Do Global Financial Distress and Uncertainties Impact GCC and Global Sukuk Return Dynamics?
Discussant: Mahmoud Haddad

**Macroeconomics**
Development Issues
Radames Salon (2nd Floor of the Palace)
Chairperson: Sam Hakim
Speakers: Ayşe Aylin Bayar and Öner Gündavdri
Economic Reforms and Income Distribution in Turkey
Dina N. Elshahawany, Eduardo A. Hadad and Michael L. Lahr
Accessibility, Transportation Cost and Regional Growth
Discussant: Simon Neaime

19:00  **Gala Dinner and Cultural Event | Mena House with the Opera Heritage Arabic Music Ensemble**
International Economics
Services Trade and Productivity
Al Fayoum (Zamalek Tower 1st Floor)
Chairperson: Adel Beshai
Speakers: Nergiz Dincer and Ayça Tekin-Koru
Services Trade and Firm Productivity
Cosimo Beverelli, Matteo Fiorini and Bernard Hoekman
Services Trade Restrictiveness and Manufacturing Productivity
Discussant: Raed Safadi

Labor and Human Development
Marriage & Fertility
Thebes Salon (2nd Floor of the Palace)
Chairperson: Maha Rabbat
Speakers: Caroline Krafft
Why is Fertility on the Rise in Egypt?
AbdelRahmen El Lahga and Ines Bouassida
Marriage Patterns in North African Countries
Discussant: Djavad Salehi-Isfahani

Microeconomics
Access to Credit and Employment
Memphis Salon (2nd Floor of the Palace)
Chairperson: Touhami Abdelkhalek
Speakers: Besma Jellali
Rôle des Caractéristiques Individuelles Des Demandeurs D’emploi
Fouzia Ejjani
A Propos De L’impact Du Non Accès Au Crédit Sur Les Ménages Agricoles
Discussant: Patricia Augier

International Economics
Foreign Investors and Exporters
Al Fayoum (Zamalek Tower 1st Floor)
Chairperson: Omneia Helmy
Speakers: Nora Aboushady and Chahir Zaki
Productivity, Exports Performance and Investment Climate
Inma Martínez-Zarzoso, Leila Baghdadi, and Hendrik Wiard Kruse
Is Tunisian Trade Policy Pro-Poor?
Discussant: Caroline Freund

Labor and Human Development
Impact of International Migration
Thebes Salon (2nd Floor of the Palace)
Chairperson: Hania Sholkamy
Speakers: Anda David, Hoda El-Enbaby and Rana Hendy
Does International Migration Help them Marry Earlier?
Nelly El Mallakh and Jackline Wahba
Upward or Downward: Occupational Mobility and Return Migration
Discussant: Richard Freeman

Microeconomics
Informal Competition and Productivity
Memphis Salon (2nd Floor of the Palace)
Chairperson: Tarek Selim
Speakers: Nesma Ali and Boris Najman
Informal Competition and Productivity in Egypt
Mohamed Amara and Khaled Thabet
Firm and Regional Factors of Productivity
Discussant: Amirah El-Haddad
**DAY THREE**

9:00 – 11:00  **PLENARY SESSION 3: DEVELOPMENT UNDER FIRE | Aida Ballroom**

**Chairperson:** Ishac Diwan (Paris School of Economics and ERF)
**Speakers:**
- Sarah Cliffe (New York University)
- Nabil Fahmy (Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Egypt)
- Joost Hiltermann (International Crisis Group)

11:00 – 11:30  **Coffee Break**

11:30 – 13:00  **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

**INSTITUTIONAL ECONOMICS**
Transparency in Government & Business
Verdi Ballroom (2nd Floor of the Palace)

**Chairperson:** Mustapha Nabli
**Speakers:**
- Hamid Mohtadi, Michael L. Ross, and Stefan Ruediger
- Oil, Taxation and Transparency:
- Model and Empirics
- Doaa El-Diftar
- The Impact of Institutional Blockholders on Voluntary Disclosure & Transparency
- Discussant: Hadi Esfahani

**FINANCE**
Risk Sharing and Hedges
Al Farafa (Zamalek Tower 1st Floor)

**Chairperson:** Samir Makdisi
**Speakers:**
- Walid Mensi, Shawkat Hammoudeh and Aviral Tiwari
- Further Evidence on Hedges and Safe Havens for GCC Markets
- Mohamed Mekki Ben Jemaa and Zouheir Bouchaddakh
- Risk Sharing vs Risk Bearing & Shifting
- Discussant: Mine Cinar

**MACROECONOMICS**
Natural Resources & Economic Consequences
Radames Salon (2nd Floor of the Palace)

**Chairperson:** Motaz Khorshid
**Speakers:**
- Hoda Selim and Chahir Zaki
- Business Cycle Synchronization in the Arab Region
- Fateh Belaïd and Maha Harbaoui Zrelli
- Renewable and Non-Renewable Electricity Consumption
- Discussant: Ibrahim Elbadawi

13:00 – 14:30  **LUNCH**

14:30 – 16:00  **SPECIAL EVENT: NATURAL RESOURCES AND DIVERSIFICATION | Aida Ballroom**

**Chairperson:** Hassan Hakimian (University of London and ERF)
**Speakers:**
- Hoda Selim, Is the Arab World Cursed by Oil?
- Ibrahim Elbadawi, Resource Rents, Growth and Development
- Jeffrey Nugent, Oil and Institutions
- Mahmoud El-Gamal (Rice University and ERF)

16:00 – 16:30  **Coffee Break**

16:30 – 18:00  **PLENARY SESSION 4: AWARDS CEREMONY AND CLOSING | Aida Ballroom**
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Khalid Abu-Ismail is the chief of the Economic Development and Poverty Section at UN-ESCWA. He held senior positions at USAID, Egypt’s Cabinet’s Decision Support Center and the UNDP, where he led and co-led several UN flagship publications, including Arab Development Outlook: Vision 2030 (ESCWA, 2015), Arab Development Challenges Report (UNDP, 2009 and 2012), The Arab MDG Report (UN and LAS, 2013) and many others. His research interests include macroeconomic (fiscal) policies, employment, food security, poverty (money metric and multi-dimensional) and inequality. He holds an MA and PhD in Development Economics from the New School for Social Research in New York, and a PhD in Development Planning and Environment from the University of Dundee in Scotland.

Abdlatif Al-Hamad is director general and chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development; chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Economic Research Forum (ERF); trustee at the Arab Planning Institute; member of the International Finance Corporation Banking Advisory Board Group (World Bank); member of the Board of the Kuwait Investment Authority, chairperson of the Development Committee Task Force on Multilateral Development Banks; and member of the Board of Directors of BlackRock. Since the early 1960s, he has been highly active in promoting economic and social development, particularly in the Arab world. He served as the chairperson of the United Bank of Kuwait (1966-1981); and executive director of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (1972-1981). He was Kuwait’s minister of finance and minister of planning (1981-1983). Al-Hamad has also served on numerous commissions and boards, including the United Nations Committee for Development Planning (1982-1991) and the Commission on Global Governance (1992).

Ragui Assaad is professor at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, where he chairs the Global Policy area and co-directs the Master of Development Practice program. He has been a research fellow at ERF since 1994 and currently serves as its thematic leader for Labor and Human Resource Development and as a member of its Board of Trustees. His current research focuses on labor markets in the Arab World, with a focus on youth and gender. He holds a PhD in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University and an MA in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University.

Sarah Cliffe is director of the Center on International Cooperation, New York University. Prior to that, she was the special representative for the World Bank's World Development Report on Conflict, Security and Development, and the special adviser and assistant secretary-general of civilian capacities to the United Nations. Cliffe worked in countries emerging from conflict and political transition and led missions for the World Bank's programs in Africa, East Asia and the Pacific region. Her work has covered post-conflict reconstruction, community driven development, and civil-service reform. Cliffe has a BA in history from Cambridge University and an MA in International Relations and International Economic Policy from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs.

Shantayanan Devarajan is the chief economist of the Middle East and North Africa Region at the World Bank. Since joining the World Bank in 1991, he has been a principal economist and research manager for public economics in the Development Research Group, and chief economist of the South Asia and Africa Regions in the Human Development Network. Before 1991, he was on the faculty of Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. Devarajan’s research covers public economics, trade policy, natural resources and the environment, and general equilibrium modeling of developing countries. Devarajan received his BA in mathematics from Princeton University and his PhD in economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

Ishac Diwan is currently a research fellow at both Paris Sciences et Lettres and ERF. He previously taught at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and at New York University. He held several positions at the World Bank, in the Research Complex, the Middle East department, and the World Bank Institute and in Addis Ababa and then in Accra, as the East Africa country director, and then in West Africa. His current research interests include growth strategies, the political economy of private sector development, and the analysis of public opinion, with a special interest in Africa and the Middle East. He directs the Economic and Political Transformation program of ERF.
Nabil Fahmy was Egypt’s minister of foreign affairs from July 2013 to June 2014. After his tenure as minister, Fahmy resumed his position as dean of the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at the American University in Cairo. Fahmy served as Egypt’s Ambassador to Japan from 1997-1999 and to the USA from 1999-2008. During his distinguished diplomatic career, he served in numerous government and international positions, focusing his work on international and regional security, disarmament and non-proliferation, and Arab-Israeli diplomacy. He earned his bachelor’s degree from AUC in Physics/Mathematics in 1974, an MA in Management in 1976, and an Honorary PhD in 2009 from the Monterey Institute of International Studies, Middlebury College.

Ibrahim Elbadawi is director of research at the Dubai Economic Council, which he joined in March 2009. Before that, he was lead economist at the Development Research Group of the World Bank, which he joined in 1989. He has published widely on macroeconomic and development policy, decision science, economics of the Middle East and Islamic transactions law. Elbadawi has published extensively on finance, econometrics, decision science, economics of the Middle East and Islamic transactions law. He is the thematic leader of the Natural Resource Management and Economic Diversification theme at the ERF and a member of the Advisory Board of the Arab Planning Institute. He holds a PhD in economics and statistics from NC State and Northwestern Universities.

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# Feedback Form

Thank you for attending ERF’s 22\textsuperscript{nd} Annual Conference. We would love to hear your thoughts and feedback to improve our future events. Please help us by completing the form below by ticking the appropriate box for each statement. Kindly return your completed feedback form to the registration desk.

Name: (Optional) __________________________________________________________

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall Evaluation</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
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<td>1. The main theme was well selected and covered</td>
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<td>2. The agenda was well structured</td>
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<td>3. I will use what I learnt in this conference in my future research</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. There was enough time for feedback and discussions</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Overall, I am satisfied with this conference</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plenary Sessions</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. The topic was engaging and interesting</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. The speakers were knowledgeable and well-prepared about the subject</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Discussions from the floor were helpful</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parallel Sessions</th>
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<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9. The topics were engaging and interesting</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. The speakers were knowledgeable and well-prepared about the subject</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. The discussants did a good job and their comments were useful</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Discussions from the floor were helpful</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Logistics</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13. Travel and accommodation was well organized</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. My stay at the hotel was enjoyable</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. My airport pickup was punctual and smooth</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. The conference material and handouts were useful and relevant</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional comments and suggestions for improvement

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