

International Monetary Fund
High-Level Seminar on “Growth and Jobs for the Arab World”
The Regency Hotel
Kuwait City, Kuwait
January 17–18, 2012
Program

<i>Tuesday, January 17</i>	<i>Subject</i>
2:15 p.m.	REGISTRATION
2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Welcome by <i>Mustafa Al-Shamali</i> , Minister of Finance, Kuwait Opening Remarks by <i>Masood Ahmed</i> , Director, Middle East and Central Asia Department, IMF
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Coffee Break
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	SESSION I: Policies for Private Sector-Led Growth Chair: <i>Eric Clifton</i> , Deputy Director, IMF Institute Speaker: <i>Nasser Saidi</i> , Chief Economist and Head of External Relations, DIFC Authority, “Corporate and Regulatory Governance Reforms” Speaker: <i>Mahmoud El-Gamal</i> , Professor, Rice University, “The Role of Finance for Inclusive Growth in Arab Countries” Speaker: <i>Ania Thiemann</i> , Senior Economist and Project Manager, MENA-OECD Investment Programme, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD, “Investment Policy Reforms for Growth and Jobs” <i>Policy Makers Perspective</i> General Discussion
6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.	Dinner <i>Keynote Address</i> by <i>José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs</i> , Assistant Director General for Employment, International Labor Organization, “Growth for Jobs in the Arab World”

<i>Wednesday, January 18</i>	<i>Subject</i>
8:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	<p>SESSION II: Labor Market Policies and Reforms</p> <p>Chair: <i>Saad Chami</i>, Coordinator, Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center, Lebanon</p> <p>Speaker: <i>Nada Al-Nashif</i>, Regional Director, International Labor Organization, Regional Office for Arab States, “Perspectives on the Arab Countries Labor Markets”</p> <p>Speaker: <i>Ragui Assaad</i>, Professor, University of Minnesota, “Unlocking the Arab World’s Employment Potential”</p> <p>Speaker: <i>Andras Bodor</i>, Senior Economist, World Bank, “Striving for Better Jobs: The Challenge of Informality in Arab Countries”</p> <p><i>Policy Makers Perspective</i></p> <p>General Discussion</p>
10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Coffee Break
10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<p>SESSION III: Fiscal Policies, Governance, and Institutions in the Arab World</p> <p>Chair: <i>Fawzi Al-Sultan</i>, Senior Consultant, and Member of the High Advisory Committee, Kuwait</p> <p>Speaker: <i>Martin Forst</i>, Head of Governance Reviews and Partnerships Division, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD, “Strengthening Public Governance: The Role of Multilateral Cooperation”</p> <p>Speaker: <i>Benedict Clements</i>, Division Chief, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF, “Fiscal Policy for Jobs and Inclusive Growth”</p> <p>Speaker: <i>Rabah Arezki</i>, Economist, IMF Institute, “Natural Resources, Institutions and Growth in the Arab World”</p> <p><i>Policy Makers Perspective</i></p> <p>General Discussion</p>
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch

***Wednesday, January 18
(Continued)***

Subject

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

SESSION IV: Panel Discussion: How to Achieve Higher and Inclusive Growth in Arab Countries?

Moderator

Panelists:

Mustapha Nabli, Governor, Central Bank of Tunisia, Tunisia;

Masood Ahmed, Director, Middle East and Central Asia Department, IMF;

Yousef Al-Ebraheem, Economic Advisor, Amiri Diwan, and Former Minister of Finance, Kuwait; and

Ahmad Galal, Managing Director, Economic Research Forum

General Discussion
