



The 19th Annual Scientific Conference of the Arab Society for Economic Research

Enhancing the Competitiveness of Arab Economies amid Regional and Global Developments

Conference Agenda



December 5–6, 2025



Lebanese American University (LAU)



**FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
STIFTUNG** Für die Freiheit.
Lebanon and Syria



بَنَّاكَ وَفَصَّلَ الْإِسْلَامَ فِي مَاضِي
FAISAL ISLAMIC BANK OF EGYPT

Day One Friday, December 5, 2025	
09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:30	Opening Session
Dr. Chaouki Abdallah	President, Lebanese American University (LAU)
Dr. Dima Jamali	Dean, Adnan Kassar School of Business (AKSOB), LAU
Dr. Adel Al-Wuqayan	Director General, Arab Planning Institute (API)
Mr. Kristof Kleemann	Project Director Lebanon and Syria, Freidrich Naumman Foundation for Freedom
Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin	Chairman, Arab Society for Economic Research (ASFER)
H.E. Mr. Nawaf Salam, The President of the Council of Ministers	
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 11:10	Dr. Ashraf El-Araby, Secretary-General, Arab Society for Economic Research (ASFER), and General Coordinator of the Conference
11:10 – 12:40	Session I: Policy Dialogue (1) “Enhancing the Competitiveness of the Lebanese Economy Amid Domestic and External Developments”
Moderator	Dr. Dima Jamali - AKSOB Dean, LAU
Panelists	- H.E. Dr. Amer Bsar – Minister of Economy and Trade, Lebanon - Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin – Chairman, Arab Society for Economic Research - Dr. Atef Kubursi – Professor Emeritus, McMaster University, Canada
12:40 – 14:10	Session II Arab Economies Amid Global Transformations
Moderator	Dr. Abdelhamid Al-Zuqlai – Board Member, ASFER
Arab Economies and the Emerging Global Order: Immediate Risks and Future Opportunities-(Presentation) Dr. Gouda Abdel-Khalek - Professor of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo	
Measuring Economic Resilience – (Presentation) Dr. Khalid Abu-Ismaïl – Senior Economist, UN-ESCWA	
Paper 1: The Impact of the World Trade War on the Competitiveness of Arab Countries	
Author	Dr. Moustafa Al-Kafry – Professor of Economics, Damascus University
Discussant	Dr. Reda Kouïâa – Dean of Ibn Sina College – Tunisia
14:10 – 15:00	Lunch Break
15:00 – 16:30	Session III Infrastructure, Finance, and Innovation as Drivers of Competitiveness
Moderator	Dr. Hala El-Said – Economic Development Advisor to the President of Egypt
Paper 2: Infrastructure, Finance, and Innovation as Drivers of Employment Growth in Saudi Arabia	
Author	Dr. Ali Fakih – Professor of Economics, LAU
Discussant	Dr. Ahmed Kamaly – Professor of Economics, AUC, Egypt
Paper 3: The Role of Banking Sector in Enhancing the Competitiveness of Arab Economies: The Jordanian Experience as a Model	
Author	Dr. Maher Al-Mahrouqi – Director General, Association of Banks in Jordan
Discussant	Dr. Adla Ragab – Professor of Economics, Cairo University
16:30 – 18:00	General Assembly Meeting (Closed Hybrid Meeting for ASFER Members)

Day Two Saturday, December 6, 2025	
09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 11:00	Session IV Launch of the Arab Development Report 2025 – 9th Edition “The Future of Arab Labor Markets Amid Green Transition and Artificial Intelligence”
Moderator	Dr. Adel Al-Wuqayan – Director General, Arab Planning Institute (API)
Introductory Remarks by Partner Institutions: API – INP – ASFER - ITCEQ	
Presentation of the Report and Key Messages: Editorial Board: Dr. Nawaf Abu Shammala – Dr. Nihal El-Megharbel – Dr. Wajdi Kthiri – Dr. Hanan Nazir Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Ashraf El-Araby	
Open Discussion	
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 – 12:45	Session V: Policy Dialogue (2) Clean Energy, Trade, and Competitiveness in Arab Economies
Moderator	Dr. Belkacem Laabas – Senior Adviser, Arab Planning Institute (API)
Panelists	Dr. Khalid Hanafi – Secretary General, Union of Arab Chambers Dr. Walid Marrouch, Professor of Economics & Associate Dean of Graduate Studies & Research, LAU Ms. Nathalie Khaled, Project Manager and Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA
12:45 – 14:00	Session VI Integration into Global Value Chains and Logistics as Pillars of Arab Growth and Competitiveness
Moderator	Dr. Khalid Al-Wazani – Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government
Paper 4: Enhancing Arab Countries’ Integration into Global Value Chains: An Econometric Analysis	
Author	Dr. Islam Abdelbary – Associate Professor of Economics, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, Egypt
Discussant	Dr. Walid Abd-Moulah - Deputy Director, Arab Planning Institute (API)
Paper 5: The Relationship Between Logistics Performance, Competitiveness, and Economic Growth in Egypt and Saudi Arabia (2000–2024): A Comparative Econometric Study	
Author	Dr. Ali Abdelwahab Naga – Professor of Economics, University of Alexandria
Discussant	Dr. Gehan Saleh – Economic Advisor to the Egyptian Prime Minister
14:00 – 15:00	Lunch Break
15:00 – 16:15	Session VII Industrial Development and Green Transformation – Toward Sustainable Competitiveness in Arab Economies
Moderator	Dr. Samiha Fawzy - Professor of Economics, Cairo University
The relationship between industrial development and competitiveness: evidence from Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan and Morocco – (Presentation) Dr. Walid Abd-Moulah - Deputy Director, Arab Planning Institute (API)	
Paper 6: Electrifying the Future: Assessing the Economic and Environmental Impacts of a Shift Towards EV Production in Morocco	
Author	Dr. Mahmoud Arabouch – Senior Economist, Policy Center for the New South, Morocco
Discussant	Dr. Sara El-Gazzar – Dean of the College of International Transport and Logistics, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, Egypt
16:15 – 17:30	Session VIII Enhancing Productive Capacities and Labor Markets in Arab Economies
Moderator	Dr. Ghassan Dibeh, Professor of Economics, LAU
Paper 7: Productive Capacities as a Catalyst for Regional Trade Integration: Evidence from Arab Oil and Non-Oil Economies	
Author	Ms. Aya El-Sarsi – Assistant Lecturer, Institute of National Planning
Discussant	Dr. Sherine El-Shawarby –Professor of Economics, Cairo University
Paper 8: Labor Market Reform and Economic Restructuring in the Maghreb: A Path to Enhanced Competitiveness	
Author	Dr. Omar Houtieh – Lecturer, Adrar University, Algeria
Discussant	Dr. Abdel Fattah Al-Amous – Professor of Economics, University of Sfax, Tunisia
17:30 – 18:00	Closing Session Mr. Kristof Kleemann, Project Director Lebanon and Syria, Freidrich Naumman Foundation for Freedom Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin – Chairman, Arab Society for Economic Research