

## The 19<sup>th</sup> 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



بنك فيصل الإسلامي المصري  
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 Naumann Foundation for Freedom
Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin	Chairman, Arab Society for Economic Research (ASFER)
<b>H.E. Mr. Nawaf Salam, The President of the Council of Ministers</b>	
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	<b>Session I: Policy Dialogue (1)</b> “Enhancing the Competitiveness of the Lebanese Economy Amid Domestic and External Developments”
Moderator	Dr. Dima Jamali - AKSOB Dean, LAU
Panelists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H.E. Dr. Amer Bsat – Minister of Economy and Trade, Lebanon</li> <li>- Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin – Chairman, Arab Society for Economic Research</li> <li>- Dr. Atef Kubursi – Professor Emeritus, McMaster University, Canada</li> </ul>
12:40 – 14:10	<b>Session II</b> Arab Economies Amid Global Transformations
Moderator	Dr. Abdelhamid Al-Zuqlaei – Board Member, ASFER
<b>Arab Economies and the Emerging Global Order: Immediate Risks and Future Opportunities-(Presentation)</b>	
Dr. Gouda Abdel-Khalek - Professor of Economics, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo	
<b>Measuring Economic Resilience – (Presentation)</b>	
Dr. Khalid Abu-Ismail – Senior Economist, UN-ESCWA	
<b>Paper 1: The Impact of the World Trade War on the Competitiveness of Arab Countries</b>	
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	<b>Session III</b> Infrastructure, Finance, and Innovation as Drivers of Competitiveness
Moderator	Dr. Hala El-Said – Economic Development Advisor to the President of Egypt
<b>Paper 2: Infrastructure, Finance, and Innovation as Drivers of Employment Growth in Saudi Arabia</b>	
Author	Dr. Ali Fakih – Professor of Economics, LAU
Discussant	Dr. Ahmed Kamaly – Professor of Economics, AUC, Egypt
<b>Paper 3: The Role of Banking Sector in Enhancing the Competitiveness of Arab Economies: The Jordanian Experience as a Model</b>	
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	<b>General Assembly Meeting</b> (Closed Hybrid Meeting for ASFER Members)

**Day Two**  
**Saturday, December 6, 2025**

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