



## 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



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H.E. Dr. Amer Bsar – 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> <li>- Dr. Mazen Abboud – Assistant Professor of Economics, LAU</li> </ul>
12:40 – 14:10	Session II Arab Economies Amid Global Transformations
Moderator	Dr. Abdelhamid Al-Zuqlaei – 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 Discussant	Dr. Moustafa Al-Kafry – Professor of Economics, Damascus University 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 Discussant	Dr. Ali Fakih – Professor of Economics, LAU 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 Discussant	Dr. Maher Al-Mahrouqi – Director General, Association of Banks in Jordan Dr. Adla Ragab – Professor of Economics, Cairo University
16:30 – 18:00	General Assembly Meeting (Closed Hybrid Meeting for ASFER Members)

<b>Day Two</b> <b>Saturday, December 6, 2025</b>	
<b>09:00 – 09:30</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>09:30 – 11:00</b>	<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>
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Dr. Adel Al-Wuqayan – Director General, Arab Planning Institute (API)</b>
<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>	
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>11:30 – 12:45</b>	<b>Session V: Policy Dialogue (2)</b> <b>Clean Energy, Trade, and Competitiveness in Arab Economies</b>
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Dr. Belkacem Laabas – Senior Adviser, Arab Planning Institute (API)</b>
<b>Panelists</b>	<b>Dr. Khalid Hanafi – Secretary General, Union of Arab Chambers</b> <b>Dr. Walid Marrouch, Professor of Economics &amp; Associate Dean of Graduate Studies &amp; Research, LAU</b> <b>Ms. Nathalie Khaled, Project Manager and Economic Affairs Officer, ESCWA</b>
<b>12:45 – 14:00</b>	<b>Session VI</b> <b>Integration into Global Value Chains and Logistics as Pillars of Arab Growth and Competitiveness</b>
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Dr. Khalid Al-Wazani – Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government</b>
<b>Paper 4: Enhancing Arab Countries’ Integration into Global Value Chains: An Econometric Analysis</b>	
<b>Author</b>	<b>Dr. Islam Abdelbary – Associate Professor of Economics, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, Egypt</b>
<b>Discussant</b>	<b>Dr. Walid Abd-Moulah - Deputy Director, Arab Planning Institute (API)</b>
<b>Paper 5: The Relationship Between Logistics Performance, Competitiveness, and Economic Growth in Egypt and Saudi Arabia (2000–2024): A Comparative Econometric Study</b>	
<b>Author</b>	<b>Dr. Ali Abdelwahab Naga – Professor of Economics, University of Alexandria</b>
<b>Discussant</b>	<b>Dr. Gehan Saleh – Economic Advisor to the Egyptian Prime Minister</b>
<b>14:00 – 15:00</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>15:00 – 16:15</b>	<b>Session VII</b> <b>Industrial Development and Green Transformation – Toward Sustainable Competitiveness in Arab Economies</b>
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Dr. Heba Nassar - Professor of Economics, Cairo University</b>
<b>The relationship between industrial development and competitiveness: evidence from Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan and Morocco – (Presentation)</b> <b>Dr. Walid Abd-Moulah - Deputy Director, Arab Planning Institute (API)</b>	
<b>Paper 6: Electrifying the Future: Assessing the Economic and Environmental Impacts of a Shift Towards EV Production in Morocco</b>	
<b>Author</b>	<b>Dr. Mahmoud Arabouch – Senior Economist, Policy Center for the New South, Morocco</b>
<b>Discussant</b>	<b>Dr. Sara El-Gazzar – Dean of the College of International Transport and Logistics, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, Egypt</b>
<b>16:15 – 17:30</b>	<b>Session VIII</b> <b>Enhancing Productive Capacities and Labor Markets in Arab Economies</b>
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Dr. Jamal Haidar, Assistant Professor and Chairperson of Economics Department, LAU</b>
<b>Paper 7: Productive Capacities as a Catalyst for Regional Trade Integration: Evidence from Arab Oil and Non-Oil Economies</b>	
<b>Author</b>	<b>Ms. Aya El-Sarsi – Assistant Lecturer, Institute of National Planning</b>
<b>Discussant</b>	<b>Dr. Sherine El-Shawarby –Dean of the Faculty of Politics, Economics, and Business Administration, May University &amp; Professor of Economics, Cairo University</b>
<b>Paper 8: Labor Market Reform and Economic Restructuring in the Maghreb: A Path to Enhanced Competitiveness</b>	
<b>Author</b>	<b>Dr. Omar Houtieh – Lecturer, Adrar University, Algeria</b>
<b>Discussant</b>	<b>Dr. Abdel Fattah Al-Amous – Professor of Economics, University of Sfax, Tunisia</b>
<b>17:30 – 18:00</b>	<b>Closing Session</b> <b>Mr. Kristof Kleemann, Project Director Lebanon and Syria, Freidrich Naumman Foundation for Freedom</b> <b>Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin – Chairman, Arab Society for Economic Research</b>