AGENDA
THIRD ARAB DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM
REFORMING THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE ARAB WORLD WITH THE VIEW OF ENHANCING EMPLOYABILITY OF OUTCOMES
NOVEMBER 5, 2014
KUWAIT

DAY 1	
08:30-09:00	REGISTRATION
09:00-09:30	OPENING REMARKS/KEYNOTE SPEECHES The keynote address will discuss the economic, social and political context for education and labor market reforms. • **Ahmed Osman**, Director of Technical Department, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development • **Inger Andersen**, Vice President, Middle East and North Africa Region, World Bank
CHAIRPERSON OF SESSION 1: ***Inger Andersen, Vice President, World Bank***	
09:30-11:00	**SESSION 1: Are Arab Education Systems Barriers or Enhancers of Employability?** This session will provide an overview of macroeconomic and microeconomic constraints to education reform. • *Speaker*: **Juan Manuel Moreno**, Lead Education Specialist, GEDDR, WORLD BANK (Topic: "Skills Gaps and Meritocracy Deficit: Challenges to the Transition from Education to Work in MENA") • *Discussant*: **Ragui Assaad**, Professor of Planning and Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, USA.
11:00-11:30	COFFEE BREAK
CHAIRPERSON OF SESSION 2: ***Heba Handoussa, Managing Director, Egypt Network for Integrated Development***	
11:30-13:00	**SESSION 2: Linking education to the job market (I): The role of public policy in realigning the incentives for skills and employability** This session will discuss *macro*economic policy reforms related to education and job market. It will focus on: a. Eliminating market distortion for educational choices and adjusting "wrong signals" received from job markets; b. Public/private sector employment targeting and its impact on educational choices; c. The role of private sector and cost recovery in education; and d. Apprenticeships, vocational education, job placement for educational institutions (looking at the German and Japanese models), academic spin-off (introducing technical education, and easing the transition between

	being a student and an employee) e. Skill certifications, certification of institutions; improvement of links between degrees and job qualifications and placement • *Speakers*: ○ **Moudi Al-Humoud**, President of Arab Open University and Previous Minister of Education in Kuwait (Topic: "Aligning University Outcomes with Labor Market Needs") ○ **Atif Kubursi**, Professor Emeritus of Economics, McMaster University, Canada (Topic: "The Economic Role and Contributions of Universities: Their Labour Market Role?") • *Discussants*: ○ **Motaz Khorshid** , Chairman of the Arab Council for Graduate Studies and Scientific Research and Former Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research in Egypt ○ **Omar Al- Razzaz**, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, King Abdulla II Fund for Development (KAFD), Jordan
13:00-14:30	**LUNCH**
CHAIRPERSON OF SESSION 3: ***Daniela Gressani, Deputy Director, Middle East and Central Asia Department, International Monetary Fund***	
14:30-16:00	**SESSION 3: Linking education to the job market (II): The role of education governance, assessment and accountability in improving quality and employability of outcomes** This session will discuss *micro*economic (or "sector-specific") policy reforms related to the educational sector and its impact on employability. The session will explore how institutions affect trust, participation and provider responsiveness in education and skills development. It will illustrate how weak external and internal accountability prevalent in MENA institutions undermines education and employability; and how this negatively affects citizen trust. Case studies of local success reveal the importance of both formal and informal accountability relationships and the role of local leadership in inspiring and institutionalizing performance incentives in education and employability. • *Speaker*: ○ **Hana Brixi**, Program Leader, MNC05, World Bank. (Topic: "Trust, Voice and Incentives: Successes in Education in MENA") • *Discussant*: ○ **Adnan El Amine**, President, Lebanese Association for Educational Studies, Lebanon
CHAIRPERSON OF SESSION 4: ***Ahmed Galal, Executive Director, Economic Research Forum (ERF)***	
16:00-17:00	**SESSION 4: Panel discussion: Options to reform the education system for better employability** The panel discussion will focus on possible solutions to improve the

	education system and employability. These could include: promoting private education, active labor market programs (ALMP), curriculum reform, governance and accountability, and public policy (design of incentive-compatible reforms)
	
	• *Panelists*:
	  ○ **Shanta Devarajan**, Chief Economist, World Bank;
	  ○ **Tarik Yousef**, CEO, SILATECH, Qatar
	  ○ **Gabriella Gonzalez**, Lead author of Facing Human Capital Challenges of the 21st Century: Education and Labor Market Initiatives in Lebanon Oman, Qatar, and the UAE, RAND Corporation, Pittsburg USA
	  ○ **Ragui Assaad**, Professor of Planning and Public Affairs, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

17:00-17:30	**CONCLUDING REMARKS** • *Summary by Rapporteur*: **Muhammad Faour**, Education Specialist and UNESCO Education Consultant • *Concluding Remarks*: **Inger Andersen** and **Ahmed Osman**