



# First Pan-Arab Energy Trade Conference

Day One • Wednesday, November 6, 2019

## Session 2 | The Pan-Arab Electricity Market: Development Institutions' and Countries' Perspectives

Throughout the last four decades, and with the financial support of the various financial institutions, the Arab countries have worked on developing their electric power grid interconnections. The last decade witnessed systematic efforts to quantify the benefits of energy trade, implement the building blocks for institutionalizing electricity trade, and enable commercial transactions. Planners envisage that in the long term a competitive market operation will evolve, benefiting all participants. This session will discuss the role of regional champions and development institutions in advancing dialogue to realize the Pan-Arab Electricity Market vision, supporting the establishment of governance structures and regional institutions, and providing financing for additional cross-border interconnections.

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### The Pan-Arab Electricity Market: From Vision to Execution and Results

Ambassador Dr. Kamal Hassan Ali, Assistant Secretary-General, Head of the Economic Sector, League of Arab States

### The Role of Arab Development Institutions in Supporting Electricity Trade

Dr. Mohamed Farahat, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development

### The Pan-Arab Regional Energy Trade Platform (PA-RETP) Initiative: Strategic Support and Building Alliances to Facilitate Electricity and Gas Trade

Mr. Erik Fernstrom, Energy Practice Manager, World Bank Group

### Panel Discussion

- Dr. Dalal Helmi, Head PAEM Steering Committee
- Mr. Yehiya Abaas Jaber, Director General of Operation and Control Department, Minister of Electricity, Iraq

### Moderator: Mr. Alberto Pototschnig, Director, ACER (EU)

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### Panelists



**Mr. Alberto Pototschnig,**  
Director, ACER (EU)

Mr. Alberto Pototschnig, an economist and econometrician by training, is the first Director of the European Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, established pursuant to Regulation (EC) no. 713/2009.

Before joining the Agency, he was a Partner in Mercados EMI, an international consultancy specialising in the energy sector, where he served as CEO and Deputy Chairman.

He previously served as Director of Electricity Regulation in the Italian Energy Regulatory Authority (AEEG), as the first CEO of the Italian Electricity Market Operator and as adviser to the Italian Government. Since 2004, he has been an adviser at the Florence School of Regulation, where he regularly teaches on energy regulation.



**Ambassador Dr. Kamal Hassan Ali,**  
Assistant Secretary-General, Head  
of the Economic Sector, League of  
Arab States

H. E. Dr. Kamal holds a PhD. in Business Administration from the 'Neelain University' in 2012. He obtained two Masters Degrees in Business Administration from the 'Arab Academy for Science and Technology and Maritime Transport' in 2007 and from the 'Neelain University' in 2008. He graduated with a BSc. Honors from the 'University of Khartoum' in 1991.

He started his career in the field of media and journalism as 'Editor' and then 'Editor in Chief' for the newspaper 'Al Maseera' for the period (1991 - 1995).

From 1995 - 1999 he was 'Editor in Chief' and 'Director General' of 'Al Fidaa Foundation for Media Production'. Then Deputy Coordinator and General Coordinator of the 'National Service' for the period 1999 to 2001.

Another level of his executive work, was when he served as Minister of State for the Sudanese Foreign Ministry for the period 2011 - 2012, after which he was nominated as 'Ambassador' of the Republic of Sudan to Egypt and as a 'Permanent Representative' to the League of Arab States during the period 2012 to 2014.

For the period from 2014 to 2015, he occupied the position of 'State Minister' at the Sudanese Ministry of Welfare and Social Affairs. After which he was entrusted with the task of leading the work at the 'Ministry of International Cooperation' in 2015 and 2016.

By the end of 2016 he was elected by the 'Arab Ministerial Council' to assume the position of 'Assistant Secretary-General' at the League of Arab States, where he is now heading 'The Economic Sector'.



**Dr. Mohamed Farahat,**  
Arab Fund for Economic and  
Social Development

Dr. Farahat is an Engineering Advisor with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, a regional financial institution based in Kuwait.

Dr. Farahat oversees projects in the areas of electric power, communications, railroad electrification and gas transport.

During his 20 plus years tenure with the Arab Fund, Dr. Farahat supervised over 35 power generation projects, several of them involving renewable energy sources. One of the key experts of the Arab Fund in the area of electrical interconnections between the Arab countries.

Before joining the Arab Fund, he worked for 15 years for Westinghouse Electric Corporation in the USA, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, where he held several key positions, including Manager of Power System Studies, Manager of Technical Training, and Manager of National Accounts.

Dr. Farahat received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Pittsburgh, and his Master's degree from Colorado State University, both in the USA, and has authored and co-authored several papers on power system harmonics, power systems protection, and the interconnection of electrical grids.



**Mr. Erik Fernstrom,**  
Energy Practice Manager, World Bank  
Group

Mr. Erik Fernstrom is the Practice Manager for the World Bank's Middle East and North Africa Energy department. He oversees a regional portfolio of USD 2.5 Billion of lending projects under implementation.

His background spans more than 20 years in the Energy Industry, starting with engineering and management positions in Asea Brown Boveri (ABB) working on a broad range of projects in Africa, Middle East, South Asia and East Asia.

After joining the World Bank in 2003 he spent 7 years based in Africa, leading the World Bank energy lending with special emphasis on Sector Reform, Access to Electricity and development of IPPs.



**Dr. Dalal Helmi,**  
Head PAEM Steering Committee

Dr. Dalal has graduated from Faculty of Engineering, Ain-Shams University, Cairo, Egypt, in 1993, and got her M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering in the field of Power System Protection from the same university in 1997, 2001 respectively.

Currently she is the Sector Head of Electricity Market and Cross-Border Interconnection in the Egyptian Electricity Holding Company. Also, she is the Head of Steering Committee for Arab Interconnection and the Egyptian side Project Manager for JCEE; Joint committee between Egypt and Germany for Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection during Oct. 2014 till Dec. 2018

Dr. Dalal HELMI has successfully played many roles in her previous post as a General Manager for Grid and Energy Efficiency in the Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company; EETC, related to Power System Operational Studies, WAMS Studies, Substation Component' Specifications according to IEC requirement and certification process according to National and International Standards. Through being involved in BOO and IPP RE Projects and being expert in RE Integration issues, she played a key role in the 1st Wind Integration Grid Code that sets the technical requirements to connect Wind Farms to EETC network.

Dr. Dalal participates in local and international conferences with papers, workshops, session chair and co-chair and as Invited Lecturer. She is the author and co-author of more than 75 technical papers published in local and international proceedings. She Supervise Master and Ph. D degrees with Cairo University, Ain Shams University, Benha University, Al-Azhar University, and joint research with Texas University She has been awarded many international Certificates of Appreciation, Best Paper Award and Best Applied Research Award in Worldwide Conferences. Also, she is a member of the Egyptian National Committees of WEC, CIRED, CIGRE and IEC. She is also a member of the Egyptian Electrical Engineers Society and Member of the Egyptian Engineers Syndicate.



**Mr. Yehiya Abaas Jaber,**  
Director General of Operation and  
Control Department, Minister of  
Electricity, Iraq

Mr. Yehiya earned his higher diploma in electronic engineering from the University of Zagreb, Yugoslavia in 1989. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the University of Technology, Electrical and Communications Engineering Department in the University of Baghdad. His background spans both the electronics and electricity fields, starting with maintenance of communication equipment and information transmission in the electricity sector, and including telecommunication & data transmission, Microwave & OPGW Systems.

Over his career, he supported the development of policies and reforms within the electricity sector in Iraq. This included: the development of the Iraqi Power Grid Master Plan, Primary & Secondary Frequency Control, Reactive Power Management for the Iraqi Power System, Short Circuit Level Calculation Studies and the Iraqi Power System Stability study.

He is a member of the Joint Committee on the study of electrical connection between Saudi Arabia and Iraq, and he participated in the preparation of studies for linking the Iraqi system with both the GCCIA and Jordanian electrical networks.