

Under the Patronage & the Presence of
the Governor of the Saudi Central Bank - SAMA
H.E. Ayman Mohammed Al-Sayari



اتحاد المصارف العربية
Union of Arab Banks

ARAB BANKING CONFERENCE

ARAB ECONOMIC OUTLOOK IN LIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL CHANGES

4-5
SEPTEMBER 2023

HILTON HOTEL RIYADH
KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

ARAB BANKING CONFERENCE 2023

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GENERAL BACKGROUND

Over the past decades, the Arab oil and gas exporting countries relied excessively on these two commodities, as they constituted the main source of financial flows, government revenues, bank deposits, and market liquidity. Despite several efforts, some Arab oil-producing countries has not succeeded, until recently, in achieving significant economic diversification, which made them vulnerable to global economic and financial cycles, with challenges imposed on growth and financial stability. In parallel, the oil-importing Arab countries relied, and still relying to a large extent, on one economic sector, specifically the services sector, which made their economies vulnerable to political and security shocks. In light of this, some Arab countries succeeded over the past decades in achieving solid and sustainable economic growth, which was translated into high per capital income and high development levels, while other Arab countries lagged behind in development, income levels, and living standards.

Most Arab countries – oil exporters and importers – are currently implementing deep and comprehensive economic reform, development and transformation policies, and adopting sectoral diversification measures to mitigate economic unilateralism and increase the ability of national economies to withstand shocks and enhance their resilience. At the forefront of these economic transformations is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia "2030 Vision", which aims to diversify the Saudi economy, based on expanding the production base, industrialization, increasing the economic role of the financial sector and financial technology, and the shift to digitization in various economic sectors.

The economic transformation and reform measures adopted by the Arab countries come in light of the important changes the globe is witnessing, on top of them the international geopolitical complexities and the exacerbation of climate change and global warming risks, which lead to negative repercussions on both growth and financial stability of international markets and banks, and the possibility of leakage into the Arab financial markets. On the other hand, the fourth industrial revolution and the unprecedented acceleration in digitization and the transition to the digital economy and the rapid changes in international financial legislation pave the way for the emergence of unprecedented opportunities for economic diversification and flexibility and represent opportunities for achieving a flexible, diversified, green and digital Arab economy that leads to enhancing the well-being of the Arab citizens.

CONFERENCE TOPICS

- Arab economic transformations and the adopted policies for economic diversification.
- Risks of slowing global growth and rising financial risks.
- "2030 Vision" and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's experience in economic development and transformation.
- Digital transformation in the financial sectors and the role of financial technology in economic diversification.
- Sustainable finance and the contribution of the banking sector to finance growth and development.
- Financial regulations and its role in enhancing financial stability.

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SUMMARIZED AGENDA & TIMETABLE

Sunday 03/09/2023

09:00-19:00 Conference early registration

Monday 04/09/2023

08:30-09:15 Conference Registration

09:15-09:30 Entering the conference main Hall

09:30-10:15 **Conference Official Opening Ceremony**

* Kingdom of Saudi Arabia National Anthem (& UAB Anthem)

WELCOMING ADDRESSES:

- Speech of the Governor of the Central Bank of KSA
- Speech of the Chairman of Union of Arab Banks

* Keynote Speeches by personalities from international organizations

10:15-10:30 **Honoring the Governor of Saudi Central Bank (SAMA)**

- Memorial Photo; Banking Conference - Riyadh 2023

10:30-10:45 Visit to the Exhibition accompanying the conference & Networking

10:45-12:15 ***Session 1: Arab economic transformations and the adopted policies for economic diversification***

- Economic diversification policies
- Transition to digital economy
- Arab economic relations with the East
- Investing in human developments

12:15-12:30 Coffee Break & Networking

12:30-14:00 ***Session 2: Risks of Slowing Global Growth and Rising Financial Risks***

- The implications of global inflation on financial stability
- Raising interest and its impact on growth
- The alternatives offered to limit the slowdown in global growth
- The repercussions of slowing global growth on the Arab region

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14:00-15:30 Lunch in honor of the participants

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

(Monday 04/09/2023)

15:30-16:30

Combating corruption, money laundering & Terrorism Financing and Strengthening Compliance

- New relevant international legislation
- Challenges arising from the expansion of digitization and reliance on technology
- Cooperation between the public & private sectors in combating financial crimes

Financial stability & flexibility and new international legislations

- New international banking legislations
- Financial stability challenges in light of political tensions
- The new Basel recommendations, especially related to cyber security

16:30-16:45 Coffee Break

16:45-17:30


Financial Inclusion

- Arab financial Inclusion strategies
- How to expand financial inclusion
- The link between financial inclusion and sustainable development

Pillars of a Green Economy and Confronting the Risks of Climate Change

- The repercussion of climate change on Arab economies
- Investing in the green economy and the available opportunities
- Green finance and green banking

17:30 End of day 1 activities



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Tuesday 05/09/2023 (Second day Conference Proceedings)

08:30-09:00 Morning Coffee

09:00-10:30 ***Session 1: Financial legislation and its role in promoting financial stability***

- Focusing on the new international regulatory legislation
- Basel III and the road to Basel IV
- New rules for combating AML/CFT
- Keeping pace with international legislation on Cyber Security issues

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break & Networking

11:00-12:15 ***Session 2: Arab Economic Growth Perspectives and the Role of Arab Banks***

- Prospects for economic growth in the Arab region
- Economic transformation and diversification policies in the Arab region
- Challenges of growth and development in the Arab region
- The contribution of Arab Banks in financing growth and development

12:15-12:45 Coffee Break & Networking

12:45-14:15 ***Session 3: Digital transformation in financial and Banking sectors and the role of financial technology***

- Lessons of expanding digitization and relying on technology in light of the spread of the pandemic
- Digital economy (opportunities & challenges)
- Cyber risks
- Investing in digital infrastructure

14:15-15:00 Conference Declaration & Award Distribution to Cooperating & Sponsoring Institutions

15:00-16:30 Lunch in honor of the participants

N.B.: UAB reserves the right to modify the program as it sees fit