



UNITED NATIONS

الشرق الأوسط
ESCWA



1st MENA Energy Economics Conference

at the American University of Beirut

“Oil price dynamics and energy transitions in the Middle East and North Africa: Economic implications and structural reforms”

December 6-7, 2018

Jointly organized by the Institute of Financial Economics (AUB), Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, and the United Nation Economic Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA)

Thursday December 6, 2018

➤ 9:00-9:15 - Opening

Dr. Leila Dagher (Associate Professor of Economics, Director of Institute of Financial Economics)

➤ 9:15-10:30 - Panel 1

Oil Price Dynamics and the Transition of the Energy Systems: Implications for Arab Countries

Chair: Dr. Bassam Fattouh (Director, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies)

Panelists: Dr. Adnan Shihab Eldin (Director General, Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences KFAS), Dr. Majid Al-Moneef (Leading Expert on Gulf and Middle Eastern Economies and Energy Markets), Dr. Giacomo Luciani (Adjunct Professor, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies Geneva), Dr. Radia Sedaoui (Chief Energy Section, ESCWA)

Topics: energy mix, diversification strategies, energy pricing reform, power sector reform

➤ 10:30-11:00 - Coffee Break (poster sessions)

➤ 11:00- 12:30 - Panel 2

Pathways to Achieve Sustainable Energy Systems: Challenges and Opportunities for the Arab Countries

Chair: Dr. Radia Sedaoui (Chief Energy Section, ESCWA)

Panelists: Dr. Ahmed Attiga (CEO, Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation APICORP), Dr. Liliana Elisabeta Benitez (Senior Energy Economist, World Bank), Dr. Stephanie Pincetl (Professor in Residence, Director California Center for Sustainable Communities), Dr. Joseph Al Assad (Energy Advisor, Ministry of Energy and Water, Lebanon; Professor at Holy Spirit University of Kaslik)

Topics: renewable energy, energy efficiency, climate change mitigation and adaptation, investments in clean technologies, financial mechanism, sustainable energy data

➤ 12:30-13:30 - Lunch Break

➤ 13:30-15:00 - Research Papers Session I: Energy and the Macroeconomy

- Economic diversification in the MENA in the context of peak oil and the energy transition, Dr. Bassam Fattouh, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies
- The impact of oil prices on the economies of selected countries in the MENA region, Dr. George Jabbour, The George Washington University
- Oil revenue, growth and political institutions in the MENA region: Is there a resource curse? Dr. Leila Dagher, AUB
- Economic diversification in MENA oil exporters: What about the main binding constraints facing this process? Dr. Siham Maatallah, University of Oran 2

➤ **15:00-15:30 - Coffee Break (poster sessions)**

➤ **15:30-17:00 - Research Papers Session II: Energy, the Macroeconomy and Financial Markets**

- The predictive power of oil and commodity prices for equity markets, Mr. Nasser Badra, AUB
- Financialization of commodities: The case of the MENA region, Dr. Khaled Guesmi, IPAG Business School
- The standalone and the portfolio risk of the Rogers energy commodity index, Dr. Samih Azar, Haigazian University

Friday December 7, 2018

➤ **9:00-10:30 - Research Papers Session III: Diversification and Transition**

- Diversification effects of energy subsidy reform in MENA oil exporters: Illustrations from Kuwait, Dr. Manal Shehabi, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies
- Energy transition and economic development: Lessons from Algeria, Dr. Nathalie Hilmi, Centre Scientifique de Monaco
- Virtual impact of electric vehicles on oil demand, Dr. Osamah Al Sayegh, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research
- Addressing energy access in the context of energy transitions, Dr. Namat Al-Soof, The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID)

➤ **10:30-11:00 - Coffee Break**

➤ **11:00-12:30 - Research Papers Session IV: Alternative Sources of Energy**

- Nuclear power in the Middle East: The cost of energy security, Dr. Ali Ahmad, AUB
- Effect of gasoline prices on car fuel efficiency: Evidence from the MENA, Ms. Jana Mourad, Lebanese American University (LAU)
- Commercial-scale hybrid solar photovoltaic-diesel systems in select Arab countries with weak grids: An integrated appraisal, Dr. Hasan Harajli, UNDP/AUB
- Impacts of energy efficiency policies on the integration of renewable energy, Dr. Essia Znouda, Université de Tunis El Manar

➤ **12:30-13:00 - Closing Remarks**