

6. Economic Freedom of the Arab World Conference  
Beirut, Gefinor Rotana Hotel, October 20.-21., 2011

## **The Economic Implications of the Arab Spring Opportunities and Challenges for Free Market Policies**

Co-organized by the Fraser Institute (FI), the International Research Foundation (IRF), and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty (FNF) in cooperation with the Lebanese Economic Association (LEA)

Official media partner: Executive Magazine, Beirut

The main objectives of the conference:

- Presentation and discussion of methodology and main findings of Economic Freedom of the World Annual Reports
- Presentation and discussion of 2011 data of the annual report on the Arab world (with a special focus on those countries represented at the conference)
- Presentation and discussion of recent findings of alternate economic reports and indices and their comparative relevance for the measurement of economic freedom
- Discussion of the impacts of the uprisings in the Arab world on the economic situation and their implications for economic freedoms in the respective countries, the region and the world in general
- Presentation and discussion of empirical data related to best practices of economic reforms that have augmented economic freedom and resulted in measurable economic development
- Discussion of strategies to promote the Economic Freedom of the World Annual Reports in the Arab region and to establish a network of individuals and institutions interested in networking in this field

**Wednesday, October 19, 2011**

Arrival of participants

20:00 Welcoming reception at the Hotel (for invited guests only)

**Thursday, October 20, 2011**

8:30 Registration desk opens

*MOC: Hani Abdel Malak, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty, Egypt*

9:00 Opening ceremony with welcoming statements by co-organizers:

Dr. Ronald Meinardus, Regional Director, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty, Egypt

Prof. Dr. Jad Chaaban, President, Lebanese Economic Association

Dr. Salem Ben Nasser Al Ismaily, Chairman, International Research Foundation, Oman

Fred McMahon, Vice President Research, The Fraser Institute, Canada

9:30 Keynote speech

More Freedom for the Markets? Lebanon's Economy and the Arab Spring

HE Minister Nikolas Nahhas, Minister of Economy and Trade, Lebanon

10:30 Break

Chairperson: Saed Karajah, President, Free Thought Forum, Jordan

11:00 The 2011 Economic Freedom of the Arab World Report: Main Findings and Policy Implications

Dr. Salem Ben Nasser Al Ismaily, IRF, Oman

11:30 Economic Freedom in Global Comparative View: Benefits, Arab Data and Index Comparisons

Fred McMahon, Vice President Research, The Fraser Institute

- 13:00 Lunch (for registered participants only)
- 14:30 Panel 1 (Chairperson: Ralf Erbel, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty, Jordan)
- The Economic Implications of the Arab Spring: The case of the Mashrek
- Political Turmoil and Economic Development (working title)  
Dr. Yusuf Mansur, Jordan
- Regional Transformation and Its Implications on Economic Development in Lebanon  
Dr. Mounir Rached, Vice President, Lebanese Economic Association
- Economic Freedom Report of 2010 – An Assessment from a Palestinian Perspective  
Dr. Hisham Awartani, Director, Palestine Governance Institute, Palestine
- 16:30 Break
- 17:00 Panel 2 (Chairperson: Dr. Kamel Erol, Turkey)
- The Economic Implications of the Arab Spring: The case of the Arab Gulf
- Economic Freedom in Iraq: Chances and Challenges (working title)  
Mohammed Ali Field Al Kafaji, Senior Research Fellow, Iraqi Institute for Economic Reform (IEER), Iraq
- Economic Freedom in Saudi Arabia: Chances and Challenges (working title)  
Nadia M. Refaat-Shaikh, Regional Director of Intellect Media PR Company, Saudi Arabia
- 19:00 End of working day one

**Friday, October 21, 2011**

- Chairperson: Dr. Salem Ben Nasser Al Ismaily, Chairman, IRF, Oman
- 9:00 Special Session: Focus on Libya - Chances and Challenges on the Road to Political and Economic Freedom
- Political Life in Libya: Before and After  
Bassem Hussein Ibrahim Abu-Bakr, Member, Politics and International Relations Committee, National Transitional Council

Economic Freedom in Libya  
 Hani Noury Rohuma, Lecturer, Faculty of Economics, Kar Younis  
 University

10:00 Panel 3 (Chairperson: Charles Fouad El Masry, Editor-in-Chief, Al Mary Al  
 Youm Daily Newspaper, Egypt)

The Economic Implications of the Arab Spring: The case of the Maghreb

The Contribution of the Young Entrepreneurs in the Arab Spring  
 Zakaria Fahim, President, Centre des Jeunes Dirigeants d'Entreprise (CJD),  
 Morocco

The Algerian Economy: Between Openness and Self-Sufficiency  
 Abdelkrim Boudra, President, Cercle d'Action et de Reaction Autour de  
 l'Entreprise (CARE), Algeria

The Tunisian Economy and Democratic Transition  
 Zouhair BenLarbi, Founder and Manager, Carrières Pro

11:30 Break

12:00 The Consequences of the Egyptian Revolution and the Economic Future  
 Amr Bakly, President, Cairo Liberal Forum, Egypt

Followed by a commentary from:  
 Anwar al Hawary, Editor-in-Chief, Al Ahram Ektisadi

13:00 Lunch (for registered participants only)

14:30 Panel 4 (Chairperson: Dr. Ronald Meinardus, Regional Director, Friedrich  
 Naumann Foundation for Liberty, Egypt)

The Economic Implications of the Arab Spring – Regional and International  
 Aspects

How to Turn Political Regime Change into Economic Success: The Hard  
 Lessons from Eastern Europe  
 Prof. Dr. Andrew Kondratowicz, Lazarski University and Warsaw  
 University, Poland

Economic Freedoms, Entrepreneurship and Firm Growth in Emerging  
 Markets: The case of Turkey

Dr. Bahattin Karademir, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Cukurova University, Turkey

Impacts of the Arab Spring on Economic Freedom and Free Market Policies in the Middle East

Prof. Dr. Mehdi Haririan, Bloomberg University, USA

Financial Turmoil and Arab Spring: Factors Influencing Economic Freedom  
Marshall Stocker, Investor, USA

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| 17:00 | Break   |
| 17:30 | Discussion: Strategies to Promote the Economic Freedom Report in the Arab World |
| 18:00 | Closing remarks by participants and organizers                                  |
| 18:30 | End of Conference   |

**Saturday, October 22, 2011**

Departure of international participants

*(Program as of October 5, 2011)*