



High-Level Conference

Building the Future: Jobs, Growth, and Fairness in the Arab World

Government of Jordan / Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development / International Monetary Fund

May 11–12, 2014—Amman, Jordan

Conference Survey Feedback

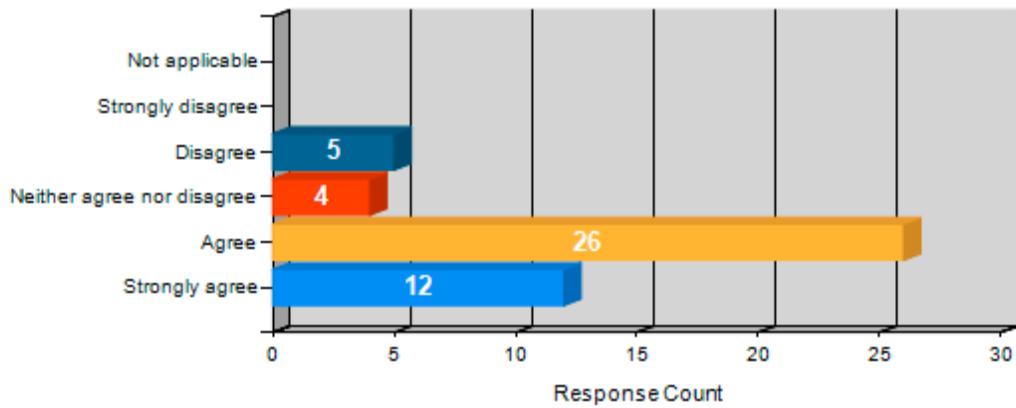
In follow-up to the conference, the IMF conducted a survey of conference participants to gauge their views on the event. Close to 50 respondents, representing about one-third of conference participants who registered through the on-line system, provided feedback, as detailed further below.

Overall, respondents thought that the conference was interesting and informative and indicated that they would participate in a similar event in the future. Participants enjoyed the topics and speakers featured in the first day's closed-door thematic sessions, and felt that the second day's panel discussions provided a good overview of the region's key challenges as well as policies to overcome these.

In terms of format, **most respondents felt that the scheduling of events was adequate to foster engaging discussions** and that the event provided sufficient opportunity to network with people they had wished to meet. In their free-text comments, many reiterated these points and also praised the diverse mix of participants as well as the event organization. This said, a number of respondents would have preferred a longer conference to facilitate more audience participation and in-depth discussion of policy approaches.

The free text comments also highlighted particular interest in issues related to regional integration, subsidy reform, governance, and education reform.

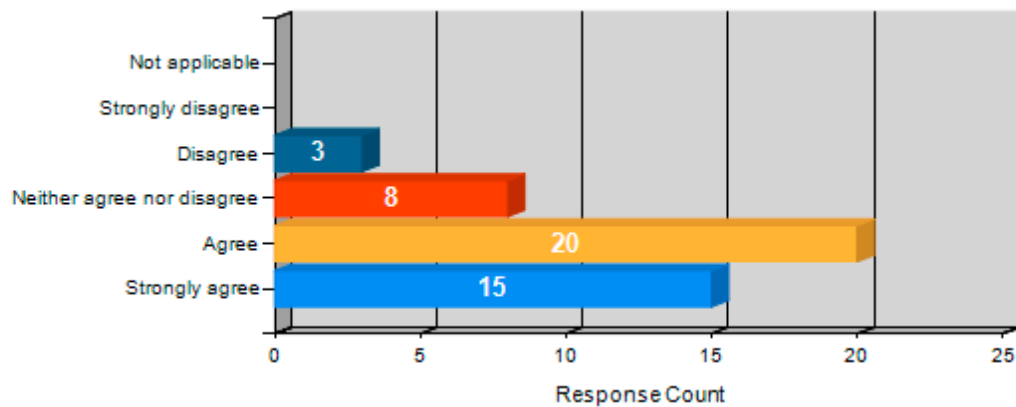
(1) The scheduling (timing and length) of events was adequate to foster engaging discussions.



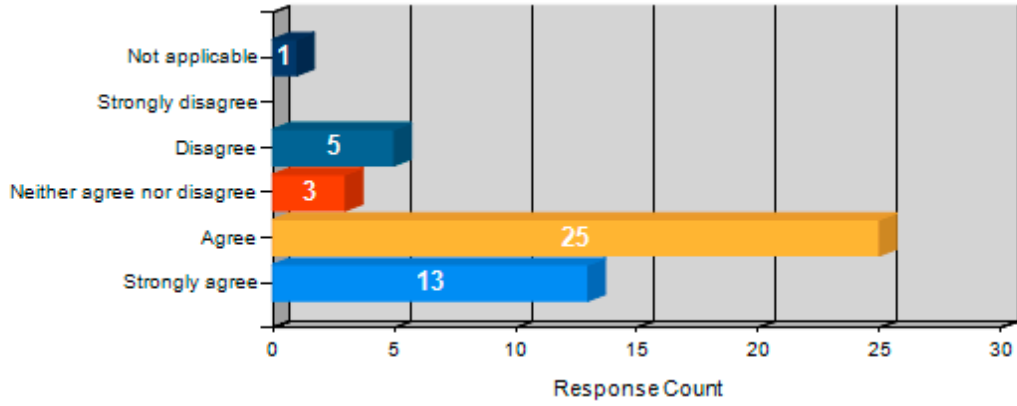
(2) I enjoyed the first day's thematic sessions with respect to the:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	N/A	Top 2	Bottom 2
Seminar Topics	53.2%	42.6%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	95.74%	0.00%
Line-up of speakers	19.1%	57.4%	14.9%	6.4%	2.1%	0.0%	76.60%	2.13%
Diversity of topics and views	25.5%	51.1%	23.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	76.60%	0.00%
Audience participation (audience Q and A)	8.5%	57.4%	14.9%	14.9%	4.3%	0.0%	65.96%	4.26%
Audience participation (audience voting)	12.8%	51.1%	21.3%	12.8%	0.0%	2.1%	63.83%	2.13%

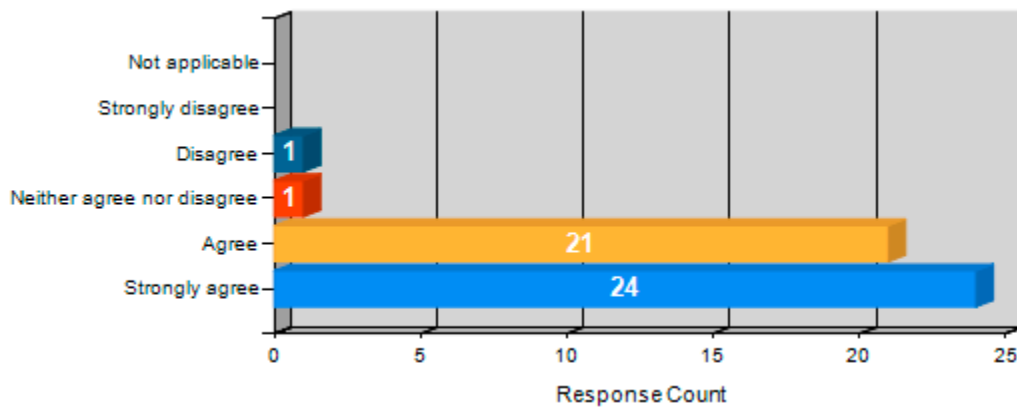
(3) The sessions on the second day provided a good overview of the key challenges that policymakers face, as well as of the ways to overcome these challenges.



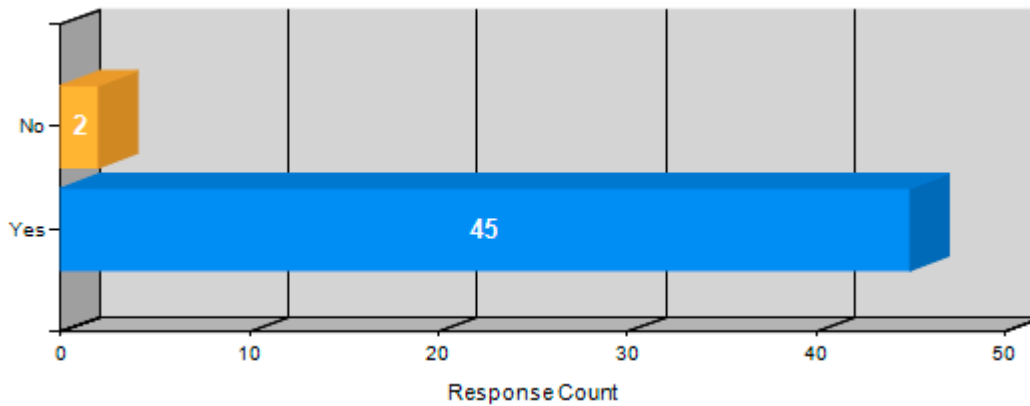
(4) I had sufficient opportunity to network with people whom I wished to meet.



(5) Overall, the conference was interesting and informative.



(6) Would you participate in a similar conference again?



(7) Which topics would you like to see covered in a future conference?	(8) What did you like most about the conference?	(9) What are your suggestions for improvements?
Practical measures and policies to create good jobs for the unemployed and the new entrants to the job market	Organization of the conference into thematic sessions.	Each thematic session should be confined to a small select group to discuss the issues and come up with practical recommendations that are doable. You cannot discuss a theme seriously when you have 100-200 participants and 90 minutes only.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Inclusive growth -Poverty -Regional integration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -It was very well organized -The topics are very interesting -Participants of high quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Give the opportunity to young economists to participate -See more empirical works
Overview of compliance of Islamic financial markets	Experience exchange between all attendees	More time
<p>Macroeconomic stabilization and inclusive growth policies: reorganization of public current spending on subsidies, wages and debt service to quality spending on education, health, infrastructure, targeted subsidies, and cash transfers, employment subsidies, in other words, spending to empower and create equal opportunities (inclusive spending). The experience of other countries in this regard would be useful, impact on growth and job creation. The focus should always be on the ultimate objective, job creation, and higher incomes for the poor and unemployed.</p>	Diversity of speakers, discussions, the voting and networking.	I think at the beginning there should be a presentation by the IMF about elements of best practices in particular reforms. Then we hear about country practices based on the presentation. This gives the presentations a structure to follow and you do not lose the listeners. Many of the presentations were not focused, elucidated 'reforms' that may not necessarily be considered so. I think speakers should also be required to give visual presentations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Development and equity-oriented growth -Values-based governance -Education and its future role 	Very well organized...undertaken very seriously by the three sponsors...good selection of themes and speakers...this follow-up as an expression of determination to improve quality and outcome.	Sustain this initiative...hold the next conference in North Africa... Best wishes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Subsidies reform -Governance and economic performance 	Quality of audience but not speakers	Logistics were not that good before the start of the event itself (I mean emails and dealing with travel agency)
Regional integration challenges and opportunities	Topic and opportunity to interact	To have a list of participants
Economic policies	Everything	More time
Women's empowerment and economic growth.	Networking opportunity.	Avoid gimmicks like the 'voting' exercise with largely predetermined results
Practical options to resolve the negative impact of the reforms on the ordinary citizen.	Scientific topics and organization.	<p>I suggested that the transformation matrix of recommendations to the executive of the targeted countries and the formation of a committee of the organizers of the conference and members of the conference to continue implementation in each country.</p> <p>As well as I suggested to the International Monetary Fund and the Arab Fund to strengthen the partnership with research centers society organizations for conducted to study and social impact of the economic in each country.</p>

I hope to discuss the suffering of young people from crisis 1 - bugs in the family and cracks within families.2 - the gap in family relations became a household relationships neighborly relations.3 - increase the number of education graduates constitute a burden on society.4 - unavailability of projects able to accommodate young people.5 - the void where the educational goal of becoming the young man to get the certificate and not only is significant value.6 - consolidate the concepts of unemployment among young people who are able to work Phippgeson curse, but they do not find, in the same Mmenzk unemployed recipe psychological disorder. So that the young man is happy and lacking self-satisfaction and a sense of helplessness and lack of efficiency at work.7 - of the problems facing youth unemployment is in three models: -v young people entered the field of study and practical did not want to because of the faithful not to give them the opportunity to choose whether or not to accept the average availability of the university.v forcing young people to work in the areas of competence is not because he does not need to state their specialties.v young people working in their field of specialty, but because of the vacuum educational yet to complete their work to the fullest. This is a money drain disguised unemployment and low output.

Punctuality for each sessions and the group discussion and opinions put forward by the participants

The chance to be more dialogue to get to the good results concerning the solution to the problem of unemployment and access to transparency and good governance.

<p>Institutional development, governance, FDI, economic integration</p> <p>-Economic integration in the Arab World. -Links between education and labor markets. Skills mismatch and the reform of education in the Arab world</p>	<p>Organization</p> <p>-That the IMF was capable of sitting together representatives of most of the Arab world and engage them in a fruitful debate. -The opportunity of listening to Ms. Lagarde live.</p>	<p>Provide few extra hours of support after the closing ceremony so people remaining in the hotel can finish their stay in good hands</p> <p>Interventions by participants after the presentation by the panelists should focus on questions to participants and deliver a debate. They did not. Participants just spoke their thoughts without taking profit of the presence of experts. Thus there was not a debate between the speakers and the public and among the speakers. The public just gave their personal opinion on the issue. This should improve and the role of the head of the panel is essential.</p>
<p>Comparison of specific sectors or issues across Arab countries and vis a vis successful transition countries</p> <p>How to efficiently tackle the informal sector problem in our economies?</p>	<p>Wide participation, mix of regional representatives and European transition countries</p> <p>-Networking opportunities -Exchanging ideas -Learning</p>	<p>Another conference to be held in Europe</p>
<p>How can we develop a common base for the discussion of different themes between the IMF and the Arab countries to arrive to conclusion and policies that are appropriate to our countries</p>	<p>The interaction between the participants. However, the interaction with the three hosts to point out and discuss arguable subjects was completely missing which the reduced the benefit of the conference.</p>	<p>More room to be given for the discussion with the hosts, especially the IMF Director, to clarify on issues which are, and has been, of significant disagreements between the Arab countries and the IMF, and which I think that the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development can play a role in providing appropriate forum for compromises between the Arab countries and the IMF. But, unfortunately, in the session where the three hosts present their talks, no discussion by the participants were allowed which, I think, was a big loss for such a special event.</p>

-Administrative capacity in achieving economic development. -Skills and abilities and technical craft and its role in lifting the Arab economy.		Allow the media people to participate in the conference since the beginning of the session and not depriving them from the sessions at the conference.
Women's role (a more active discussion), a forum on Youth Employment and actionable ideas.	The moderated panel	
-Global inflationary pressures and developing economies -Rising inequality and unemployment in the Arab Countries in Transition -Economic consequences of policy uncertainty in the Arab Countries in Transition	I would like to thank you for the debate which, in my opinion, covered most of the important topics concerning the Arab region	I don't have any suggestions at this time
Banking and finance, investment, SMEs, rentier economies, natural resource management,	Meeting important personalities, exchange of views and experiences, presence of national and international policy makers	Transmission of results and recommendations of the conference to different countries and periodic monitoring of their implementation
Give high profile the point of view of young college graduates who are unemployed. Most governments in the region for a combination of reasons are not prepared to remove the embodiments that would foster free competition and a fair shot on business opportunities.	The structure, diversity of participants, and overall execution of events or sessions of the conference.	Allow more opportunity of dynamism that possible solutions of the challenges under discussion could include issues not stated on the agenda. In other words, have room for new spontaneous ideas that bubble from the participants.
Reforms of the tax system, trade liberalization	Organization	
-Controlling population growth, -Poverty reduction, and -Promoting transparency and fighting corruption	The brainstorming sessions and government officials involvement in the discussion	-To minimize the number of the parallel sessions to increase the chance to attend more of the sessions organized -To allow for more interaction between public officials and participants, i.e. to allow an easy access to public officials for making such interactions especially during lunches/dinners where they were seated together.
Youth problems, small industries, technology transfer, social justice, the role of the media in spreading economic culture and awareness.	The participation of important experts, the good organization, the entertainment aspect.	More concentration on the problems facing the Arab citizens, specially unemployment, problems of the expatriate workers, housing,
Capital markets	Format organization participants	More secluded venue
How to reduce youth unemployment	The frank discussion	Better selection of participants
-Geo-strategic and regional dimensions -New international interests and players in the economy markets. Shaping new international economic policy. -Links between economy improvement and systemic analysis, cultural infrastructure, politics, regional	-Diversity of topics. -Discussing the good governance for a better growth and fairness. -Participants from different horizons. -Networking opportunity.	-Giving more time to interactions especially with policy makers. -Avoiding the use of policy makers as moderators. -Having more women and youth as panelists. -Keep linking economic problems to systemic, cultural and strategic issues.
-Labor policies -Impact of economic policies on human rights		Expand the time of the sessions

A success story from the region of a problem that was effectively dealt with.	The participants in the conference were quite distinguished and most of them were quite knowledgeable.	Speakers from outside the region should be well informed about the challenges and the problems in the regions. Lessons learnt from other countries in the region should be lighted more to draw some important lessons.
-How to promote women in leadership roles in the region -Closing the gender gaps -How to develop the education system to meet the changes worldwide	-Networking -Key people and interaction was good	Sufficient time for discussion and exchanging ideas
-More inclusive finance in the region (how disadvantaged areas may contribute efficiently to growth). -More 'real' finance tools (i.e. linking Finance more directly to real wealth and Job creation) and measuring that. -How can IMF help reorient SWF's resources to more efficient uses in the area.	By far the innovation: listing the salient points (great job by Rapporteur) and conducting a VOTE after discussions. Number of speakers with one idea does not necessarily mean it is what the majority thinks !!!!	Digging more into this innovation. Making votes more easily translatable into actions and priorities. Add a (modest) section on better and affordable state budgeting computerized tools for administrations in MENA.
Industrial policy	Topics and networking	Background papers before the conference
-What attracts investments. -What determines growth. -How to improve the public's perception of government efforts to curb corruption.	Speakers of high caliber from various countries	A longer event of three days, one day for discussions on important topics was very short and just touching on important topics without further discussion of various country experiences.
-Opening up, potential role of FDI and privatization, how important the financial sector role can be in fostering the transformation.	The open dialog among policymakers, international community, and NGOs.	More time has to be allocated for in-depth analysis and discussion.
More deepened discussions and thoughts on how to achieve more growth and inclusiveness	Relevance of the topics, diversity of the participants and audience	Improve the organization of thematic session specially for better selection of the output and suggestions
Good governance	Different multi-parties representation and participation, especially as for discussion engagement	Further representation of specialized NGOs in the events' themes
Unemployment in the Arab World	Networking	Give more time to participants to share, the open discussion timing was too short and I was not able to participate as I was selected to talk. A suggestion may be to divide participants into two different discussions on the same topic giving more, or double, chances for pax to be selected to talk.
l'importance des équilibres macro économiques et la présence de la problématique sociale.		

<p>It would be of benefit to engage with the private sector on various initiatives and ensure 'experiences and lessons from the field' by corporations active across the Arab World are shared with stakeholders. I know that our firm for one would be keen to explore such opportunities.</p>	<p>The diverse background of participants and frankly the genuine interest from all stakeholders across the board. There was a sense that we will all need to work in partnership to help address some of the challenges highlighted during the conference.</p>	<p>Perhaps, if this idea has not already been applied, it would be helpful to conduct a survey whereby participants (in advance of the next meeting) could be asked for ideas and suggestions to discuss in the next meeting. Again, it would be helpful to increase the level of participation by both the local and international private sector taking part in future discussions.</p>
<p>More technical subtopics. We <i>must</i> step away from the platitudes and the generalities, and more into subtopics that would allow us to reach practical recommendations.</p>	<p>The excellent mix of participants.</p>	<p>Refresh the topics! These discussions are the same we've been having for over 3 years.</p>
<p>Impact of politics on growth and policy</p>	<p>Opening up of Fund on outside views.</p>	<p>Structure agenda in a way that will permit greater participation and feedback, especially that a large number of people are invited to the conference.</p>
<p>Engaging Africa in enterprise and trade for North African countries. Challenges and opportunities facing youth in emerging democracies. How to sustain demand for better economic engagement.</p>	<p>The networking was excellent as the caliber of the guests was high.</p>	<p>It's a very boring conference because most panels were composed of older men, technocrats, and people who are deeply entrenched in the details and linguistics of their trade. For a person in civil society, it was difficult to relate to the bigger picture, or what I would have been engaging in. I recommend more charismatic speakers, non-government officials, youth, visionaries, women, successful entrepreneurs. I know the IMF works with governments but if you see the value in engaging non-government sectors, there can be much value in mixing up your speakers.</p>
<p>In-depth discussion of political/economic transitions in Asian and Central Asian countries and perhaps LATAM. European experience not highly relevant to our region. Case studies of successes and failures.</p>	<p>Convened by IMF, which imposes discipline in terms of quality of debate. Mixture of different groups from across the region.</p>	<p>Invite more Parliamentarians; private business CEOs. Improve regional coverage and representation from countries truly 'in transition': Yemen, Egypt, Syria, Libya, Tunisia. Jordan and Morocco are not truly ACTs and reforms have been minimal. They should not be showcased.</p>
<p>Whatever topics are economic/financial related topics relevant at the time.</p>	<p>Topics, networking</p>	<p>I encourage you to continue with this regional-specific type conference. I would have liked full access to media to all sessions.</p>