

HIGH-LEVEL IMF CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, DIVERSIFICATION, AND THE ROLE OF THE STATE

April 30-May 1, 2014

Kuwait City, Kuwait

Organized by the International Monetary Fund and the Ministry of Finance of Kuwait

April 30, 2014

8:30am – 9:00am Opening Remarks
Min Zhu, Deputy Managing Director (IMF)
H.E. Anas Al-Saleh, Minister of Finance of Kuwait
Open to the media

Session 1: Diversification in the GCC Oil Exporters – Past Attempts and Current Endeavors

Chair: Alfred Kammer, Deputy Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department (IMF)

9:00am-9:30am Soaring of the Gulf Falcons: Diversification in the GCC Oil Exporters in
Seven Propositions
Reda Cherif and Fuad Hasanov (IMF)
The presentation will explore the economic model and performance of the GCC
countries, oil exporters' experience and hurdles in diversifying away from oil, the need
for the GCC to develop the tradable sector and exports, and elements of a successful
strategy.

9:30am-10:00am Development Strategies in MENA Oil Exporters: The Past and the Present
Clement Henry, Professor and Chair (American University of Cairo)
The presentation will discuss the dilemmas of diversification, including the role of the
government, in hydrocarbon-based economies, analyzing a spectrum of strategies ranging
from Algeria to Dubai, and implications for today's oil exporters.

10:00am-10:30am Coffee break

10:30am-11:00am Dubai on the Path of Diversification
Mohamed Lahouel, Chief Economist (Dubai Department of Economic
Development)
The presentation will provide an in-depth look into Dubai's development model and
diversification experience in the tradable sector and non-oil exports and how the
government has contributed to it, what succeeded and what failed, and a way forward.

11:00am-11:30am Social Development in the Gulf States
Huck-ju Kwon, Professor (Seoul National University and Harvard
University, Visiting Scholar)
The presentation will focus on policies to spur social development in the Gulf states
toward creating a more productive labor force, and means and ways to improve citizens'
potential through a program such as Korea's Saemaul Undong.

11:30am -12:30pm	Panel with session speakers
12:30pm-2:00pm	Lunch with a speech by Min Zhu

Session 2: Industry, Education and Finance Policies to Support Diversification

Chair: Sharmini Coorey, Director of the Institute for Capacity Development (IMF)

2:00pm-2:30pm	<p>Going Beyond Comparative Advantage: How Singapore Made It Philip Yeo, Chairman (SPRING Singapore, Development Agency of the Government of Singapore)</p> <p>The presentation will discuss from a policymaker's perspective diversification strategies to promote the tradable industries and exports using the development model of Singapore, which strategies succeeded and which failed, the role of the state, and lessons for oil exporters today.</p>
2:30pm-3:00pm	<p>Education and Skills Creation: Lessons for the GCC from International Experience Philippe Aghion, Professor (Harvard University)</p> <p>The presentation will explore education policies to improve the quality of education to support development in the GCC based on the experience of best performers like Finland, and how countries with low quality education and lack of incentives to study can improve their education system and encourage students to learn and excel.</p>
3:00pm-3:30pm	<p>The Role of Finance in the Diversification of Industrial Base Iftekhar Hasan, Professor (Fordham University and Central Bank of Finland)</p> <p>The presentation will analyze how diversification is beneficial to economic welfare. Using both global and regional evidence, it will discuss how development banks and other vehicles of financing could support industrialization and risk-taking, and how the government can act as a venture capitalist.</p>
3:30pm-4:00pm	Coffee Break
4:00pm-5:00pm	Panel with session speakers
7:00pm	Dinner

May 1, 2014

Session 3: Lessons for Diversification from Asia and Latin America

Chair: Tim Callen, Chief of the GCC Division of the Middle East and Central Asia Department (IMF)

8:30am-9:00am	<p>Malaysia, Oil and Diversification: A View from the Inside Ahmad Tajuddin, Chairman (Energy Commission, Malaysia)</p>
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The presentation will provide a policymaker's view of diversification strategies used to promote the tradable sector and exports in Malaysia, which strategies succeeded and which failed, the role the state played, and lessons for oil exporters.

9:00am-9:30am

Lessons from Korean Industrialization for Oil Exporters

Meredith Woo-Cumings, Professor and Dean (University of Virginia)

The presentation will explore specific lessons from the Korean economic development that propelled it to the advanced country status, successful and failed policies and how they were implemented, and the relevance of the Korean experience to today's oil exporters.

9:30am-9:45am

Coffee Break

9:45am-10:15am

Economic Diversification in Latin American Oil and Commodity Producers and Key Lessons

Jose Miguel Benavente, Professor (Universidad de Chile and Inter-American Development Bank)

The presentation will discuss the past experience at diversification in Latin American oil/mineral exporters contrasting them with agricultural exporters, policies pursued, including macro-fiscal management, and takeaways for oil exporters.

10:15am-10:45am

BNDES: The Role of the Development Bank in Brazil's Industrialization Julio Ramundo, Managing Director (BNDES, Brazilian Development Bank)

The presentation will analyze the role of BNDES in Brazil's development, strategies it employed, which worked and which did not, how to continue to provide financial support to firms and when to cut it, how to pick industries and firms to promote tradables and exports, and its perspective on developing multinational corporations.

10:45am-11:00am

Coffee Break

11:00am-12:00pm

Panel with session speakers

Session 4: Closing Discussion

Moderator: Alfred Kammer, Deputy Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department (IMF)

12:00pm-12:45pm

Conversation with H.E. Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser, Minister of Economy and Planning, Saudi Arabia, and Min Zhu, IMF Deputy Managing Director

12:45pm-2:00pm

Lunch