



AFGHANISTAN LIBYA  
EGYPT SUDAN  
IRAQ SYRIA  
JORDAN WBG  
LEBANON YEMEN

## High-Level Officials Workshop for Saudi Arabia

During February 2 to 3, 2015, Mr. Mohamad Elhage, METAC Coordinator, participated in a workshop in Riyadh organized by the International Monetary Fund (IMF's) Middle East and Central Asia Department in cooperation with Saudi Arabia's Institute of Public Administration. The workshop focused on the role of the IMF in the region and the economic policies recommended by the IMF. Mr. Elhage delivered three presentations on: (i) the role of the IMF at the regional and global level; (ii) economic developments in the Middle East and North Africa region; and (iii) energy subsidy reform. Forty five high level government officials attended the workshop which was opened by the Governor of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency. The workshop was widely covered by Saudi media.

## Technical Assistance Missions

### *Egypt*

**Banking Supervision:** To assist the Central Bank of Egypt in the implementation of Pillar 2 of Basel II. The mission also reviewed a draft regulation on Liquidity as proposed by Basel Committee on Banking Supervision within the Basel III framework.

### *Sudan*

**Banking Supervision:** Training on the design and development of sensitivity stress tests that covered credit, equity, liquidity, and market risks.

### *West Bank and Gaza*

**Statistics:** The mission reviewed the current compilation practices for balance of payments and international investment position statistics and assisted the authorities to improve the coverage and overall quality of these statistics.

### *Afghanistan (in Dubai)*

**Revenue Administration:** METAC joined an IMF headquarters mission to meet representatives of the Afghan Revenue and Customs Departments. The purpose of the meetings was to agree on structural benchmarks for revenue performance and to identify future areas for technical assistance support.

## Joint Regional Workshops with CEF



The IMF's Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF) and METAC jointly organized two regional workshops in February: one on "Risk-Based Supervision in Institutions offering Islamic Financial Services" from February 2 to 5 and the other on "Understanding Compliance Behavior" in revenue administration during February 15 to 18.

Both events provided a good setting for exchanging views and sharing experiences.

## Joint Regional Workshop with the IMF Statistics Department

Jointly with the IMF Statistics department, METAC held a workshop on "Price Index Compilation Issues" in Beirut during February 23 to 27. The workshop addressed specific price statistics compilation issues of participating countries.

The active discussions involved case studies and practical exercises. In a final wrap-up session, participants were given the opportunity to identify potential areas for future METAC technical assistance support. Thirty one participants from 10 METAC and non-METAC countries attended the workshop.

