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WBG	YEMEN

METAC Pledging Session



H.E. Mrs. Raya Haffar El-Hassan, Lebanon Minister of Finance; Mr. Murilo Portugal, IMF Deputy Managing Director and Mr. Alfred Kramer, IMF MCD Senior Advisor

On October 10, 2010 a pledging session was held in Washington D.C. to raise money for METAC Phase III, which runs from May 2010 to April 2015. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), the European Commission, France, Kuwait, Oman, as well as the Middle East Regional Technical Assistance Center (METAC) beneficiary countries (Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Syria, Sudan, and Yemen) pledged to contribute \$21.5 million to METAC. The pledges received cover about two thirds of the center’s requirements for its third phase. Discussions are ongoing with a number of other donors who have also expressed interest in contributing to METAC to raise the remaining amount.

At the conclusion of the pledging session, IMF Deputy Managing Director Murilo Portugal made a statement in which he said: “The IMF is pleased that our partners – both traditional donors and recipient countries alike have again pledged their support to METAC.”METAC has been serving the region since 2004 and is a testament to our long-standing partnership in

the delivery of technical assistance and training. The center embodies the spirit of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, serving as an important convening platform to reap substantial synergies among the various donors and development organizations in the region to benefit recipient countries”.

IMF-Youth Roundtable Discussion



On October 26 and as part of the youth dialogue that the IMF launched earlier this year, METAC organized a roundtable discussion gathering thirty five students from eight universities in Lebanon. Ms. Ratna Sahay, Deputy Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department led the discussion. Mr. Andreas Bauer, Mission Chief for Lebanon, Mr. Eric Mottu, IMF Resident Representative, and Mr. Saade Chami, METAC Coordinator also participated.

Following a short presentation by Ms. Sahay on the economic outlook of the region and Lebanon, the floor was open for discussion. Students raised a host of interesting issues related to the main economic problems and policies facing Lebanon, governance issues, political stability, among others, and the role of the IMF.

Taxpayers’ Services Workshop



METAC organized a workshop on “Taxpayers’ Services” from October 5-7 in Beirut with the participation of thirty-five senior officials from fourteen countries, including three from the GCC. The workshop presented best international practices in designing, developing and implementing modern and efficient strategies and tools to promote and modernize the relationship with the taxpayers.

The workshop served as a platform to share experiences and challenges facing participating countries. Several presentations were delivered by representatives of a number of participants, and lively discussions ensued. The workshop was moderated by Ms. Manal Assir, METAC Revenue Administration advisor and led by Mrs. Catherine Brigant, director of taxpayers’ services in the French tax administration, and Mr. Thomas Story, senior expert and technical assistance advisor at the IMF.

Seminar on Pillar II Implementation



As part of Basel II implementation in Syria (CBS), METAC Banking Supervision Advisor, Mohamad Ali Hassan and short-term expert, Rabih Nehme delivered a training course to CBS examiners on Pillar II. The workshop focused on the regulatory capital framework, the main components of Pillar II (the implementation of Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process, the application of Supervisory Review and Evaluation Process), and its enhancements. Other topics discussed were measures taken by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) to strengthen the Basel II Framework as part of the reform agenda that addresses the lessons of the global financial crisis related to regulation, supervision and risk management.

