



RECIPIENT COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN	EGYPT
IRAQ	JORDAN
LEBANON	LIBYA
SUDAN	SYRIA
WBG	YEMEN

Arab Banking Sector and BASEL III



METAC Banking Supervision Advisor, Mr. Mohamad Ali Hassan, participated in a panel discussion on “The Arab Banking Sector and BASEL III” from February 10-11, 2011 in Beirut. The event was organized by the Union of Arab Banks and the World Union of Arab Bankers with the collaboration of the Banking Control Commission of Lebanon.

In his presentation, Mr. Ali Hassan described METAC’s TA in the area of banking supervision which aims at creating a sound banking supervision environment and maintaining public trust and confidence in the banking sector. He discussed in particular assets quality and non-performing loans, needs for capital and liquidity, and implementation of Basel capital accord in METAC countries.

Technical Assistance in Yemen

Revenue Administration

In response to a request from the Minister of Finance, a diagnostic technical assistance mission from the Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD) visited Yemen from February 12-22, 2011 to provide advice on measures needed for the implementation of the General Sales Tax and to review the tax and customs administrations. The mission was headed by Mr. Thomas Story, Senior Economist in the IMF Fiscal Affairs Department. Ms. Manal Assir, METAC Revenue Administration Advisor participated in this mission.

Developing Capacity Building for Debt Management

At the request of the Yemeni authorities, a technical assistance mission visited the Ministry of Finance (MOF) from February 12-16, 2011 to develop MOF capacity building for debt management. The mission was headed by Ms. Nelly Batchoun, Debt Management Advisor and included Mr. Baudouin Richard, short-term expert. The mission reviewed the draft debt law and conducted a workshop for the staff of the MOF on Public Debt Management.

Improving BOP and IIP Compilation Practices in Jordan

In accordance with the work plan agreed with the Authorities, a technical assistance mission on external statistics, conducted by Mr. Jean Galand, METAC Statistics Advisor visited the Central Bank of Jordan during February 1-6, 2011 to review progress in the compilation of balance of payments, international investment position and external debt statistics. The mission noted, in particular, that the large errors and omissions that had been a preoccupation in previous years have come back to an acceptable magnitude, as a result of the improvements achieved in the compilation of current transfers and inward foreign direct investments, in particular. The mission also paid an introductory visit to the Department of Statistics and to the Ministry of Finance.

TA Delivery during the Third Quarter of Fiscal Year 2011

Technical Assistance delivery in the third quarter exceeded what was planned in most areas, with an average implementation ratio of 145 percent. Syria continued to receive the largest share of TA (at 19 percent, compared to 26 percent in the previous quarter), followed by Lebanon and Libya. Two training courses were conducted for Iraqi officials in banking supervision, and a weeklong seminar was conducted for Afghani officials in Beirut in the area of revenue administration.

