



RECIPIENT COUNTRIES	
AFGHANISTAN	LIBYA
EGYPT	SUDAN
IRAQ	SYRIA
JORDAN	WBG
LEBANON	YEMEN

Luncheon Organized by the Lebanese Business Association



On November 5, 2014, Mr. Mohamad Elhage, METAC Coordinator, delivered a speech at a luncheon organized by the Lebanese Business Association. The luncheon was attended by current and former high ranking government officials and key individuals from the business

and political communities. Mr. Elhage discussed the economic outlook for the oil importing countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, with particular focus on Lebanon. He discussed the reform measures needed in this group of countries to maintain macroeconomic stability and highlighted the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recommendations for the short and medium terms to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth in the MENA region. Mr. Ferid Belhaj, World Bank Group’s Country Director for the Middle East Department, and Mr. Thomas Jacobs, Resident Representative of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) for Lebanon and Syria, also participated in the luncheon and discussed the role of their institutions and how they are helping Lebanon.

Presentation on MENA’s Regional Economic Outlook

On November 17, 2014, Mr. Mohamad Elhage gave a presentation on the Regional Economic Outlook in the MENA Region to a group of managers and industry staff from the IFC from across the MENA region. Mr. Elhage discussed the outlook for the global economy and examined the current situation and outlook for the regional countries, making a distinction between oil importing and oil exporting countries. He discussed the reform measures needed in both groups of countries to maintain macroeconomic stability and achieve higher and more inclusive economic growth.

METAC Missions

West Bank and Gaza

Banking supervision, to assist the Palestinian Monetary Authority in enhancing risk-based supervision.

Public financial management (PFM), to assist the Palestinian National Authority in advancing PFM reforms.

Revenue administration, to assist the Large Taxpayer Unit with developing a risk-based approach to compliance management.

Egypt

PFM, jointly with the IMF Headquarters, to address PFM issues related to the new constitutional mandate to increase spending on health and education.

Revenue administration, two missions took place in November; the first, to assist the Egyptian Tax Authority (ETA) to support the development of a compliance management framework in preparation for the introduction of a VAT; the second, to assist the ETA to support the development of refund management framework in preparation for the introduction of a VAT.

Jordan

Revenue administration, two missions took place; the first, to assist the Income and Sales Tax Department to strengthen procedures against export-based VAT refund fraud; the second, to assist Jordan Customs to prepare business cases for strategic Customs Initiatives.

METAC Off Site Missions

For Afghanistan in Beirut: to assist the Da Afghanistan Bank in improving the quality of the external sector statistics and ensure the consistency between the balance of payments and international investment position.

For Yemen in Beirut: to assist the Central Statistical Organization in improving the accuracy and timeliness of the GDP estimates using the production and expenditure approaches at current and constant prices according to the National Accounts System.

Beirut Marathon



On November 9th, METAC staff, friends and family participated in the Beirut Marathon. Streets across the Lebanese capital were shut overnight to make way for the 37,000 people from 94 countries who registered for the annual event. Walking the 10 kilometer was a lot of fun and the proceeds went to good causes. The event was sponsored by the Central Bank of Lebanon.

