



# Knowledge Economy, Job Creation, and Government Policies in MENA: Towards New Development Strategies

November 12-13, 2011

CMI—Villa Valmer

Marseille

## WORKSHOP AGENDA

### **Background**

The work on the *Knowledge Economy (KE) for Growth and Employment in the MENA Region* aims to inform key policymakers and interested stakeholders from the region on the importance of using a KE approach as a key element in any government's long-term strategy to foster growth and create employment. The KE approach should be understood in a broad perspective as the foundation of a development strategy that aims to increase productivity of all sectors of the economy by raising their knowledge content and innovative efforts. One of the main outcomes of this work is the development of a report on the *Knowledge Economy for Growth and Employment in MENA*.

### **Objective**

The main aim of this workshop, which will take place on November 12-13, 2011 at the CMI, is to share experiences on KE strategies and knowledge-related policies between partner countries in MENA and the multi-partner team that is engaged on this work. The workshop will discuss ways to create more and better jobs in the region through investments in the KE approach and discuss policy reforms needed for implementing KE- related development strategies.

### **Structure**

The workshop is structured around the following four themes:

- i. Relationship between job creation and a KE-based growth model;
- ii. Skills challenges and employment opportunities in MENA;
- iii. Institutional reforms needed for a the development of an effective KE strategy; and
- iv. Role of regional integration to promote the emergence of the KE.

### **Participants**

The workshop will engage with high level policy makers, experts, and practitioners from both the private sector and civil society from MENA countries who are working on furthering the emergence of the KE in their countries, for a total of some 50 participants. The workshop includes:

- Policymakers from Arab Mediterranean countries;
- Experts from regional development institutions ;
- Private sector actors, notably from industries with high value-added; and
- Representatives and staff from the World Bank, EBRD, EIB, Islamic Development Bank, ISESCO, as well as other interested partners and stakeholders.

### **Program**

The workshop program is presented in the following pages.

**DAY 1: November 12, 2011**

<b>Time and Chair</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Potential Speakers</b>	<b>Duration (in min.)</b>
<b>9:00 – 9:30</b>	<b>Welcome</b> Mats Karlsson, Director, CMI Mukhtar Ahmed, Deputy Director General, ISESCO Jacques van der Meer, EIB		30
<b>9:30 – 11:00</b> <b>Jean-Louis Reiffers</b>	<b>1. Knowledge Economy, Growth, and Employment</b>		
	a. Knowledge Economy for Growth	Carl Dahlman, Professor, Georgetown University	15
	b. Job Creation and the Knowledge Economy : Analytical Framework and Empirical Findings	Ndiame Diop, Lead Economist, World Bank	15
	c. Making the Move to the Knowledge Economy in MENA	Kurt Larsen, Senior Education Specialist, World Bank Institute	15
	Discussion		45
<b>11:00 – 11:15</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
<b>11:15 – 13:00</b> <b>Jean-Eric Aubert</b>	<b>2. Country Experiences on the Knowledge Economy</b>		
	a. Egypt Mona El Baradei, Senior Advisor to the Egyptian National Competitiveness Council		15
	b. Jordan Nabeel Al-Fayoumi, Vice President, Royal Scientific Society, Jordan		15
	c. Morocco Mohamed Chafiki, Director of Studies and Financial Forecasting, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Morocco		15
	d. Tunisia Jelal Ezzine, Director General, International Cooperation, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Tunisia		15
	Discussion		45
<b>13:00 – 14:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		

**DAY 1: November 12, 2011, continued**

<b>Time and Chair</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Potential Speakers</b>	<b>Duration (in min.)</b>
	<b>3. Education and Employment</b>		
<b>14:30 – 16:00 Carl Dahlman</b>	a. Education Reforms for the Knowledge Economy	Mourad Ezzine, Sector Manager, Human Development, World Bank	15
	b. Education For Employment (e4e): Realizing Arab Youth Potential	Abdi Abdullahi, Human Development Department, Islamic Development Bank	15
	c. Skills, Economic Structure, and Jobs in MENA	Tamer Taha, CMI	15
	d. Employment Policies in Morocco	Mohamed Ayoub Hassoun Regional Director, ANAPEC, Morocco	15
	Discussion		30
<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
	<b>4. Innovation and Employment Opportunities</b>		
<b>16:30 – 18:00 Simon Bell</b>	a. Innovation policy and employment in MENA	Jean-Eric Aubert, CMI	15
	b. Developing high potential jobs in MENA	Ismail Radwan and Pierre Strauss, World Bank	15
	c. Green growth in MENA	Gilles Pipien, CMI	15
	d. ICTs and the role of the Diaspora	Fadi Daou, CEO, MultiLane Inc.	15
	Discussion		30

**Workshop dinner at 19:30**

**DAY 2: November 13, 2011**

<b>Time and Chair</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Potential Speakers</b>	<b>Duration (in min.)</b>
<b>9:00 – 9:30</b> Anuja Utz	<b>5. Knowledge Society in the Arab Region: Perspectives of the Arab Knowledge Report</b>	Ghaith H. Fariz, Director, Arab Knowledge Report, UNDP	30
<b>9:30 – 11:00</b> Mohamed Chafiki	<b>6. Reforms for the Knowledge Economy in MENA</b>		
	a. Priorities and Political Economy Issues	Zeine Ould Zeidane, Former Prime Minister of Mauritania, CMI	15
	b. Political Economy of Reforms: Lessons from Central and Eastern Europe	Pavel Dvorak, Economist, Office of the Chief Economist, EBRD	15
	c. Innovation, Institutions, and Change	Yevgeny Kuznetsov, Senior Economist, World Bank	15
	Discussion		45
<b>11:15 – 11:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
<b>11:30 – 13:00</b> Guy Fleuret	<b>7. Knowledge Economy and Regional Integration</b>		
	a. Presentation on Experience of Technopoles in the Maghreb	Maha Merezak, Program Specialist, ISESCO	15
	b. Trade Integration in the MENA region	Nicolas Peridy, Professor, University of Toulon	15
	c. Knowledge Transfer in the MENA region	Jacques van der Meer, Economist, European Investment Bank	15
	Discussion		45
<b>13:00 – 15:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		

**DAY 2: November 13, 2011 continued.**

<b>15:00 – 16:00</b>	<b>8. Discussion of key messages of the KE report</b> Moderators: Jean-Eric Aubert, Anuja Utz, Zeine Ould Zeidane
<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>16:30 – 17:00</b>	<b>9. Conclusions</b> Mats Karlsson, Director, CMI