



UAB-IMF HIGH-LEVEL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
‘Financing Growth by Empowering the Digital Economy Development’
4th of February 2021

With the attendance of Central Banks mainly:

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Tunis, Qatar, Jordan, Iraq, Algeria, Sudan, Palestine, & Federal Reserve Bank of NY
Time: (9:00 AM EST), (16:00 PM Cairo / Beirut)

AGENDA & SPEAKERS

09:00 am (ET, DC Time) **Conference Introduction and Welcome Remarks**
14:00 pm (London)
16:00 pm (Beirut / Cairo)
17:00 pm (KSA)

- **Mr. Wissam H. Fattouh**, Secretary General, Union of Arab Banks
- **H.E. Dr. Khaled Hanafi**, Secretary General, Union of Arab Chambers
- **H.E. Ambs. Dr. Kamal Hassan Ali**, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs, League of Arab States

09:20 am **Keynote Address - IMF:**

‘Digital Economy benefits to the world’

- **Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin**, Executive Director, International Monetary Fund

09:45 am **Keynote Addresses - Arab Central Banks:**

- **Dr. Fahad Aldossari**, Deputy Governor for Research and International Affairs, Saudi Central Bank - SAMA
- **H.E Mr. Marouane EL-ABASSI**, Governor, Central Bank of Tunis
- **H.E. Dr. Feras Milhem**, Governor, Palestine Monetary Authority

10:30 am **Special Addresses:**

‘What is the Digital Economy and how can it be implemented on the ground level’

- **Capt. Samuel Salloum**, Chairman, Global Coalition For Efficient Logistics

‘Tangible Digital Economy implementation’

- **Dr. Adel Al Charkas**, Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Jordan

‘Germany Experience’

- **Mr. Hubertus V  th**, Managing Director, Frankfurt Main Finance (FMF)

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

11:15 am

‘Current Challenges and Digital Economy benefits to SMEs’

- **H.E. Dr. Khaled Hanafi**, Secretary General, Union of Arab Chambers

11:35 am

‘Digital Economy to Rebalance the World’

- **Dr. Sergio Arzeni, President**, International Network for Small and Medium Enterprises

12:00 pm

‘How Can We Jumpstart the World Economy?’

- **Mr. Gregory Bird-CPA**, Deputy Secretary General,
Global Coalition for Efficient Logistics

12:20 pm

‘Digital Economy Guidelines’

- **Mr. Mohammed Ben Amor**, Director General, Arab Information and
Communication Technology Organization

12:45 pm

‘How does the Digital Economy meet Central Banks objectives?’

- **Mr. Wissam H. Fattouh**, Secretary General, Union of Arab Banks

13:00 pm

Questions and Responses from Speakers, General Discussion

13:15 pm (ET, DC Time)

Wrap-up and Virtual Conference End

18:15 pm (London)

20:15 pm (Beirut / Cairo)

21:15 pm (KSA)

OUTLINE OF VIRTUAL CONFERENCE TOPICS

Digital Economy benefits to the world:

The role that the Digital Economy can play to achieve real economic integration, boost trade & achieve sustained economic growth

Tangible Digital Economy implementation plan:

Since 2015 until today, the Digital Economy has been gaining continuous support from G20 nations to achieve sustained economic growth. What are the tangible steps DCO will be taking to implement and achieve the objectives of the G20 countries, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the world.

Current Challenges and Digital Economy benefits to SMEs:

SMEs are the pillars of any economy, accounting for over 90 percent of all businesses in the Arab World and providing a major source of new job creation, yet they face numerous challenges that can be overcome by the Digital Economy

How does the Digital Economy meet Central Banks objectives?

Central banks all over the world have three common objectives: promoting efficiency and sustained economic growth, boost productivity & ensure sound & efficient financial markets. Not one, but all these 3 objectives can be met through the Digital Economy

Digital Economy Guidelines:

There is a worldwide consensus that the Digital Economy solution must be global versus a national stand-alone approach. Since trade and commerce are horizontal, the Digital Economy cannot be built using a national vertical silo approach that limits the ability to conduct business with the same tools across the national and international arenas; thus, the need to establish the 10 Digital Economy guidelines.

Digital Economy to rebalance the world:

How the Digital Economy represents a win-win formula for all the countries of the world by de-risking of trade between High, Mid and Low-income countries resulting in rebalancing the world economy.

What is the Digital Economy and how can it be implemented on the ground level:

Since the adoption of the Digital Economy by the G20 in 2015, numerous definitions of Digital Economy have emerged, is it blockchain, Artificial Intelligence, Industry 4.0. We need to agree on a common definition on what is the Digital Economy and what are the steps used to deploy.

How can we jumpstart the world economy?

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, the world economy has been slowing down, almost USD 6 trillion of stimulus packages have been injected by governments around the world. What role can the Digital Economy play to jumpstart the world economy and allow governments to better provide and monitor its stimulus packages

Why the Digital Economy Platform is Important:

Through the Digital Economy Platform (DEP), the entire B2B value chain will be digitized by integrating finance, insurance, logistics and e-Commerce into one platform; as a result, governments, banks and financial institutions will be better positioned to finance growth, provide stimulus packages and support the prosperity of our SMEs. The DEP will allow banks and governments to better channel and control the proceeds of stimulus packages towards a more effective and efficient use; every 1 USD in stimulus channelled through the DEP will result in approximately 17 USD of increased economic benefit.

Virtual Conference Outcome:

How the deployment of the Digital Economy Platform is expected to support Arab countries in terms of cost saving, increase in goods traded, increase in services industries and job creation, with an outlook and strategy for gaining approval from local Government to raise funds for the deployment of DEP.
