

**Fostering Partnerships between International and Regional Private Sector
Institutions and their Counterparts in Crisis Stricken Countries:
Towards a More Resilient Private Sector**

12-13 December 2007
Beirut, Lebanon

Provisional Agenda

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

- 08:30 – 09:00** **Registration**
- 09:00 – 09:30** **Opening Statements**
- 09:30 – 11:30** **SESSION 1: INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN CONFLICT, DEVELOPMENT AND
THE PRIVATE SECTOR**
- The Private Sector: A Vehicle for Development in spite of Conflict and Political
Tensions in the ESCWA Region**
- Mr. Antoine Mansour, Head of Unit for Emerging and Conflict Related
Issues, Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)
- Fostering Private Sector Engagement and Growth in Crisis Afflicted Countries**
- Mr. Jan Martin Witte, Associate Director and Managing Director, Global
Public Policy Institute (GPPI), Berlin
- Public-Private Partnerships in State Building and Recovery from Conflict**
- Mr. John Bray, Director (Analysis), Control Risks, Tokyo
- Doing Business under Uncertainty: The Role of Public Policy in Mitigating the
Risks Firms Face during Conflict**
- Mr. Jad Chaaban, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics,
American University of Beirut, Beirut
- Discussion**
- 11:30 – 12:00** **Coffee Break**
- 12:00 – 13:30** **SESSION 2: RESILIENCE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN CRISIS AFFLICTED
COUNTRIES – MINIMIZING RISKS AND EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES**
- Public-Private Partnerships for Investment Promotion in Lebanon (tentative
title)**
- Mr. Nabil Itani, Chairman, Investment Development Authority of Lebanon
(IDAL)
- Lebanese Government's Programme of Support to the Private Sector**
- Mr. Roger Milki, Advisor to the Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance,
Lebanon
- IFC's Partnerships for Private Sector Development in Conflict-Affected
Countries**
- Ms. Mary Porter Peschka, Senior Operations Officer, Private Enterprise
Partnership - Middle East & North Africa, International Finance Corporation
(IFC)
- Discussion**

13:30 – 15:00

Break

15:00 – 16:00

SESSION 2: RESILIENCE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN CRISIS AFFLICTED COUNTRIES – MINIMIZING RISKS AND EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES (CONT'D)

Arab Investment Initiatives and Prospects to Foster the Integration of the Palestinian Economy with Arab Economies.

- Mr. Naser Abdelkarim, Professor of Financial Economics, Birzeit University, Occupied Palestinian Territory

Partnerships for Revitalizing War-Torn Palestinian SMEs

- Ms. Hanaa Daoudi, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Discussion

16:00 – 16:15

Coffee Break

16:15 – 17:30

SESSION 3: STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS: CASE STUDIES IN SELECTED SECTORS

The Role of Local Partnerships in Supporting Industry in Lebanon

- Mr. Fadi Abboud, President, Association of Lebanese Industrialists (ALI)

Challenges facing Private Sector Operations in Iraq

- Mr. Basim Jameel Anton, Vice Chairman of Iraqi Businessmen Union

Partnerships in Industry in Iraq: Experience of Electronics Industries Company

- Mr. Tarik Saleh AL-Rubaie, Manager, Electronics Industries Company

Discussion

Thursday, December 13, 2007

9:00 – 10:30

SESSION 3: STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS: CASE STUDIES IN SELECTED SECTORS (CONT'D)

IBRD and IFC Response in the Face of Crisis in Lebanon

- Ms. Julia Brickell, Head of Lebanon Office, International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Private Sector Partnerships in Agriculture

- Mr. Youssef El Khalil, Director, Association for the Development of Rural Capacities

Private Sector Partnerships in Microfinance

- Ms. Salma Sleyman, Resource Development & Public Relations Manager ASALA; Palestinian Business Women's Association

Private Sector Partnerships in IT: Experience from Al-Thakira Company

- Mr. Ahmed Mohammed, Owner and Manager, Al Thakira, Iraq

Discussion

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee Break

11:00 – 13:00

SESSION 4: SUPPORTING THE PRIVATE SECTOR THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH EXPATRIATES

Role of Expatriates towards their Country of Origin

- Mr. Sari Hanafi, Professor, American University of Beirut

Impact of Expatriate Remittances on the Economy

- Mr. Nassib Ghobril, Head of Economic Research & Analysis, Byblos Bank Group

Diaspora and E-Commerce: A Case Study from Lebanon

- Ms. Guita Hourani, Associate Director & Researcher, Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC), Notre Dame University (NDU)

Networking with Expatriates

- Mr. Mounir Kleibo, Head of Governance, UNV-TOKTEN Manager, UNDP/PAPP

Discussion

13:00 – 13:30

CLOSING SESSION