



OECD-BANQUE DU LIBAN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCIAL EDUCATION: BUILDING FINANCIALLY EMPOWERED INDIVIDUALS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
BASIL FULEIHAN INSTITUTE



AND

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND HIGHER EDUCATION



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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES – SESSION I

MUHAMMAD A. BAASIRI

Third Vice-Governor, Banque du Liban

Mr. Muhammad Baasiri is the Third Vice-Governor of the Banque du Liban, the Central Bank of Lebanon. He is currently a member of the Higher Banking Commission, the Chairman of the National Committee for Coordinating AML Policies and oversees the following departments and units:

- Legal Department
- Real Estate Department
- Financing Unit
- Corporate Governance Unit
- Translation Section

Previously, he held several executive positions. From June 1990 through June 2000, he chaired the Banking Control Commission, and received formal recognition from the Lebanese Government for his service. Later on, he worked for one year as the IMF resident advisor to the Central Bank of Oman. In 2001, he was chosen to be the first Secretary of the Special Investigation Commission (SIC), Lebanon's newly established Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

His tenure with the SIC witnessed numerous accomplishments: Lebanon was removed from FATF's NCCT list and the SIC joined the Egmont Group. His efforts were also instrumental in both the founding of the Middle East & North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF) in which he served in 2005 as its first year president, and the founding of the US-MENA Private Sector Dialogue which he currently chairs.

In the private sector, he worked for a number of premier banking and investment institutions including-internationally renowned accounting firms. He is a member and co-founder of the Lebanese Association of CPAs and a member of the American Institute of CPAs.

In 1974, he earned the Saba & Co. accounting prize. In 2008, he was selected by ACAMS as "Professional of the Year" in the MENA region. In addition to his academic degree earned from the American University of Beirut, where he also lectured, he is a certified public accountant (CPA) from the University of the State of New York.

MOHAMMED KHALED

Consultative group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), MENA Regional Representative

Mohammed Khaled has 27 years of experience creating and managing innovative development projects that empower women and the poor, primarily in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and the Arab World. During the last 17 years, Khaled's work has focused on microfinance. In 1994, he designed and managed Save the Children/U.S. Group Guaranteed Lending and Savings Program in the OPT. In 1999, he led the spin off of that program into FATEN, the first Palestinian MFIs operating on the principles of microfinance best practices.

Believing in the importance of experience and knowledge exchange among practitioners in each country and across the region, Khaled was very active in preparing for the establishment of the Palestinian Microfinance Network. He was also the head of the organizing committee for the founders' meeting of Sanabel, the regional Microfinance Network of Arab Countries. Over the first two years of Sanabel's existence, Khaled served as its part-time director. During these two years, the network's membership increased to 35 MFIs serving about 85% of clients served in the region and Sanabel became a main player in shaping the future the industry in the Arab region.

Khaled continues to be active in Sanabel, not only as a founding member, but also as a trainer and resource person for Sanabel's training program which was launched in partnership with CGAP. Khaled has been certified in Financial Analysis, Delinquency Management and Interest Rate Setting and Operations Risk Management. He was also certified by the ILO in: Making Microfinance Work: Management for Improved Performance Training course.

Today, Khaled is working as an advisor and consultant for microfinance across the Arab region. As a managing partner of MicroServe, a microfinance consulting services firm focusing on the Arab world, Khaled was the Technical director of a four-year Microstart II project in Yemen (2003-2006), the Chief Technical Advisor of the Deprived families Economic Empowerment Program (DEEP), a 30 million USD program, funded by the Islamic Development Bank and implemented by the UNDP in the Palestinian Territories (2006-2007), provided technical assistance, training and guidance to several leading MFIs and programs in the region including the facilitation of the development of their business plans.

Khaled is also an advisor for several donors in the region such as the Rockdale Foundation (Georgia, United States), the Grameen-Jameel, the Arab Gulf Fund for the United Nations Development Programmes (AGFUND) and the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP). As of July 2008, Khaled began to work on part time basis as CGAP MENA Regional Representative.

EDUARDO C. JIMENEZ

Consultant on Micro-finance, Central bank of the Philippines

For the last ten years, Mr. Eduardo C. Jimenez is connected as Microfinance Adviser of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, looking at policy issues affecting the practice of microfinance and inclusive finance in the banking sector. Concurrently, he is also serving as a Regional Associate for the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) a Bangkok based network of policy makers and regulators from over 65 countries.

Ed Jimenez previously worked for 14 years, in various capacities with the then Central Bank of the Philippines. He has worked with Securities Servicing Department and the Internal Audit Office of Central Bank of the Philippines. His last posting at the Bank was with Open market Operations of the Treasury Department, where he helped manage the Bank's USD3.5 billion portfolio.

He resigned from the Bank in 1993 and started his exposure with microfinance when he was hired as Deputy Director of Kabalikat para sa Maunlad na Buhay (KMBI), Inc, one of the leading microfinance NGOs in the Philippines. He then moved to become the Executive Director of Alliance of Philippine Partners for Enterprise Development (APPEND), Inc.) until 1999. APPEND is a network of Philippine-based Christian organizations involved in microenterprise and microfinance lending.

He also assisted in the last three years the Asian Development Bank (ADB) projects functioning as its Housing Microfinance Consultant and as Training Modules Expert (focused on Microfinance Cooperatives). Ed has traveled to about 25 countries to present a paper, to lecture, to evaluate or design a development project. In the last 9 years, he has worked as consultant to the World Bank, UNDP and other UN attached agencies as well as with other bilateral organizations.

He sits on the board of Community Economic Ventures (CEVI), a microfinance NGO affiliated with the World Vision Philippines. He has also served on the board of Habitat for Humanity Philippines, KMBI and the Alliance Graduate School.

Born in Manila, Philippines, he took up BSC Economics at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and did graduate studies at the University of the Philippines, Diliman and at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. He attended numerous training seminars in Australia, Indonesia, Italy, Israel, United Kingdom and the USA.

He is married to Engr. Gloria Picar-Jimenez, Ph.D. They have two sons, Caleb Edward (22) and Josiah Frederik (20).je

MAYADA BAYDAS

Executive Director, Emkan

Dr. Baydas is a leading expert in the field of development finance with 20 years of research and practical experience focusing on the establishment and management of NGOs and sustainable microfinance institutions.

Today, she is the Executive Director of Emkan, a leading Lebanese NGO managing the microfinance portfolio as well as economic development projects all over Lebanon. Additionally, she is a founding partner and board member of the Development Innovations Group where she served as the Senior Vice President and Managing Director for five years.

Previously, she established and served as the Director/General Manager of AMEEN sal, one of the leading microfinance organizations in Lebanon, where she pioneered partnerships between CHF International and three leading commercial banks and managed a portfolio turnover exceeding \$30 Million. Moreover, Dr. Baydas served as the Associate Director for CHF International's Office of Development Finance and Director for the CHF Training Center. She is a recognized specialist in microfinance market assessments, with extensive research and applied experience in examining the provision of financial and non-financial services to the working poor. She possesses strong skills and expertise in operational management of financial institutions, evaluation of microfinance organizations, econometrics, and policy analysis. Dr. Baydas previously served as a Professional Researcher and Lecturer at the University of California, Davis, and has been a lecturer at the Boulder Microfinance Training Program since 2005. She has presented at numerous microfinance seminars and conferences to scholars, policy makers and practitioners, and has several professional publications.

Dr. Baydas has working experience in over 40 countries, in several regions around the world, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, as well as in Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America.