

NEWSLETTER – Issue 2

January 2008

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 2008

27-28 MARCH OECD GLOBAL FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AND HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME, PARIS, FRANCE

APRIL 2008

10-11 APRIL OECD BUSINESS CLIMATE EVALUATION WORKSHOP, TUNIS, TUNISIA
20-21 APRIL TASK FORCE ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS (IIAs), MENA CENTRE FOR INVESTMENT, MANAMA, BAHRAIN

MAY 2008

19-20 MAY 3RD EFN MEETING, MENA CENTRE FOR INVESTMENT, MANAMA, BAHRAIN

JUNE 2008

04 JUNE OECD FORUM 2008 "CLIMATE CHANGE, GROWTH, STABILITY" AND MENA-OECD HIGH LEVEL PANEL, PARIS, FRANCE

SECOND MENA MINISTERIAL MEETING ON INVESTMENT 27-28 NOVEMBER 2007 – CAIRO, EGYPT "MAKING REFORMS SUCCEED: MOVING FORWARD WITH THE INVESTMENT POLICY AGENDA"



THE SECOND MENA MINISTERIAL MEETING ON INVESTMENT WAS HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2007 IN CAIRO WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF DR. AHMED NAZIF, PRIME MINISTER OF EGYPT, AND MR. ANGEL GUERRÍA, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE OECD. IT PROVIDED A FORUM FOR DIALOGUE ON SUCCESSFUL POLICIES TO IMPROVE THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE BETWEEN MENA AND OECD COUNTRIES. MENA AND OECD PARTICIPANTS EXCHANGED EXPERIENCES AND SUCCESSFUL STRATEGIES ON TAX POLICY, INVESTMENT POLICY, FINANCIAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE. ABOUT 80 DELEGATIONS FROM MENA AND

OECD COUNTRIES AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ATTENDED THE MEETING. MINISTERS AND HEADS OF DELEGATIONS SIGNED THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION PROVIDING DIRECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE WORK OF THE MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME. THEY ISSUED A MANDATE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THE BUSINESS CLIMATE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY DURING THE NEXT PHASE OF THE PROGRAMME. THE MEETING WAS PRECEDED BY A BUSINESS FORUM, INCLUDING A WOMEN BUSINESS LEADERS FORUM ON 27 NOVEMBER 2007, WHICH PROVIDED PRIVATE SECTOR INPUT. OVERALL, THE EVENT WAS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 1,000 PARTICIPANTS. THE TEXT OF THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION AS WELL AS ALL OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE MEETING ARE AVAILABLE AT: [ARAB AND OECD COUNTRIES LAUNCH NEW INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE INVESTMENT IN MENA REGION.](#)

PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT (PSD) DIVISION AT THE OECD

THE OECD ESTABLISHED A NEW PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (PSD) IN THE DIRECTORATE FOR FINANCIAL AND ENTERPRISE AFFAIRS ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2007. THE DIVISION AIMS AT FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT THROUGH BETTER POLICIES FOR THE BUSINESS CLIMATES. THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME WILL BE MANAGED WITHIN THE NEW DIVISION.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MENA TASK FORCE ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE OF STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES



THE WORKING GROUP 5 ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE OF THE MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME HAS LAUNCHED A NEW INITIATIVE TO EXAMINE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS AND PRACTICES OF STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES IN THE MENA REGION. IN THIS RESPECT, IT IS PROPOSED TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO SUPPORT THE INFORMATION GATHERING AND THE PREPARATION OF A POLICY PAPER ON THE TOPIC, OUTLINING CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK. THE MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME WILL COOPERATE WITH ITS PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS, THE HAWKAMAH CORPORATE GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE, THE EGYPTIAN INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS, THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION, THE GLOBAL CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FORUM AND OTHERS.

NEW TASK FORCE ON CAPITAL MARKETS DEVELOPMENT AND SUPERVISION

A NEW TASK FORCE ON CAPITAL MARKETS DEVELOPMENT AND SUPERVISION HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO DEVELOP PRACTICAL, RELEVANT AND ACHIEVABLE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAPITAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION, AS WELL AS BROADER FINANCIAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND STABILITY. STEERING GROUP AND WORKING GROUPS CHAIRMEN AGREED THAT THE QATAR FINANCIAL CENTRE REGULATORY AUTHORITY (QFCRA) WILL CO-CHAIR THE NEW TASK FORCE, WHICH WILL BE A KEY COMPONENT OF THE MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME.

WHO WE ARE...

ON THE REQUEST OF 18 COUNTRIES FROM THE MENA REGION, THE MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME WAS ESTABLISHED IN 2004 AS PART OF THE MENA-OECD GOOD GOVERNANCE AND INVESTMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE. ITS KEY OBJECTIVE IS TO MOBILISE PRIVATE INVESTMENT – FOREIGN, REGIONAL AND DOMESTIC – AS DRIVING FORCE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT THROUGHOUT THE MENA REGION. THE PROGRAMME BUILDS ON POLICY EXPERTISE COMPILED BY THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD), AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION COMPRISING 30 MEMBER COUNTRIES AND WORKING WITH 70 OTHER COUNTRIES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PROMOTE GROWTH AND INVESTMENT WORLDWIDE. THE PROGRAMME IS OWNED BY MENA GOVERNMENTS, AND SUCCESSFULLY COOPERATES WITH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS, AS THE WORLD BANK, THE ARAB LEAGUE, AND THE EUROPEAN UNION.

Save the Date

1-3 APRIL 2008 WORLD SUMMIT ON INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

5-7 MAY 2008 OPIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON "ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST", AMMAN, JORDAN

TO SUBSCRIBE OR CEASE SUBSCRIBING TO THE MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO MAILTO:MENA.INVESTMENT@OECD.ORG

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE WORK OF THE MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME IS AVAILABLE AT [MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME](#) OR BY CONTACTING US:

2, RUE ANDRÉ PASCAL
F-75775 PARIS CEDEX 16
FRANCE



THE BUSINESS CLIMATE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (BCDS)

THE BUSINESS CLIMATE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, JOINTLY DEVELOPED BY THE OECD AND THE WORLD BANK, IS A UNIQUE AND COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO EVALUATE A COUNTRY'S BUSINESS CLIMATE, PRIORITISE REFORMS AND ASSIST IN THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. IT IS EXECUTED IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND INCLUDES TARGETED CAPACITY-BUILDING MEASURES. IT AIMS AT CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE MENA REGION IN THE MEDIUM TERM. SEVERAL COUNTRIES (ALGERIA, EGYPT, JORDAN, MOROCCO, AND TUNISIA) HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED THEIR INTEREST TO BE AMONG THE FIRST COUNTRIES COVERED BY THE INITIATIVE.

ASSESSMENT OF THE ENTERPRISE POLICY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS

THE ORGANISATION OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EC) JOINTLY CONDUCT THE EUROMED CHARTER ASSESSMENT PILOT PROJECT TO EVALUATE AND SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CHARTER FOR ENTERPRISE IN THE MEDA REGION (MED COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: ALGERIA, EGYPT, ISRAEL, JORDAN, LEBANON, MOROCCO, TUNISIA, SYRIA AND THE TERRITORIES OF GAZA AND THE WEST BANK UNDER THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY). THE CHARTER COVERS 10 POLICY DIMENSIONS IDENTIFIED AS BEING DECISIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT. THE PROJECT AIMS AT RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS FOR ENTERPRISE ISSUES, ANALYSING NATIONAL STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES AND DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REFORMS TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION FOR ENTERPRISES. THE OECD, THROUGH THE MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME, ACTS AS PROJECT COORDINATOR RESPONSIBLE FOR METHODOLOGY, DATA COLLECTION AND THE FINAL REPORT. FURTHER IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS ARE THE EUROPEAN TRAINING FOUNDATION (ETF) AND THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB).

WORKSHOP ON IRAQI NATIONAL INVESTMENT REFORM, 22-24 JANUARY 2008



THE WORKSHOP ON IRAQI INVESTMENT REFORM ON 22-24 JANUARY 2008 IN AMMAN, JORDAN, WAS THE SECOND EVENT IN A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES OF THE MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME ON INVESTMENT POLICY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ. IT WAS HELD BACK TO BACK WITH A MEETING ON ANTI-CORRUPTION IN IRAQ. THE OECD ENGAGEMENT IS A RESULT OF A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE BY THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT IN THE FRAME OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMPACT FOR IRAQ. THE OECD AIMS AT OFFERING PRACTICAL AND CO-OPERATIVE ASSISTANCE ON INVESTMENT AND ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICIES FOR THE

IRAQI GOVERNMENT. THE DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE MEETING ARE AVAILABLE AT: [WORKSHOP ON IRAQI NATIONAL INVESTMENT REFORM](#).

TRAINING SEMINAR ON FDI STATISTICS, MENA CENTRE FOR INVESTMENT, BAHRAIN

THE TRAINING SEMINAR PRESENTED AND DISCUSSED THE REVISED METHODOLOGY FOR FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT STATISTICS WITH EXPERTS FROM MENA COUNTRIES. IT WAS CO-ORGANISED BY THE MENA CENTRE FOR INVESTMENT AND THE MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME ON 12 DECEMBER 2007 IN MANAMA, BAHRAIN. THE DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE SEMINAR ARE AVAILABLE AT: [TRAINING SEMINAR ON FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT STATISTICS](#).

