



INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND-MIDDLE EAST
مركز صندوق النقد الدولي للاقتصاد والتمويل في الشرق الأوسط
CENTER FOR ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

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I. Establishment

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish the CEF was signed in Kuwait on November 6, 2010. Operations started in March 2011.
- The work of the CEF is guided by a Steering Committee (SC) which consists of representatives from Kuwait and the IMF. Other parties will be invited to participants as observers. Invitation letters will be sent to OECD, World Bank and WTO to attend the SC meeting planned to take place in January 2012.
- Course Logistics.

II. Mission in Statement

- The primary purpose of the CEF is to strengthen the skills, and train officials from Arab League Member Countries in economic management and in formulating and implementing effective economic and financial policies.. This is to be achieved mainly through developing and delivering an integrated curriculum of training courses and seminars that address the key skill sets needed to support this goal, thus contributing to a strong and sustainable growth.
- Once it becomes fully operational, the CEF will be the main platform through which regional training needs are met.
- The CEF will provide an integrated curriculum of training courses and seminars with comprehensive coverage of macroeconomic and financial policies that address crucial skill sets needed by government officials.

III. Training and Facilities

- The IMF will be the principal training provider for the CEF in the area of macroeconomic management.
- Training outside the core areas of expertise of the IMF will be delivered by other regional and international organizations such as OECD, World Bank, and the WTO.
- The CEF facilities (Two lecture rooms and 7 break out rooms) can support two courses simultaneously; capacity to accommodate up to 80 course-weeks of training annually.
- Most of the CEF's training will be conducted in Arabic or simultaneously interpreted into Arabic. For selected highly specialized courses, training will be conducted in English without interpretation.

IV. Training Activities in 2012

- Recent developments in the region have been taken into account in designing the training program in 2012.

Main Objective:

Addressing the key analytical and policy issues facing the Arab Countries:

- Macroeconomic Management: IMF Institute in collaboration with other Fund departments (FAD,MCM, STA, LEG)
- Structural, institutional and governance reform; employment and growth: through collaboration with other organizations (OECD, The World Bank, WTO)
- Courses will be continually updated in light of changing circumstances.

IV. Training Activities in 2012 (Cont'd)

- Close to 40 activities representing 53 weeks of training are planned for 2012; of these:

IMF 25 Activities

OECD 6 Activities

World bank 7 Activities

WTO 1 Activity

- More specifically, the 2012 program incorporates the following 6 activities in the area of fiscal policy and public finance.

IV. Training Activities in 2012 (Cont'd)

1- Macroeconomic Management and Fiscal Policy

Course Date : February 12-23, 2012

Offering Institution: IMF

Target Audience: Mid to senior level government officials who provide advice on macroeconomic policies or who are involved in policy implementation.

Course Description:

The course:

- Aims at deepening participants' understanding of fiscal policy issues and their implications for macroeconomic management;
- Covers the interrelations between fiscal variables and macroeconomic aggregates, and the main aspects of the design and implementation of fiscal policy as an instrument to achieve macroeconomic stability and growth;
- Draws on the Fund's experience in providing fiscal policy advice, on studies undertaken by Fund staff, and on selected research by outside researchers.

IV. Training Activities in 2012 (Cont'd)

1- Macroeconomic Management and Fiscal Policy (Cont'd)

Topics covered in the course:

- Macroeconomic aspects of fiscal policy, such as estimating cyclically-adjusted fiscal balances and the role of automatic stabilizers and discretionary fiscal policy;
- Fiscal sustainability;
- Structural and institutional fiscal issues such as tax reform and administration, expenditure policy and management, and fiscal rules.
- Presentations by participants on fiscal policy issues in their countries.

IV. Training Activities in 2012 (Cont'd)

2- Role of Budget Institutions in the Public Financial Management

Course Date : March 11-15, 2012

Offering Institution: Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF

Target Audience: Senior level budget officials

Course Description:

The course:

- Gives an overview of the role that budget institutions play in shaping fiscal performance;
- Covers institutions that contribute to the three various stages of fiscal policy making:
 - Identification of fiscal challenge;
 - Formulation of fiscal strategy;
 - Implementation of fiscal strategy through the budget process.
- Presents specific case studies, participants discuss their own country experiences with regards to budget institutions.

IV. Training Activities in 2012 (Cont'd)

3- Public Expenditure Review and Public Financial Management

Course Date : May 6-10, 2012

Offering Institution: The World Bank

Target Audience: Mid- to senior-level officials at Ministries of Finance, planning or finance units at sector ministries, Supreme Audit Institutions.

Course Description:

The Course :

- provides analytical tools and techniques that should be used in public expenditure reviews (PERs) and public financial management (PFM) activities;
- provides a brief review of the macroeconomics of the budget including concepts such as deficit financing and fiscal sustainability;
- illustrates critical PER concepts of expenditure efficiency and incidence as well as equity;
- Outlines good and bad practices in budget formulation;
- Outlines Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) methodology;
- provides an introduction to public investment management.

IV. Training Activities in 2012 (Cont'd)

3- Public Expenditure Review and Public Financial Management

- The participants are given the chance to apply key principles in stylized case studies of Arab Countries.

IV. Training Activities in 2012 (Cont'd)

4- Macroeconomic Management in Natural Resource Rich Countries

Course Date : August 26 – September 6, 2012

Offering Institution: IMF

Target Audience: Mid to senior-level officials in Ministries of Finance, Economy, and planning or in Central Banks

Course Description:

The Course :

- aims to broaden participants' understanding of the challenges faced by resource-rich countries;
- Draws on the Fund experience as well as academic contribution to the policy;
- Skills developed during the course would allow participants to contribute in developing a wide range of policies, including the fiscal implications of alternative strategies for natural resource exploitation, monetary and exchange rate policies, financial sector issues, and structural reforms in resource-rich countries;
- Discussion of a number of case studies of natural resource-rich countries.

IV. Training Activities in 2012 (Cont'd)

5- Innovation in Budgeting and public Expenditure Management

Course Date : September 16-17, 2012

Offering Institution: OECD

Target Audience: Budget Directors and Senior Officials.

Course Description:

The Course :

- Explains the key innovations in budgeting and public expenditures management;
- Covers a range of interrelated topics such as fiscal rules, economic forecasts, medium term expenditure frameworks (MTEF), top-down budgeting, performance and results, and long-term budget projections;
- Draws on examples of good practice in OECD countries;
- Participants will also be encouraged to share experiences from their own countries.

IV. Training Activities in 2012 (Cont'd)

6- Government Finance Statistics for Managers

Course Date : December 2-6, 2012

Offering Institution: IMF

Target Audience: Officials at the Managerial level whose Main Responsibility is the Compilation, rather than the Analysis, of Public Finance Statistics

Course Description:

The Course :

- Focuses on various aspects of preparing and disseminating government finance statistics (GFS);
- Assists senior officials in understanding how existing fiscal source data can be utilized effectively;
- Provides guidance on improving source data so as to optimize the use of these data in fiscal analysis;
- Covers data on debt and balance sheets;
- Discusses the linkages of the GFS with the budget process, chart of accounts, financial statements, and various other data sets,
- Covers issues related to data reporting to the IMF.

THANK YOU
