



IMF MIDDLE EAST CENTER FOR ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

NEWSLETTER: February 2023 – April 2023

Welcome to the CEF's quarterly newsletter.

The IMF-CEF provides economics training and advances leaders in each of the 22 member countries of the Arab League to raise the capacity and quality of economic policy making in the region. This quarterly newsletter highlights events and courses offered to member countries from February to April 2023 as well as forthcoming events and courses.

The Center's training program encompasses courses covering core curriculum areas of macroeconomics, fiscal, financial, monetary, statistical, and legal topics. It also covers macro-critical growth areas, including inclusive growth, gender, climate change, governance, and digitalization. As a complement to its program of courses, the Center organizes conferences and seminars to discuss cutting-edge and emerging policy topics of relevance to member countries.

This quarter, the CEF held its annual steering committee meeting with its sponsors and partners. A highlight of the meeting was the continued support and strong collaboration with our sponsors and partners.

We invite you to follow the Center's work through our website at [CEF.IMF.org](https://cef.imf.org) in English and Arabic and to share your comments by email at CEFAI@IMF.org.

Paulo Drummond
Director, IMF-Middle East Center for Economics and Finance

Key Highlights

From February 2023 to April 2023, the CEF has delivered 11 courses and will deliver 10 more over the next three months. . In addition, two online courses are currently offered on edX.org.

Newsletter Content

- Visit of Mr. Dominique Desruelle, Director of the IMF's Institute for Capacity Development
- Visit of Mr. Roger Nord, Deputy Director of the IMF's Institute for Capacity Development and Mr. Zeine Zeidane, Deputy Director of the IMF's Middle East and Central Asia Department
- Themes Covered in Recent CEF Events
- Issues Covered by Recent CEF Training
- Upcoming Training Opportunities
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Visit of Mr. Dominique Desruelle to CEF



Mr. Dominique Desruelle, Director of the Institute for Capacity Development at the IMF, visited the CEF on February 13th. He gave remarks during a course session and met with the Center's staff. On February 14th, Mr. Desruelle met with the officials in the Kuwait Investment Authority, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and the Kuwait Economic Society. [Learn More](#)

Visit of Mr. Roger Nord and Mr. Zeine Zeidane to CEF



Mr. Roger Nord, Deputy Director of the IMF's Institute for Capacity Development and Mr. Zeine Zeidane, Deputy Director of the IMF's Middle East and Central Asia Department, visited the CEF on March 1st. They participated in a staff meeting and took part in CEF's annual Steering Committee meeting. [Learn More](#)

Themes Addressed by Recent CEF Events

Fiscal Policy



Webinar on IMF's Fiscal Monitor: Helping People Bounce Back | Feb 7. This webinar was held jointly with the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD). The speakers discussed how fiscal policy can contribute to a resilient society in which people can bounce back from adversity. [Learn More](#)

Capacity Development



Directors of Training (DOT) Seminar | Feb 12. This event was attended by 41 participants from 17 Arab countries. Discussions centered around CEF's operations, medium-term strategy, training needs, and new projects. Survey results showed IMF training as well appreciated. DOT endorsed medium-term strategy and commended active engagement with them. DOT also supported new projects and more efficient admin procedures.

Issues Covered by Recent CEF Training

The CEF offered 11 courses from February 2023 to April 2023.

Macro-Critical Growth Areas

- **Financial Development and Financial Inclusion (FDFI)** | Feb 6-17. This course explained the macroeconomic relevance of financial development and inclusion. [Learn More](#)
- **Selected Issues in FinTech Regulation (SIFR)** | Feb 20-23. This course, presented by the IMF's Monetary and Capital Markets Department, provided participants with practical case studies on the regulation of financial technology and self-assessment exercises on key aspects of digital money. [Learn More](#)

Trade, Diversification, and Other Topics

- **Applying Behavioral Science to Public Policy – A Guide for Practitioners (BSPP)** | Mar 5-9. The course, conducted by the World Bank's Mind, Behavior, and Development team, provided participants with concrete tools and guidance for diagnosing, designing, and implementing behaviorally informed projects and policies. [Learn More](#)

Statistics

- **National Accounts Statistics-Advanced Level (NAS-A)** | Feb 20-Mar 3. This course, presented by the IMF's Statistics Department, covered theoretical and practical aspects in the compilation of national accounts statistics based on the conceptual framework of the *System of National Accounts 2008*. [Learn More](#)
- **External Debt Statistics** | Mar 6-10. This course, presented by the IMF's Statistics Department, covered national accounts, prices, money and financial sector, balance of payments, financial soundness, and government finance. [Learn More](#)

Monetary and Financial Sector

- **Bank Restructuring and Resolution (BR)** | Feb 12-16. This course, presented by the IMF's Monetary and Capital Markets Department, provided a comprehensive overview of conceptual and operational issues related to the restructuring and resolution of weak banks. [Learn More](#)
- **Financial Market Infrastructures: Principles and Practices (FMI-PP)** | Mar 12-16. This course, presented by the IMF's Monetary and Capital Markets Department (MCM), focused on the Principles for Financial Market Infrastructures (PFMI), which aim to enhance safety and efficiency in payments, clearing, settlement, and recording arrangements, and more broadly, to limit systemic risk and foster transparency and financial stability. [Learn More](#)

Fiscal Policy

- **Reforming Fuel Subsidies (RFS)** | Feb 5-9. This course, presented by the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department, explored recent developments in subsidy spending on fuel products, their macroeconomic impact, and their social implications. [Learn More](#)

General Macro Analysis

- **Vulnerability Diagnostics (VDSv)** | Feb 6-16. This course complemented the Macroeconomic Diagnostics (MDS) course by enhancing participants' ability to assess fiscal, financial, and external vulnerabilities in an integrated fashion, using several diagnostic tools to capture tail risks. [Learn More](#)
- **Macroeconomic Management in Resource-Rich Countries (MRC)** | Mar 6-17. This course provided participants with an understanding of the macroeconomics of growth and diversification, fiscal policy management, macroeconomic policy coordination, and public-sector asset management in RRCs. [Learn More](#)

AML/CFT, Governance and Anti-Corruption

- **Building Institutions to Fight Corruption (BIFC)** | Mar 5-9. This course, presented by the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department (FAD), sets out a detailed road map to identify and address vulnerabilities to corruption in the public financial management cycle. [Learn More](#)

Upcoming Training Opportunities

The CEF will offer 10 courses from May to June 2023. In addition, **two** online courses are currently offered on edX.org.

Title	Topic	Date	Learn More
Financial Programming and Policies, Part 1: Macroeconomic Accounts and Analysis (FPP.1x) – edX	General Macro Analysis	May 15, 2023– Apr 15, 2024	Learn More
Energy Subsidy Reform (ESRx) – edX	Fiscal Policy	May 15, 2023– Apr 15, 2024	Learn More
Trade in Services for the Arab Region (TP1)	Other Topics	May 1-4	Learn More
Gross Capital Formation and Non-Financial Assets (MGCF)	Monetary & Financial Sector	May 7-11	Learn More
International Public Sector Accounting Standards: Theory and Implementation (IPSAS)	Monetary & Financial Sector	May 7-11	Learn More
Financial Sector Policies (FSP)	Monetary & Financial Sector	May 14-25	Learn More
Frontiers of Macroprudential Policy (FMP)	Monetary & Financial Sector	May 23-25	Learn More
IFRS 9: A Supervisory Perspective (IFRS)	Monetary & Financial Sector	May 29-Jun 1	Learn More
Financial Programming and Policies (FPP)	General Macro Analysis	Jun 11-22	Learn More
Building for the Future: Efficient Public Procurement Systems in Challenging Times (PPS)	Other Topics	Jun 12-14	Learn More
Macroeconomic Diagnostics (MDS)	General Macro Analysis	Jun 12-23	Learn More
Risk-Based Banking Supervision (RBS)	Monetary & Financial Sector	Jun 18-22	Learn More

Links

- [CEF Website](#)
- [LinkedIn Group](#)
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HOST COUNTRY



Kuwait

MEMBER COUNTRIES

The IMF-Middle East Center for Economics and Finance (CEF) serves the 22 member countries of the Arab League.

PARTNERS IN TRAINING



WORLD BANK GROUP



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION



MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER