



كلية طلال أبو غزاله لإدارة الأعمال
Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business



الجامعة الألمانية الأردنية
The German - Jordanian University



Konrad
Adenauer
Stiftung

Regional Conference

Social Partnerships in the Middle East: The Impact of Social Market Economy on Economic Development

Program Draft
of May 8

18th & 19th of June 2007

**Kempinski Hotel
Amman - Jordan**

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CONCEPT NOTE

Arab economies are at a crossroad and its leaders and people are about to decide about the identity and shape of their economies and therefore their societies in the near future. The reforms of the last years have led in countries of the Middle East to enormous changes in the structure of their economies and globalization challenges these countries even further.

With this two-day conference, Talal Abu Ghazaleh College of Business, German-Jordanian University (TAGCB, GJU), and the Regional Program Near East / Mediterranean of and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Amman Office, (KAS) would like to analyze whether the concepts of "Social Responsibility" and "Social Partnership" in the framework of a "Social Market Economy" can be a blueprint for a future development in the Middle East. We think this should not be done by and within a narrow academic group. To be fruitful it should be opened up to a discussion between the important, knowledgeable, thoughtful, powerful players, i.e. politics, business, society, academia. The exchange of views and discussion on a regional level between experts from Jordan and from its neighboring Arabian countries, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt and Palestine will be in the center of this meeting. With this pioneer project, TAGCB and KAS are seeking to involve stakeholders who share the interest in a new perspective on economic politics.

German thoughts, political and economic ideas, and experiences, form in a specific way, the background for the conference we are heading for. Without any doubt one of the factors that lead Germany on its path to national and international economic success was its decision for "Market Economy". And this paradigm proved its validity even in times of great changes that Germany had to undergo, be it when closing down factories in certain fields like iron and coal, or where labor wage competition forced to move to other parts of the world. And it proved to be highly effective when balancing the expectations and aspirations between shareholders, i.e. the main drivers in market economy, and of the other stakeholders engaged and affected by economic activities.

It seems however that besides of the general paradigm of "Market Economy" (instead of Central Planned Economy) there was one more decisive factor that counts for the German success. This is that from the very beginning the German approach to Market Economy was sheltered and accompanied by taking into consideration and into practical macro- and microeconomic decision making the view on the social constraints and consequences of government and company activities. Besides of believe in Free Market it was the conviction that Social Partnership was by no means only an idea of starry-eyed idealist but a helpful, sometimes even necessary second view on Economy that lead to success. The necessity to take into consideration both views that of employer and employee, that of man and women, that of economy and environment, that of bright, highly white collar people and that of not so well educated people or generally speaking taking into consideration "Social Partnerships". This German approach became known as "Social Market Economy".

Of course we are prepared to give you further explanations, to speak to you personally, on the phone or in written manner. So please do not hesitate to contact:

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Sunday, 17th of June 2007

19:30

Arrival of Participants

Welcome Dinner

Monday, 18th of June 2007

08:30 – 09:00

Registration

09:00 – 09:30

Opening

Talal ABU GHAZALEH

Chairman

Talal Abu-Gazaleh Organization, Jordan

Hardy OSTRY

Regional Representative

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung e.V.

Regional Program Near East / Mediterranean, Jordan

Labib KHADRA

President of the German-Jordanian University, Jordan

Khalid TOUQAN*

Minister of Education

Jordan

09:30 – 11:00

Session I:

**“ECONOMICAL ORDER – AN ANALYSIS OF NEEDS
FOR REGULATION AND DE-REGULATION IN THE
MIDDLE EAST”**

Chair / Moderator:

Peter UECKER

Dean of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business,
German Jordanian University, Jordan

9:30

***Policies of Economical order in the Middle East in
the Framework of Social Market Economy***

N.N.*

10:00

***Case Study: The impact of recent economic reforms
in Egypt – a step towards better social partnerships?***

Heba HANDOUSSA*

Director, Gender Economic Research & Policy Analysis

10:30

Discussion in Plenary

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00

Session II:

“SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR – HOW TO DEVELOP WIN-WIN STRATEGIES?”

Chair / Moderator:

Abdul Rahman ATTAR*

President of Syrian Arab Red Crescent, Syria

11:30

Comparison of National Reports on Social Responsibility in the Middle East

N.N.

12:00

Case Study:

N.N.*

12:30

Discussion in Plenary

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 15:30

Working Groups (parallel)

Group I:

“THE LABOR MARKET OF THE FUTURE – HOW TO BRING NEEDS AND QUALIFICATIONS TOGETHER?”

Chair / Moderator:

Klaus TELLER

German Jordanian University

Introduction A:

Labor Needs of the Private Sectors (country study?)

Sufyan ALISSA

Associate Researcher

Carnegie Endowment, Middle East Center

Introduction B:

Aspects of youth in future labor relations

Ibtisam AL-ATYAT

United Nations University, Jordan

Introduction C:

Women Economic Empowerment

Talah ARABIYAT

German-Jordanian University, Jordan

Group II:

“WORKING LAWS AND REGULATIONS VERSUS TARIFF AUTONOMY – HOW TO ORGANIZE SOCIAL PARTNERSHIPS

Chair / Moderator:

Basem AL-SALEM
Minister of Labour, Jordan

Introduction A:
A System Comparison for the Countries in the Middle East

Markus LOEWE*
German Development Institute, Economist, Germany

Introduction B:
Can a social partnership be established to foster economic efficiency and social wealth?
N.N.

Group III:
„MOBILIZATION OF INFORMATION – HOW TO IMPROVE THE INFORMATION FLOW BETWEEN GOVERNMENTAL AND ASSOCIATIONAL LEVELS CONCERNING ECONOMIC POLICIES? “

Chair / Moderator:
Shariff AL-ZU'BI*
Minister of Justice, Jordan

Introduction A:
Public Affairs and other means of political communication – how to generate benefit for all stakeholders?

Mona MAKRAM-EBEID*
Professor of Political Science and Political Sociology at the AUC, Former Member of Parliament, Egypt

Introduction B:
Experiences from Lebanon
N.N.

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:00

Plenary Session:
PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Chair / Moderator:
Hardy OSTRY
Regional Representative, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung e.V.
Regional Program Near East / Mediterranean, Jordan

Tuesday, 19th of June 2007

09:00 – 11.00

Session III:
Visit to NUQUL-Group:
Wishes, Possibilities and Means

A discussion under and of real life conditions

Ghassan NUQUL

Vice Chairman, Nuqul Group

11:45 – 13:30

Session IV:

“REGIONAL INTEGRATION – WHAT ARE POSSIBLE AREAS OF COOPERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST?”

Chair / Moderator:

Fadi GHANDOUR*

Head of ARAMEX, Jordan

11:45

Assessment of the existing frameworks of cooperation in working laws and free movement of workers in the Middle East

Makram EL SHAGI

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics
“International Economic Relations”, University
Mannheim, Germany

12:15

Regional Integration as an answer to challenges in a globalized world – the cases of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Union

Jamal Sanad AL-SUWAIDI*

Director General, Emirates Center for Strategic Studies
and Research, UAE

12:45

Discussion in Plenary

13:30 – 14:30

Lunch

14:30 – 16:00

Closing Session:

LESSONS THAT WERE LEARNED, TASKS TO BE DONE

Chair / Moderator:

Peter UECKER

Dean of the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business,
German Jordanian University, Jordan

16:00 – 16:30

Coffee Break

16:30 – 17:00

Closure

Suhair AL-ALI*

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation

18:30

**Farewell Dinner at Konrad Adenauer Stiftung,
Amman Office**

Wednesday, 20th of June 2007

Departure of the Participants

*To be confirmed