Oct. 20-21 /2016

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

ECONOMIC FOR A PROGRESSIVE ARAB WORLD

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Free entrance
Metron. Porte de Valenciennes
V'Lille. Belfort
The aim of this workshop is to stimulate economists to develop economic policies which could be implemented by progressive Arab governments and would have significant impacts in promoting economic growth and greater equality. One area of policy is macroeconomic/monetary policy, where modern monetary frameworks require greatly increased accountability and transparency which is supposed to help the central bank in influencing inflation expectations. Another area is that of oligopoly and crony capitalism: what should be done about the concentrations of economic power around the families and friends of former dictators? How can the adverse economic effects (monopoly pricing, restricted innovation and investment) associated with such concentrations be addressed? A third area is that of the social safety net: what sort of social security arrangements should be put in place, so as to protect the vulnerable but avoid negative impacts on employment and growth, and how should these change over time. And another area would be a reflection on the Arab “decision makers” in their will, ability and possibility to propose progressive economic policies that consider the wealth and wellness of the Arab population. The development of such policies will both make clear the advantages of political progress in the Arab world, and offer the basis for clear challenges to the governments in the region.

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08.30-10.30 Session 3
STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN THE ARAB WORLD
Mohamed-Ali Marouani, Université Paris Panthéon Sorbonne
Structural Change and Productivity in Tunisia.
Raffaele Bertini, Consulting Economist, Rome
Agricultural policies as tool for socioeconomic development in Arab countries. Between new challenges and old structures.
Yacine Belarbi, CREAD, Algiers
Natural resource curse and institutional reform in the Arab world.

10.45-12.45 Session 4
MONETARY AND FISCAL POLICIES
Numan Kanafani, Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute
Fiscal policy in Palestine, from effective tool of occupation to critical leverage of liberation.
Fatihah Talahite, CNRS, CRESPPA
Falling oil prices and Islamic finance in Algeria.
David Cobham, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh
Monetary policy under accountability.

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13.00-13.15 Opening of the workshop by Benoît Lengaigne, Director of Sciences Po Lille.

13.15-15.15 Session 1
INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE IN THE ARAB WORLD
Souam Said, Université Paris-Ouest La Defense
Political Economy of the Reforms in Rentier States.
Sami Atallah, Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies, Beyrouth
How Trade Routes and Oil Shaped Political Institutions in the Middle East.
Olivier Parent, University of Cincinnati
Abdallah Zouache, Sciences Po Lille
Economic Inequalities and Political Change in the Arab world.

15.30-16.45 Session 2
PRIVATIZATION AND INVESTMENT POLICIES
Gilbert Achcar, SOAS, University of London
Investments and Development: The Impasse of Neoliberalism in the Arab World.
Adeel Malik, Oxford University
The politics of selective liberalization in North Africa.

16.45-17.00 Coffee Break

17.00-19.00 Panel Discussion 1
ECONOMIC POLICY CHALLENGES IN NORTH AFRICA (Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt)
Gouda Abdel-Khalek, Samir Maliki, Mohamed-Ali Marouani and Yacine Belarbi

15.15-15.30 Coffee Break