

CSEND DIALOGUE FORUM



Wednesday, the 23rd of July 2008 from 17.00 to 18.30 hrs

CAREER GUIDANCE, MIGRATION, LABOR MARKETS' EFFICIENCY, QUALITY OF TRAINING AND DEMOCRACY: IS THERE A LINK?



The Middle Eastern region is facing a large number of challenges such as high unemployment, persistent poverty of large segments of society, political instability, social inequalities and increasing attempts of legal and illegal migration resulting in human suffering. What is urgently needed are political stability, enhancement of labour markets' efficiency, democratization and a dramatic increase of economic development. Career guidance together with good quality education and training could provide a much needed support to mitigating these problems.

The main message of this presentation will be:

- a) Individuals in the Arab-Mediterranean region should be able to make their own career decisions and be supported in that. This, coupled with quality training and education, would lead to more economic efficiency, more effective labour market policies, reduction in failed careers, more efficient use and better quality of scarce education and training resources, promotion of social equity, inclusion of minorities and more democratic societies.
- b) Helping the MEDA countries in implementing career guidance would ease the pressure on people from the MDEA region to search for work through illegal migration. Instead, career guidance would help in optimizing the impact of EU's strategy to attract skilled labour from the Mediterranean region and thereby reduce the temptations for poverty stricken and unemployed youth to immigrate into the EU through illegal means; reducing deaths and xenophobia.

This presentation will explore innovative solutions to the above mentioned problems and describe the potential benefits of defining career guidance strategies and approaches in the MEDA region. The information provided by the speaker are based on regional studies and emerging policies in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Syria.



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Dr Aboubakr Abdeen Badawi is a human resources development strategist who has served at national, regional and international levels. Prior to his retirement from the International Labour Organization (ILO), he was offering HRD advice to governments, employers and workers' organizations in the Arab region. Dr. Badawi is an engineer by education who spent his 40 year career working in both the engineering and HRD fields including teaching at TVET schools and universities, management of production and repair units as well as a faculty member, advisor to ministers and consulting services provider.

Dialogue Partner/Discussant: Implications to Social Systems and Change

Professor Raymond Saner is the professor for Organisation and International Management at Basle University. He will have a dialogue exchange with Dr. Aboubakr Abdeen Badawi after his initial presentation and explore together the potential of improving labour market conditions and vocational education in Egypt and the Middle East region in general, and the possibilities of creating conditions for a sustainable and mutually beneficial trans-national labour migration between Egypt and Europe.

Organisers:

Prof. Lichia Yiu, the Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development (CSEND)

Prof. Beat Bürgenmeier, Political Economy Department, the University of Geneva

Free of Charge

Uni-Mail, Room M R170

More information on CSEND could be found at www.csend.org