News Release

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE STATE OF THE WORLD

Jordan to Host World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa in 2013

24 September 2012

Fon Mathuros, Director, Media, Communications Department, Tel.: +41 79 201 0211; fmathuro@weforum.org

Arabic

- The World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa will be held in Jordan on 24-26 May 2013.
- Over 1,000 leaders from government, business, civil society and academia are expected to take part.
- For more information about the World Economic Forum, visit www.weforum.org

Geneva, Switzerland, 24 September 2012 – His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and World Economic Forum Founder and Executive Chairman Klaus Schwab met today in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly and announced that the World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa will be held at the Dead Sea in Jordan on 24-26 May 2013.

The World Economic Forum and the King Abdullah II Fund for Development (KAFD) today signed a memorandum of understanding that marks the official start of preparations for the 2013 World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa. The meeting will convene over 1,000 participants from government, business, civil society and academia.

H.M. King Abdullah II said that the on-going developments in the Middle East and North Africa warrant renewed efforts to shape the new regional context to positively support socio-economic development and address youth issues, especially youth unemployment; and to " answer our young people ' s cry for a normal future, in dignity and opportunity, in view of all the developments and challenges taking place in our MENA region. " Schwab said the next World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa will take a practical look at the policies and business strategies that are necessary to support the aspirations of the region ' s economies.

In the new Middle East and North Africa context, decision-makers across the region are responding to the challenge of translating the current societal momentum into concrete positive outcomes for all citizens. This situation represents a key opportunity for industry, government and civil society to jointly make historic gains in crucial areas, including youth unemployment, transparency, income disparity reduction, private sector development and infrastructure. At the same time, the deep economic slowdown in Europe and continuous geopolitical uncertainty in the Levant underscore the need for enhanced regional cooperation as well as the importance of relations with emerging markets.

" Building on Jordan ' s recognized role in the region and internationally, the aim of 2013 meeting is to drive the dialogue needed to overcome long-standing fault lines and foster the spirit of multistakeholder partnerships that are so essential for ensuring peace and security at this time of fundamental change, " said Miroslav Dusek, Director and Head of Middle East and North Africa at the World Economic Forum.

" We are proud to host the World Economic Forum for the seventh time in Jordan, and look forward to playing a very active role in helping achieve its goals of enhancing regional cooperation and partnerships, " said Nasser Al Lozi, Chairman of the King Abdullah II Fund for Development (KAFD), Jordan.

Through a variety of formats, the meeting will address the following questions:

- What national policies and regional mechanisms need to be in place to safeguard the prosperity of economies facing resource scarcity and rapid population growth? What are the proven best practices for creating the conditions for youth-driven entrepreneurial growth?
- How can the new governments in North Africa respond to public expectations while also managing sustainable economic transitions?
- What are the implications of the situation in Syria for interfaith and intercommunal relations in the Middle East and North Africa?

Notes to Editors
For more information about previous MENA meetings, visit http://www.weforum.org/MiddleEast2011 ; http://wef.ch/EUME12
Follow the Forum on **Twitter** at http://wef.ch/twitter
Read the **Forum Blog** at http://wef.ch/blog
Follow the Forum on **Google+** at: http://wef.ch/gplus
Read Forum reports on **Scribd** at http://wef.ch/scribd
Follow the meeting on **iPhone** at http://wef.ch/iPhone
Upcoming Forum events at http://wef.ch/events
Subscribe to Forum **news releases** at http://wef.ch/news
Become a fan of the Forum on **Facebook** at http://wef.ch/facebook
For updates about the activities of the World Economic Forum, subscribe to RSS feed

---

The World Economic Forum is an international institution committed to improving the state of the world through public-private cooperation in the spirit of global citizenship. It engages with business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

Incorporated as a not-for-profit foundation in 1971 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, the Forum is independent, impartial and not tied to any interests. It cooperates closely with all leading international organizations (www.weforum.org).

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM
World Economic Forum, 91-93 route de la Capite, CH-1223 Cologny/Geneva
Tel. +41 (0)22 869 1212, Fax +41 (0)22 786 2744, http://www.weforum.org