

# World Economic Forum on the Middle East

Dead Sea, 18-20 May 2007



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OF THE WORLD

## Putting Diversity to Work

### Programme Summary

The theme of this year's World Economic Forum on the Middle East, *Putting Diversity to Work*, spotlights efforts to accelerate economic diversification in a time of prosperity for the region, while emphasizing the urgency of promoting peace and understanding in a region of great religious and ethnic diversity.

The Middle East is enjoying a dramatic economic boom that is transforming much of the region. The Gulf in particular is experiencing record investment in infrastructure, real estate megaprojects and FDI-friendly free trade zones. This economic climate is driving economic diversification in which the industries that must provide the basis of long-term growth can grow and become regional champions. This programme will examine in depth the prospects, challenges and critical success factors for these industries.

However, economic prosperity cannot be achieved without peace and stability. The economic success stories are endangered by the threat of expanded conflict, both within and across borders. While the region has a rich heritage of religious and ethnic diversity, this is now being exploited by those promoting violence and division. Participants will examine the root causes of these conflicts and seek to find paths to greater peace and stability based on tolerance, moderation and renewed partnership.

In this context, business leaders and policy-makers alike have to understand the needs of rapidly changing societies. The programme will explore the many facets of this change and help leaders to prepare for a future in which the enormous potential of the Middle East can be reached.

## Industries of the Future

**Deepen your understanding of the new industries that are reshaping the future of the region's economies.**

- Driving for Diversification
- GCC Scenarios to 2025: What the Future Holds
- Going Green: Clean Energy Technology in the Middle East
- Healthcare: Preparing for Caring
- Insurance: Securing the Future
- Islamic Finance: Breaking into the Big Time
- Technology: Harnessing New Possibilities
- The Emerging Digital Ecosystem: Implications for the Middle East
- The Globalization of Private Equity
- The Next Wave in Arab Banking
- Tourism Competitiveness: Taking Flight?

## Peace, Stability and International Relations

**Engage in debate with key political leaders on the path to greater stability and prospects for peace in the region.**

- Iran and the Region
- Iraq: The Regional Security Dimension
- Israel-Palestine: What's Next?
- Regional Stability: Who is Taking the Lead?
- The Dangers of Donor Apathy
- Trade Relations: Doha or Bust?
- What Now for Islamic Parties?

## Society and Change

**Build agreement on the elements required to meet the new challenges faced by societies in a rapidly changing world.**

- Arab Philanthropy: Discreet or Petite?
- Building Sustainable Cities
- Dialogue in the Dark
- Education: Developing Future Skills
- Enhancing Leadership, Channelling Emotions
- Logic and Learning: The Lessons of Arab Heritage
- Muslim Values, Western Cultures: Redefining Identities
- What's on the Minds of the Region's Youth?
- Women in Religious Leadership