



LAUNCHING OF THE ISDB GROUP INTEGRATION REPORT FOR ARAB COUNTRIES

Date: Wednesday, 10 May 2023 Time: 14:00 PM - 15:30 PM (Jeddah time) Venue: Al-Ezz (1) Hall







The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group works to strengthen regional integration as a tool to boost trade and investments, promote growth, and improve livelihoods based on the principles of solidarity and mutual benefits. To achieve these objectives in line with the Updated IsDB Strategy and its Regional Cooperation and Integration (RCI) Policy, the IsDB Group tracks progress toward greater economic integration among its member countries (MCs) on a global and regional basis. To measure the level and progress of economic integration among IsDB MCs in a comprehensive way, the IsDB Group developed a statistical index. Based on the index results, the first “IsDB Group Integration Report” was finalized and launched in November 2022. The “IsDB Group Integration Report for Arab Region” is the second publication arising from the integration index methodology.

OBJECTIVES & KEY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

The event will bring together high-level representatives from IsDB MCs, the IsDB Group, relevant regional cooperation organizations and international development organizations to achieve the following objectives:

- To launch the IsDB Group Integration Report for Arab Countries 2023,
- To inform policy decisions about how the IsDB Group and regional cooperation organizations can operationalize the report’s recommendations as the participation of development partners in the event will be helpful to identify the key elements of greater economic integration across the Arab region.

SPEAKERS

	<p>Keynote Speech – H.E. Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser is the Chairman of the IsDB Group. Previously, he served as an Advisor at the General Secretariat of the Saudi Council of Ministers and Chairman of the General Authority for Competition from 2016 to 2021. He has also served as the Saudi Minister of Economy and Planning and Governor and Board Chairman of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), the Saudi Central Bank.</p>
	<p>Dr. AbdulHakim Elwaer is Assistant Director General at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Previously, Dr. Elwaer served as Secretary of Environmental General Authority (Minister of Environment) of the Government of Libya. Prior to joining the FAO, he served as Adviser to the President at the IsDB where he also served as the IsDB Spokesperson and Director of Cooperation, Partnerships, Regional Integration and Resource Mobilization.</p>
	<p>Dr. Bahgat Abu El Nasr is Director of the Arab Economic Integration Department at the League of Arab States. He has vast experience in the trade aspects of regional economic integration. His department is overseeing the implementation of major regional integration initiatives including the Greater Arab Free Trade Area and the Arab Customs Union.</p>
	<p>Ms. Lilia Hachem Naas is currently Chief Office for Middle East and North Africa at the International Trade Centre in Geneva. Previously, she was Director of the Sub-Regional Office for North Africa of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. During her tenure, Ms. Naas strengthened existing programmes on economic and social development, and supported member states’ ratification and implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area.</p>
	<p>Dr. Sami Al-Suwailem is Acting Director General, IsDB Institute and Group Chief Economist at the IsDB Group. Before joining the Institute in 2004, Dr. Al Suwailem managed the Research and Development Center at Al-Rajhi Bank in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He worked at the Institute of Islamic and Arabic Sciences in America, Virginia; Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois, USA; and King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.</p>
	<p>Moderator - Ms. Maha Akeel is Lecturer on Diplomacy and International Relations. She has 20 years of diverse experience in media, intergovernmental organizations, and academia. She was Director of Social and Family Affairs at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) where she played an instrumental role in the establishment of the OIC Women Development Organization. Last year, she joined the academic field teaching diplomacy and international relations.</p>