

**CONNECTING MINDS TOWARDS
ACHIEVING THE SDGS THROUGH
ENTREPRENEURSHIP, INNOVATION AND
INVESTMENT POST COVID 19**

**WEIF
REPORT
2022**



Organizers



Partners



Confederation of Indian Industry



EMIRATES BUSINESSWOMEN COUNCIL



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURIAL CHALLENGE



Union of Arab Banks

CONNECTING MINDS TOWARDS
ACHIEVING THE SDGS THROUGH
ENTREPRENEURSHIP, INNOVATION AND
INVESTMENT POST COVID 19

MARCH 28th-30th 2022

Organizers



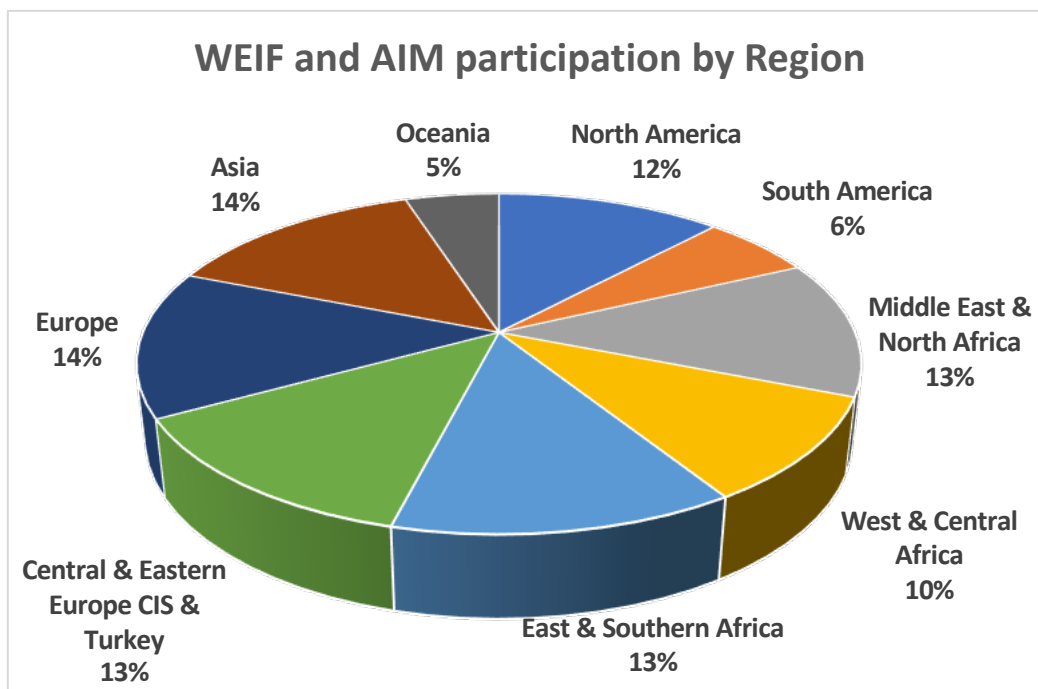
Event Summary

Under the umbrella of the League of Arab States pavilion at the Dubai Expo and under the Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain in partnership with the Union of Arab Chambers and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa organized, in a hybrid format, the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum (WEIF) under the theme “Connecting Minds towards Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Investment Post COVID 19” as an integral part of the 11th Annual Investment Forum (AIM); on March 28th to 30th at the Dubai Exhibition Center at Dubai Expo 2020.

WEIF 2022 was inaugurated in the presence of HE Dr. Ahmed Abou El Gheit, Secretary General, League of Arab States; together with HE Dr Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship and SMEs, United Arab Emirates; HE Shaikh Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Honorary Chairman Board of Trustees, UNIDO Arab International Centre for Entrepreneurship & Investment; HE Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Executive Director, International Monetary Fund; a recorded statement by Dr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Managing Director of the Directorate of Digitalization, Technology and Agri-Business, UNIDO; HE Mr. Abdullah Al Mazrui Chairman of the UAE Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry; HE Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, Director General, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa; HE Dr. Khaled Hanafy, Secretary General Union of Arab Chambers; and HE Dr. Hashim Hussein, Head of UNIDO ITPO Bahrain and Executive Director WEIF.

The integration of WEIF and AIM provided a unique platform to deliberate and address what is needed to be done on the level of Governments, multinational organizations, and the private sector to stimulate and re-energize entrepreneurial domestic and foreign investments; in addition to ensuring economic Resilience post COVID 19 in the Arab Region, Africa, and the World.

It is worth noting that AIM is an initiative of the UAE Ministry of Economy designed to provide a framework for global exchange on the key principles underpinning international investment policies, strategies and practices for sustainable development to achieve smart and inclusive global growth. WEIF on the other hand is a highly focused United Nations event that focuses on promoting domestic investment, entrepreneurship and SME; hence this partnership facilitated delivering a well-structured event that linked the promotion of domestic economic development with the means of leveraging foreign investment.



With over 11,000 participants both physically and virtually from 174 countries; the WEIF – AIM event brought about Ministers, government officials, dignitaries, entrepreneurs, start-ups, investors, innovators, philanthropists, experts, government representatives, financial institutions, developmental funds, Chambers of Commerce, NGOs, economic associations, entrepreneur’s networks technology providers, academia and others. Both events encompassed a series of workshops, panels, side events, exhibitions and entrepreneur pitching events.

Through WEIF activities 560 entrepreneur projects were promoted with an estimated investment of 350 million USD; more than 2000 bilateral meetings were held.

The overarching theme of WEIF – AIM on achieving the SDGs through investment and entrepreneurship development hence, it focused on 4 major tracks namely; entrepreneurship and start-ups, SME development, Future Cities and Investment Promotion. It is within these tracks; that 10 panels were held with the participation of 75 renowned international speakers took part in WEIF consisting of a high-level Ministerial panel; a dedicated special panel on the SME Coalition for Africa; in addition to panels on Inclusive Sustainable Finance; Entrepreneurship and Innovation Conducive Ecosystem; Economic Infrastructure; Education and Think tanks; Uplifting Women Entrepreneurship; Emerging Digital Technologies Transforming SMEs; Digitalizing the Trade Route for SMEs (Creative Entrepreneurs – Orange Economy; and Smart Services of the Future: FDI and technology adoption trends, the shift in smart services and what to look forward to in the future.

WEIF AIM Statistics

With over 60 local, regional and international partners; the WEIF – AIM has been successful in achieving major milestones in terms of participation and overall effectiveness.

Please revert to annex 1 for the list of WEIF partners.



11,500
Physical + Virtual



174
Countries



60
Partners



23
High level officials



200
speakers



352
Smart Zone
Exhibitors



10,000
Bilateral
Meetings



65
Panel /Sessions

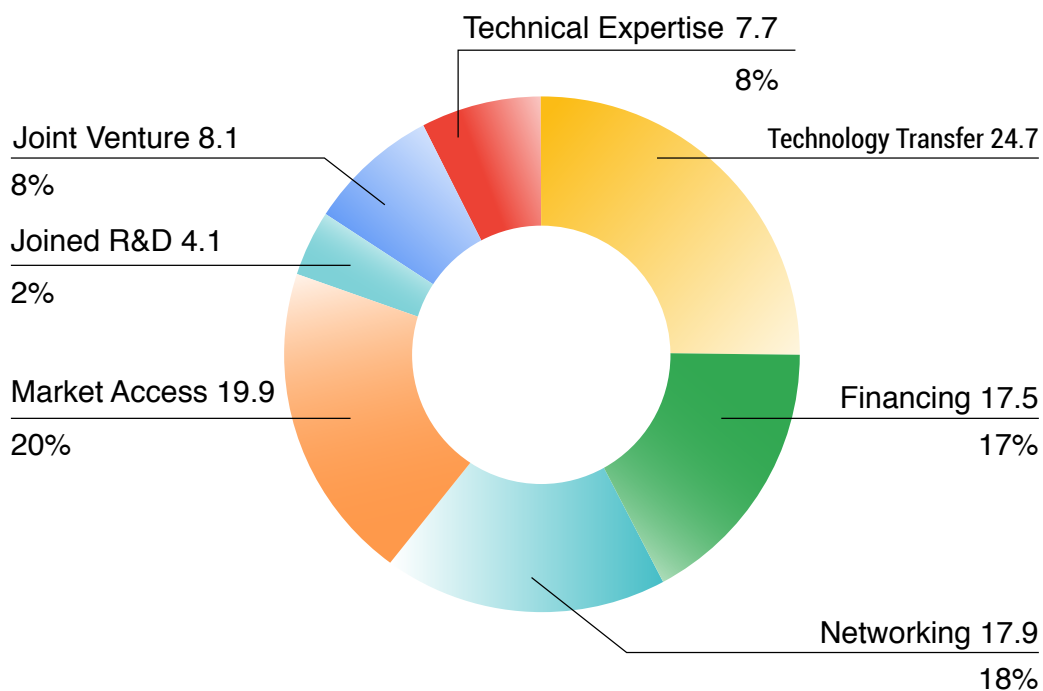


\$ 350 M
Estimated /
Investment



40
Side Events

Type of Business / Sector(s)



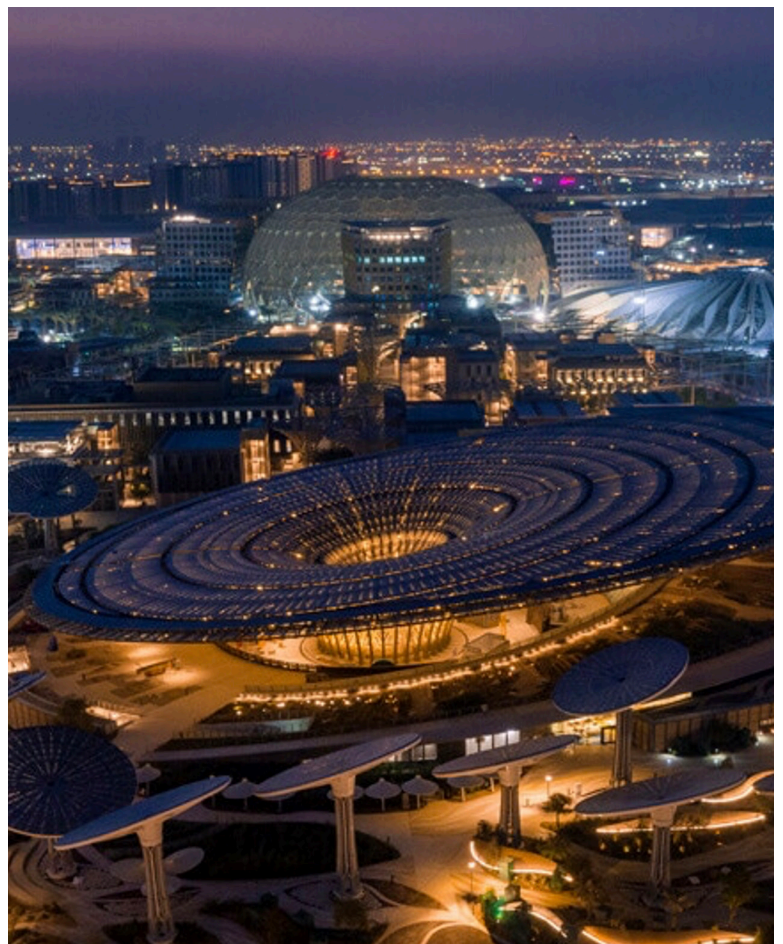
Dubai Expo



On 27 November 2013, UAE won the bid for 'Connecting Minds and Creating the Future' with the first World Expo to be held in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) region.

If travel is the best teacher in life, then Expo 2020 was the perfect place to be informed. For the people could meet and explore with the world in one place. The Expo 2020 welcomed 192 countries - never in history were there so many nations and so many cultures gathered together at a World Expo. It was a feast for all senses and an opportunity for all people to come together and reimagine the world.

Expo was a life-time experience which brought the world together and they welcomed the world on 1 October 2021 in a safe environment where they provided a launch pad for the global collaboration that is needed most. It was a change for humanity to convene in a spirit of optimism, hope and shared purpose to exchange inspiring new ideas and new perspectives with an emphasis on their three subthemes – Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability. Coinciding with the UAE's 50 anniversary in 2021 they hoped to spark innovations that will kick start another 50 years of purposeful progress, contributing to the nation's continued prosperity and enabling growth in the region and beyond.



World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum Background

WEIF through its secretariat at the UNIDO ITPO / AICEI Bahrain and various partners, has managed to position itself as a leading pavilion of knowledge on entrepreneurship, innovation and impactful investments.

Over the previous editions of the Forum in 2017, 2015 and 2019; WEIF has been able to achieve major milestones and become the main dedicated Entrepreneurs Investment Forum by the United Nations. The main theme of WEIF “Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Investment” was a crucial factor in its success. As it focused on the Global Developmental Sustainable Agenda and the UNIDO mandate of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) by means of leveraging the power of the private sector through stimulating and unleashing youth and women economic prosperity.

Initiated by UNIDO ITPO Bahrain in 2015, WEIF has become an international forum aimed at (1) sharing international best practices and exchanging experiences on the means of developing an optimum conducive ecosystem that would unleash domestic investment towards leveraging foreign direct investment through entrepreneurship, innovation and impactful investments; (2) Creating linkages and business partnerships between entrepreneurs around the globe.

Over the 3 editions, the Forum has been supported by a number of local, regional as well as international partners namely; line Ministries, governmental organizations, United Nations Agencies, NGOs, financial developmental institutions, regional and international organizations, commercial banks, universities, SME support institutions, research centers, think tanks, incubators, accelerator's, chambers of commerce & industry and others.

WEIF 2015

The first World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum in 2015, was held under the patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, The Prime Minister of Bahrain, under the theme “Entrepreneurship and Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development” and officially inaugurated by HH Shaikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa the Deputy Prime Minister in the presence of HE Mr. Li Yong, the UNIDO Director General and a number of senior officials and dignitaries. In recognition of the occasion, the United Nations Secretary General, HE Mr. Ban Kimoon, issued a special statement highlighting the significance of such a forum in the wake of the global financial crisis.

During the 2015 event, the Manama Declaration on Entrepreneurship and Development was adopted to outline a set of recommendations derived from the two days of deliberations and discussions held among the 85 experts and 650 entrepreneurs from 80 countries, who participated in the Forum on Entrepreneurship and Investment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, held from 19 to 21 January 2015. The importance of the Manama Declaration was further signified by its circulation during the 2015 United Nations General Assembly.

WEIF 2017

In 2017, under the patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, The Prime Minister of The Kingdom of Bahrain, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain along with a sizeable number of 35 regional and international partners, organized the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum (WEIF) 2017 under the main theme of “Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through Entrepreneurship and Innovation”. His Excellency Mr. António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations, issued a video statement commending the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum and UNIDO ITPO Bahrain for its continued progress towards achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

1,200 Experts and entrepreneurs from over 90 countries gathered at the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre in Manama calling upon governments, the private sector, academia, civil society, media, and international organizations to facilitate the promotion of entrepreneurs and innovative enterprises by developing economic infrastructure and incubation management systems to ensure inclusive and sustainable development.

In the presence of HE Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, President of the 72nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Forum concluded with the strongest support for entrepreneurship and innovation as drivers of job creation, economic growth, and the

realization of social gains. The international community was urged to incorporate entrepreneurship and innovation in all economic and social dimensions as key strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially at a national level. The key role that entrepreneurs can play in bringing more jobs and prosperity to the Maritime-Continental Silk Road – the modern-day successor to the ancient trade routes linking Europe and Asia – was also highlighted during the Forum, as well as the importance of global impact investment and that in striving to achieving the SDGs entrepreneurship and innovation are and will remain as key factors. The various events and activities organized through WEIF and its secretariat hosted at UNIDO ITPO Bahrain signifies the pioneering role of WEIF in becoming the only United Nations Forum on Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

WEIF 2019

In 2019, under the auspices of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain; UNIDO ITPO Bahrain in cooperation with the Union of Arab Chambers, the Bahrain Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, Union of Arab Banks, Al Baraka Banking Group and 35 partners have successfully organized the 3rd World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2019 (WEIF 2019), which was held concurrently with the 18th Arab Businessmen and Investors Conference (ABIC) from 11 to 13 November 2019 at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain.

Both events brought together 1500 participants from 83 countries representing: Ministers, officials, dignitaries, experts, entrepreneurs, investors, NGOs, financial developmental funds, banks, academicians, support institutions and chambers; with the ultimate goal of forging joint investments between entrepreneurs and to exchange knowledge, share innovative best practices, leverage domestic and foreign direct investments, and to establish new partnerships in favor of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a focus on innovative approaches afforded by the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

In addition to the numerous high-level panel discussions, keynote speeches and side events, Entrepreneur to Entrepreneur bilateral meetings were organized over the 3 days of WEIF, paving the way for high-level representatives and entrepreneurs to discuss investment and business opportunities. These bilateral meetings were a resounding success, with over 1400 bilateral meetings being held, resulting in the signing of 106 letters of intent and a combined estimated investment of USD 22 million.

WEIF 2022 World Context

The world is being faced by major new challenges brought about by the COVID 19 pandemic and its unprecedented ripple effects on the world economy, coupled with the need to act fast on addressing the SDGs; all within the backdrop of the swift digital transformations. All these pressures are creating more imbalances within the world and are deepening the economic and technological gap. Hence, it is unsurprising that entrepreneurs, start-ups and MSMEs are some of the most heavily impacted.

Although COVID 19 has presented major negative challenges, it has also played a positive role in inducing an accelerated technological transformation; and it is crucial to support MSMEs and entrepreneurs through facilitating their integration in the 4th industrial revolution. Many entrepreneurs were able to swiftly move into virtual platforms to ensure their business continuity and many are struggling to make ends meet.

Putting that into perspective, it is vital that decision makers and stakeholders ensure that the ecosystems in their countries swiftly adapt and embrace this transformation; in order to maintain sustainability and develop new tools that would enhance, boost and facilitate conducive ecosystems for unleashing entrepreneurship, investment both domestic and foreign, innovation and digitalization especially in the Arab Region and Africa; thus, leading to a more inclusive and sustainable future.

In line with the existing playing field that exists WEIF – AIM focused on addressing what is needed to be done on the level of Government's, multinational organizations and the private sector to achieve Entrepreneurial and Economic Resilience post COVID 19 in the Arab Region, Africa and the World.

Drawing on the Dubai Expo theme "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future", which recognizes that generating sustainable solutions to global problems demands collaboration across cultures and regions whilst the subthemes of Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability define the principal drivers of progress.

The WEIF – AIM played a vital role in exposing the power of Entrepreneurs, Innovators and Investors in creating partnerships to secure a prosperous future and sustainable solutions for the globe challenges.

Main objectives

1. Introducing international best practices aimed at developing conducive ecosystems for enhancing and advancing entrepreneurship, Investment both domestic and foreign, innovation and digitalization with special focus on the Arab Region and Africa; thus, leading to a more inclusive and sustainable future
2. Facilitating business partnerships and investments for domestic enterprise creation and expansion,
3. Highlighting best practices for governments and financial institutions towards entrepreneur's resilience
4. Creating a platform for entrepreneurs from around the globe to develop joint investments and trade facilitation.
5. The COVID 19 pandemic and what needs to be done to ensure entrepreneurial - SME resilience and continuity; through stimulating impactful bankable investments that would support sustainability and growth in the Industrial sector
6. COVID 19 has induced an accelerated technological transformation leading to a new normal; accordingly, it is crucial to support SMEs and entrepreneurs through facilitating their integration in the 4th industrial revolution

Annual Investment Meeting:

The Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) is an initiative of the UAE Ministry of Economy designed to provide a framework for global exchange on the key principles underpinning international investment policies, strategies, and practices for sustainable development to achieve smart and inclusive global growth.

Since its inception, the Annual Investment Meeting has established itself as a leading global investment platform that aspires to ignite positive transformation by creating investment opportunities, upholding solidarity, and developing economic relations among nations, as well as addressing the global ordeals that will make a profound impact to economic growth.

Every edition of the Annual Investment Meeting is an opportune event to address the fundamental challenges that nations are being confronted with on their journey to achieving development and to discuss investment trends and strategies that can be utilized to maximize the potential of every business, country, and region to consequently fuel economic diversification.

AIM Global platform provides businesses, governments, and civil society with an independent, impartial and future-oriented platform to amplify their efforts to influence sustained, positive change. Using its considerable organizational capacity – including convening power, excellence in community management, insight generation and interaction technology – to facilitate multistakeholder interaction and impact.

The Event:

WEIF 2022 was officially inaugurated on March 28th, with the opening remarks given by Dr. Hashim Hussein, Executive Director WEIF. Speakers at the inauguration included HE Dr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary General of the League of Arab States; HE Dr Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship and SMEs, United Arab Emirates; HE Shaikh Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Honorary Chairman Board of Trustees, UNIDO Arab International Centre for Entrepreneurship & Investment; HE Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Executive Director, International Monetary Fund; HE Mr. Abdullah Al Mazrui Chairman of the UAE Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry; HE Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, Director General, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa; HE Dr. Khaled Hanafy, Secretary General Union of Arab Chambers



A recorded statement was also provided by Dr. Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento, Managing Director of the Directorate of Digitalization, Technology and Agri-Business, UNIDO;



Opening statement by HE Dr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary General, League of Arab States (translated from Arabic)

Your Excellency's, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to join you today in the opening of the fourth edition of the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2022, which is being held under the auspices of the League of Arab States ... Please allow me to extend my sincere appreciation and deep gratitude to the United Arab Emirates for hosting this event ... I would like to pay tribute to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, for



patronizing this important forum and the parallel events accompanying it.

I would also like to thank the Union of Arab Chambers, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization - Investment and Technology Promotion Office in Bahrain, and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa for their partnership in organizing this forum; and for their continuous cooperation and coordination between all partners to make it a success.

WEIF since its first edition held in Bahrain, has served as an important platform for sharing international best practices to develop appropriate and stimulating conducive ecosystems for the promotion of domestic and foreign investment, with the goal of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as leveraging and facilitating sustainable partnerships between entrepreneurs from the public and private sector.

Your Excellency's, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

When we met in Manama in November 2019 during the third edition of WEIF, the global circumstances were quite different from what we are witnessing today, as since then, the world has experienced a health crisis like never before... The manifestations of human activity have been paralyzed, and its repercussions have affected all economic and social aspects... As soon as the world began to recover... another crisis started the war in Ukraine... It is a crisis that will affect the rest of the world... It has caused a significant rise in food and energy prices... The sanctions war was also expanded to include remittances and investments... I fear that this situation will negatively affect the Arab region and further complicate its problems.

These new developments have created a situation of uncertainty, and risks that need to be dealt with deeply and calmness ... And to be wise and balanced... To break out of these crises, requires urgent and bold steps to stimulate Arab investment and develop comprehensive plans to improve the entrepreneurial ecosystems... Achieving those entails a holistic strategy involving all sectors, and to benefit from successful global and Arab experiences... Among them is the pioneering Emirati experience... Focusing on technology and digitization to facilitate access to and reduce the cost of services.

The exceptional situation we are living in the Arab region calls for greater cooperation and collaboration... For this I call on all stakeholders in the Arab countries to join hands and promote inter-Arab investment to take advantage of the opportunities and benefits offered by our countries... They are many and promising... This would create new jobs and re-establish the development path in the region.

Your Excellency's, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Arab economic integration is one of the most important priorities that the League of Arab States seeks to achieve, and since its inception in 1945 has worked to strengthen economic cooperation to raise the rates of trade and investment between Arab countries, establishing many Arab financial institutions and establishing the Greater Arab Free Trade Area, which came into force in 2005... It has contributed significantly to the development of inter-Arab trade... It is also working on finalizing the first draft of the updated Arab Investment Agreement, which will be submitted to the Arab Summit for its endorsement.

Within this context I would like to highlight that the league of Arab States has begun preparing for a new Arab agreement on the issuance of a unified Arab visa to Arab businessmen and investors... In order to facilitate their movement between Arab countries, I take this opportunity to invite all business partners and organizations to cooperate with us to finish them as soon as possible in preparation for their presentation to the Arab countries for approval.

In conclusion, I wish the Forum success, and urge developing innovative solutions, ideas and initiatives that would complement our efforts to accelerate the recovery process, contribute to enhancing investment and providing an environment conducive to entrepreneurship development in our countries, and I renew my thanks to all those who contributed in organizing this forum.

Thank you



WEIF Main Theme

Following the success of the 2019 World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum, the main theme for WEIF 2022 was "Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Investment Post COVID 19".

Highlights of the event included discussions around ensuring and sustaining Entrepreneurial Resilience Post COVID 19, Transforming Resilient Sustainable Financial Inclusion, Developing conducive ecosystems for entrepreneurship and innovation / Digital Transformations, Role of educational institutions, think tanks and research centers in unleashing entrepreneurship and innovation, Reviving Trade and Heritage towards Sustainable Development, Green Industry and Blue Growth, SME Coalition for Africa, Social entrepreneurship and corporate responsibility in the new reality, and Creative and Cultural Entrepreneurs.

Over the course of WEIF 2022, ten main panels were held centered around the main theme "Connecting minds towards achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Investment Post COVID 19": High level Ministerial Session; Panel 1 on Inclusive Sustainable Finance; Panel 2 Entrepreneurship and Innovation Conducive Ecosystem; Panel 3 on Economic Infrastructure; Panel 4 on

Education and Think tanks; Panel 5 on Uplifting Women Entrepreneurship; Panel 6 on Emerging Digital Technologies Transforming SMEs; Panel 7 on Digitalizing the Trade Route for SMEs (Creative Entrepreneurs – Orange Economy; Panel 8 on Smart Services of the Future: FDI and technology adoption trends, the shift in smart services and what to look forward to in the future; Panel 9: Regional and Global Integration - SME Coalition for Africa;;

WEIF Panels:

Across the numerous panel sessions, WEIF 2022 promoted and highlighted the role of Government's, multinational organizations and the private sector to achieve Entrepreneurial and Economic Resilience post COVID 19, while showcasing the current challenges and opportunities towards sustainable economic development in developing countries, particularly in the Middle East, North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

High Level Ministerial Panel



SMEs are becoming of strategic importance for developing countries, countries in transition, and in the countries with developed economies. While SMEs are considered the main engine of the development and the vitalization of the national economy, they are also considered the starting point of development in the economies towards industrialization. The Ministerial Panel will highlight the role of SMEs in developing the world economy, especially in the time being, where the world economy is facing severe global challenges. With the pandemic creating unprecedented disruptions to global economies and labor markets at all levels, supply chains grounding to a halt and lockdowns resulting in the forced closure of many businesses, it is unsurprising that MSMEs were the most heavily impacted. Coupled with digital transformation, the panel highlighted the steps which have been taken to support entrepreneurs and SMEs to overcome these challenges and ensure sustainable resilience and the road ahead to better unleash SMEs entrepreneurship and innovation.

- Recommendation 1:** Small and medium-sized enterprises that make up the world economic system will play a fundamental role because, with their competitiveness and flexibility, they will be able give their contribution to the rapid evolution of the system. For this process, the role of institution will be fundamental to support this growth we need to draft new competitive laws for evolve our legislation.
- Recommendation 2:** The importance of championing and showcasing successful African entrepreneurs to help inspire young entrepreneurs.
- Recommendation 3:** Further encouraging the improvement of the business environment of many African countries
- Recommendation 4:** Tacking the key challenges faced by African SMEs to unleash their potential (I.e. Access to market, access to finance and to capacity building)
- Recommendation 5:** The urgency for development banks, government, private sector and other relevant stakeholders to join forces to holistically respond to the needs of African SMEs
- Recommendation 6:** Invest in women-led SMEs

The panel was moderated Mr. Nejjib Friji, Director of International Peace Institute Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Office; with the participation of HE Dr Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi, Minister of State for Entrepreneurship and SMEs, UAE; HE Mme. Amina Priscille

Longoh, Minister of Women and Child Protection, Chad; H.E. Fabio Righi Minister of Industry, Handicraft and Trade, Technological Research, Regulatory Simplification, The Republic of San Marino; Ms. Saskia Walden, Economic Affairs, Entrepreneurship and Technological Innovation, Suriname; HE Dr. Ibrahima Cheikh Diong, United Nations Assistant Secretary General and Director General African Risk Capacity Group

Panel 1: Inclusive Sustainable Finance

As the world transforms, entrepreneurs seek new innovative modes of finance to ensure their resilience and grow sustainably further. Even prior to the COVID19- pandemic, business transformation was a concern of big companies, but now it is imperative, and not just for large enterprises. Even the smallest companies and organizations must transform their business as a matter of urgency in order to cope with dynamics of the post-pandemic business environment. Surveys reveal that most small companies and entrepreneurs in the startup economy are suffering financially. Their plight will become even more serious if they have not been able to complete their business transformation before the 'new normal' sets in.

The challenge is this: Business transformation, which is a must for increasing 'inclusive sustainable finance', is not a cheap process. How realistic is it to encourage entrepreneurs, startups, MSMEs, and SMEs to invest in business transformation when they are struggling just to meet their short-term expenses?

The panel addressed how can digitalization facilitate financial inclusion, what new modes of financing are available for start-ups and SMEs, and what is the future of inclusive sustainable finance.

- Recommendation 1:** Given this situation, the panel speakers invite policymakers to develop smart policies that will provide financial support to startups, scaleups, SMEs and all entrepreneurs to help them transform their business.
- Recommendation 2:** Panel speakers believe that more public-private partnerships (PPP) should be mobilized for this purpose. And governmental recovery plans need to include financial support for entrepreneurs' business transformation efforts.
- Recommendation 3:** Governments must be alerted to the fact that unless small companies receive financial support for transforming their business, they will not be able to survive in post-pandemic times. This means their capacity to create more jobs and social wealth for economies will be lost.

The panel was moderated by Baybars Altuntas Chairman of the World Business Angels Investment Forum and included the participation of Giulio Centemero, Member of the Italian Parliament and Co-Chair of the PAM Panel on Trade and Investments in the Mediterranean- Italy, Hamda Khalil – Director of Credit Risk Department, Mohammed Bin Rashid Fund for SME, Suleiman Barada, Sr. Advisor at the Union of Arab Banks, and Head of UABdigital, Sultan Al-Hamidi, Executive Vice President, Social Development Bank, Mohamed Al AAli, Board Member Hope Fund, Bahrain, Narayanan Ganapathy, Senior Executive Officer, Bambucorn Ltd.

Panel 2: Entrepreneurship and Innovation Conducive Ecosystem

Today there is an urgent need for governments and the private sector to swiftly adapt to the changing market conditions; that take into account the digital transformation. Hence, in order to institutionalize an entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem which takes into account laying the base for promoting domestic investment leading to leveraging foreign direct investment thus leading to the development of global entrepreneurs and SMEs calls for exploring international best practices and strategies in terms of non-financial services and the means of linking them to financial services to achieve sustainable financial inclusion. The base of such interventions will be the availability of effective economic infrastructure, a strong educational system that nurtures entrepreneurship and innovation from a very early age, and eventually a strong government advocacy and policy that promotes entrepreneurship and that is at the same time in strong partnership with the private sector and multinational organizations.

The panelists have described their organization's initiatives to support the entrepreneurial activities and the strength and weakness in the region to enhance entrepreneurship.

All panelists agreed that education is one of the most important enablers of innovation and entrepreneurship.

- Recommendation 1:** Education embrace a modern structure; such as supporting digital, AI and other new techniques.
- Recommendation 2:** Technical training and networking are equally important in enabling innovation and entrepreneurship
- Recommendation 3:** Legislation needs to be updated; access to finance and introducing new tools such as angel investors, VC, and cloud funding are important to boost their ideas.

The panel was moderated by Reem Badran, CEO Alhurra Company for Management and Business Development; and included the participation of Taha Ayhan, President of the Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum in Turkey; Sara El Gazzar, Senior Advisor Union of Arab Chambers; Afnan Zayani, Entrepreneurs Ambassador, Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship and Investment, Bahrain; Ameer Hasan Abubaker, Entrepreneurship & Investment Expert; Mr. Edoardo Scalco, UNIDO Chief Technical Advisor in Kassala, Sudan; Jassim Darwish, President of the Entrepreneurs Organization in Bahrain

Panel 3: Economic Infrastructure

Building on the conducive ecosystem discussions, this session aims at tackling the role of incubators and accelerators in unleashing entrepreneurship and innovation. The need to establish regional Incubators/accelerators networks, tops the agenda. Are ecosystems in developing countries capable of supporting accelerators? What lessons can be derived from developing countries?

There are pillars of the knowledge economy/innovation ecosystem that need to be observed and nurtured by government policies and private sector partnerships.

1. Information Infrastructure establishes a dynamic information supply chain for communication and networking
2. Economic & incentive & institutional regimes involve a regulatory and economic environment that enables the fresh flow of knowledge and supports ICT.
3. The innovation ecosystem; involves a network of research countries, think tanks, private enterprises, UNIDO network, and assimilation of global knowledge to adapt to local knowledge.

Therefore, the recommendation in the region needs a PPP model that can focus on the following areas:

1. Education and Training – in conclusion, to promote entrepreneurship, the region needs support on services in terms of training, incubating grants, incentives schemes, knowledge-sharing networks, and investment.
2. Improve the current ecosystem by providing
 - An expanding range of integrated coaching and mentoring program and
 - Matching services to keep micro and small enterprises to find business opportunities in the marketplace, an example is UNIDO programs.
3. Expansion of products and services according to strong ongoing interest in incubation support services among early-stage companies and scaling startups through equity investments in incubators

Conclusions:

Establishing strong integration and collaboration with the various bodies within the player's ecosystem in the region can lead to the potential transformation of this region into a tech hub supported by the private and public sectors.

The panel was moderated by Sabah Khalil Almoayyed Chairman of Flat 6 Labs Bahrain; with the participation of Omer Oz, International Expert on Incubation Management Systems; Douja Gharbi, CEO red Start, Tunisia; Abdel Aziz Al Mazami – Director of Business Incubation Department, Dubai SME; Giovanni Zazzerini, Secretary General, International Network for SMEs, Italy; Dina Belal, Manager techno-pole unit – Faculty Engineering, University of Khartoum; Virtual Yan Jiongchao, Vice dean of Maker Institute CAS, Shenzhen Institute of Advanced Technology Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Panel 4: Education and Think tanks

Linking Entrepreneurship to Education plays a vital role in fostering innovation at the school and university level; hence teaching entrepreneurship in an interactive K12. Economic Infrastructure for Entrepreneurship: covering spin off processes and knowledge transfer, social and community entrepreneurship, intellectual property, entrepreneurship finance and venture capital. Entrepreneurship and the 4th Industrial Revolution: covering the new entrepreneurship frontiers uncovered by technology, including digital, physical, biological advancements, Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, and robotics. This extends to how education can adapt with the 4th industrial revolution.

Education is extremely important for promoting the entrepreneurship culture. But talking about education involves a lot of details, that are often ignored. The suitable material to teach at each level of education, when to start, at school or university etc... Because of these details, think tanks play an important role in designing the programs that are just right for each stage.

Think tanks can also help with change of culture from one that sees university degrees as the most important thing to a new culture that sees new ideas through entrepreneurship as success even if achieved without university degree. Think tanks help by creating the case and showing the evidence of success irrespective of university degree.

Even if education is properly provided to support entrepreneurship, if there is no conducive entrepreneurship ecosystem that encourages new ideas, provides needed finance at the different stages of the project, and most important allows for painless failure and starting over again. If these things are not there, entrepreneurship will not prevail even if a proper education system is there. This is another area where think tanks can help, specifically show the exact problems in the ecosystem and measure their impact.

African universities have an excellent experience in supporting entrepreneurship.

The panel showcased a recorded statement by HE Shaikha Dr. May Bint Sulaiman AlOtaibi, Chairperson Mayasem Group; while the panel was moderated by Dr. Abla Abdel Latif, Executive Director and Director of Research, Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES). The panel included the participation of Professor Yusuf Abdulghaffar, Chairman of the Board, Regional Network for Social Responsibility; Dr. Faiza Osman, president of African universities initiative for entrepreneurs and investment; Dr. Amal Jowder, Sustainable Development Goals School Olympics, Bahrain; Dr. Yianni Doumenis; Course Leader, Senior Lecturer, Business, Data Analytics & Risk Management, University of West London Instructor, Research Associate, Global MBA, University of London; Simon Ngalomba, Centre for Educational Research and Professional Development, University Dar Alsalam, Tanzania



Panel 5 on Uplifting Women Entrepreneurship Panel

Although there have been significant achievements over the last decades, women's socioeconomic disadvantage is still reflected in pervasive gender inequalities in earned income, access to productive resources such as credit and assets, educational attainment, liberty to pursue a profession, and time-use. This is a significant missed opportunity. Not only is gender equality an important goal in its own right, but it also correlates with higher levels of per capita gross domestic product, the level of competitiveness, and human development. This panel discussed the challenges facing women entrepreneurs, and the tools we have at our disposal to uplift women in the area of entrepreneurship and innovation.

The panel was moderated by Ibukun Awosika, President International Women Entrepreneurs Challenge; with the participation of Marie-Christine Oghly, President Women Global Business Owners (FCEM); Sonya Janahi, CEO, Ra'edat Arab Women Portal; Farida Al Awadhi, Chairperson, Emirates Business Women Council, UAE; Simona Simulyte, Founder, ChangeMakersON; Dr. Louiza Chitour, Program & Partnerships Manager-Health, Plug & Play; Ms. Jessica Neumann, Investment and Technology Promotion Expert and Gender Focal Point, UNIDO



Panel 6 on Emerging Digital Technologies Transforming SMEs

The Digital gap has widened the inequalities between individuals, firms and societies at large. However, the very reason to reduce the broadening gap is to infuse economic, cultural and social cohesion. Hence, it is impertinent for enterprises to accrue the benefits of early technology adoption. SMEs that fully embraced the digital transformation are expected to increase their revenue by a staggering 26% and save an average of 22% in costs. Hear more on how digitalization efforts are creating improved access to a broad and diverse innovation ecosystem for SMEs.

The key recommendations derived from panel are as follows:

- Recommendation 1:** SMEs should explore and adapt some Fintech solutions that could add value to their business and make them more competitive.
- Recommendation 2:** There is increasing demand on Fintech sector which lead to create lots of startup opportunities for entrepreneurs who plan to start their business.
- Recommendation 3:** SMEs should understand the potential of Fintech and consider investing in Fintech businesses.

The session was moderated by Dr Zakaria Hejres, Chairman, MENA Centre of Investment and featured a recorded statement Dr. Chen Daixing, Chairman, International Youth Innovation Conference, Shenzhen -China. Speakers in the panel included Dr Ashish Mohan, Head – Technology, Design, R&D, Innovation-IP & Entrepreneurship Confederation of Indian Industry; Mr. Osama Al Khaja, President Ibtikar (Bahrain Innovation Association); Mr. Walid Hassouna, CEO Non-Bank Financial Institutions Platform at EFG Hermes; CEO of valU; Dr. Tiejun Meng, CEO SpinQ Shenzhen; and Krunoslav Ris, Chief Executive Officer, Lumen Spei LTD.

Panel 7

Digitalizing the Trade Route for SMEs (Creative Entrepreneurs – Orange Economy)

The digital era is helping SMEs by adopting payment methods for international transactions and using financial instruments to export and import goods and services. Improved trade access of SME through digitalization enables them to engage in international activities, and in turn create new jobs and firms, boost innovation and, ultimately, foster inclusive economic growth. The session tackled how SMEs can make the best use of trade instruments to reap the benefits of digitalization and participate in the global value chain.

Attending virtually was Professor Pierro Laureano, Director IPOGEA Traditional Knowledge Research Center.

The key recommendations derived from panel are as follows:

- Recommendation 1:** As the creative economy is growing faster than the world economy, it is important to engage women in this sector.
- Recommendation 2:** Adaptation of heritage art and ecological projects to modern technologies provide a great opportunity for development in any part of the world. The created products and services can be boosted by cooperation with the tourism sector. And it is important to realize international development projects in the field putting together entrepreneurs, investors, policy-makers and academic community.

The panel was moderated by Mrs. Veronika Peshkova, UNIDO Good Will Ambassador and a keynote address by Professor Pierro Laureano, Director IPOGEA Traditional Knowledge Research Center; in addition to the participation of Giovani Oliva, CEO Matera 2019 Foundation, Italy; Ahmed Yehia Nuba Eco Lodge, Egypt; Feryal Nass, Chairwoman, Bahrain Entrepreneurship Organization; Oliver Grün, President, Federal Association of IT-SMEs of Germany (BITMI), CEO - Grün software and, president - European Digital SME; Krunoslav Ris, Chief Executive Officer, Lumen Spei LTD

Panel 8

Smart Services of the Future: FDI and technology adoption trends, the shift in smart services and what to look forward to in the future

As the pressure is on for cities to optimize urban service management through efficient infrastructure, the panel discussed the best transformational adaptations that solution providers and policy makers are taking to deliver higher quality services more efficiently.

The Panel was moderated by John Hanna, Managing Director, GDP Global Development, UK; with the participation of Dr. Terry Tamminen, President of 7th Generation Advisors / Regions 20; Dr. Wu Jianbo, Secretary-General, Green & Smart Energy Organization; Stephen Taylor, Deputy Director General, Area Science Park; Lydia Alessio Verni, Director General, Agenzia Lavoro & Sviluppo Impresa - FVG Region; Hatem Aboullolo, Founder, Saber incubators and Accelerators; Mani James, Senior Vice President, Frost & Sullivan, India.



Panel 9: Regional and Global Integration - SME Coalition for Africa

The panel served as a platform to share best practices on the means of promoting economic development in Africa through entrepreneurship and innovation; it also addressed the challenges faced by African entrepreneurs/investors in developing joint investments and business partnerships with counterparts from the Arab Region in specific and the world in general.

The side event developed a collaborative action plan towards ensuring resilient African entrepreneurs, promoting domestic investment for leveraging foreign direct investment, in the backdrop of the 4th digital revolution, through creating and unleashing entrepreneurship and MSME growth.

The panel's opening remarks were given by HE Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, Director General, Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, and moderated by Didier Acouetey, President and CEO of AfricSearch; with the participation of H.E. Lucia Magano lipumbu, Minister of Industrialization and Trade, Namibia; Amadou Biteye, Executive Secretary-Elect, Africa Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), Vice President, Inclusive Growth Strategy, Visa; Carl Manlan, Vice President, Social Impact for Visa Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East, and Africa; William Kwende, Founder, Africana Infrastructure Capital Group; Nigest Haile, Founder and Executive Director, Center for Accelerated Women Economic Empowerment; Virtual Mabouba Diagne, Vice President Finance and Corporate Services, ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development.

- Recommendation 1:** Make access to finance affordable to allow SMEs to be more competitive
(reduce interest rate to 3%)
- Recommendation 2:** Combine Capacity building program, Access to Market and Access to finance as the best way to accelerate SMEs growth.
- Recommendation 3:** Facilitate regional expansion through government export assistance programs
- Recommendation 4:** Empower Women in business through specific programs
- Recommendation 5:** Act as a Coalition to create more impact on SMEs



Arab Entrepreneurship and Innovation Rally

In line with the overwhelming success of the 2019 Arab Rally; the 2nd edition of the Rally was organized under the auspices of the League of Arab States through the collective efforts of the Union of Arab Chambers, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain,

Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport, the Federation of UAE Chambers and the Bahrain Chamber. The Rally was sponsored by valU and the National Bank of Egypt; in addition to Expo Live as a logistical partner.

The Competition incentivized Arab students in an Arab university, to participate in submitting their innovative business ideas with the opportunity of having it reviewed and recognized by designated experts. The Competition, through its sponsors and partners, awarded students for their efforts and play an active role in inspiring and unleashing the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship whilst facilitating the provision of support services to convert these ideas into action

University students from 22 Arab countries, each country represented by one team, competed with their innovative and technological startup ideas. The focus was to attract influencers from the Entrepreneurship & Innovation Ecosystem, capacity building, and engage with university students and startups in all Arab countries.

Rally Objectives:

Teams were given the opportunity to submit their innovative business ideas and supporting video in any of the following areas; how robotics, ROVs, programming applications, AI, AR, VR, and smart technology can play a positive role in:

1. Industry 4.1
2. Tourism, trade and heritage
3. Food security and agricultural technologies
4. Green and blue economy
5. Post COVID Solutions

Statistics

Applications
Submitted (First
Screening)

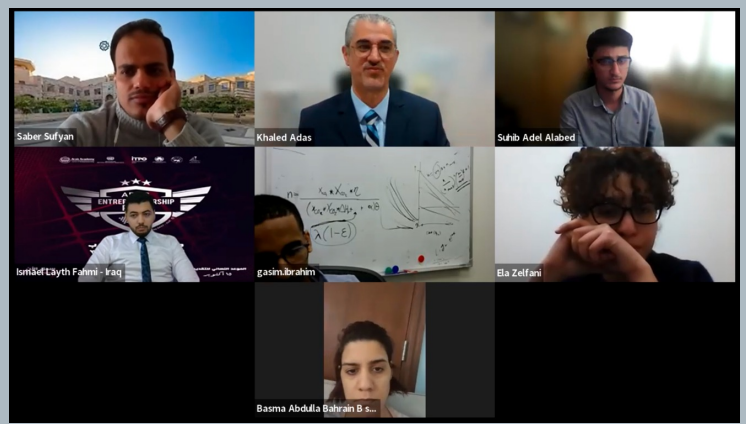
| Country | Applications Submitted |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Algeria | 71 |
| Bahrain | 17 |
| Djibouti | 1 |
| Egypt | 144 |
| Iraq | 48 |
| Jordan | 51 |
| Kuwait | 5 |
| Lebanon | 35 |
| Libya | 15 |
| Mauritania | 18 |
| Morocco | 70 |
| Oman | 17 |
| Palestine | 56 |
| Qatar | 1 |
| Saudi Arabia | 31 |
| Somalia | 19 |
| Sudan | 16 |
| Syria | 3 |
| Tunisia | 26 |
| United Arab Emirates | 13 |
| Yemen | 64 |
| Total | 721 |

Arab Rally Boot Camp

The top 21 shortlisted teams received a 2-day virtual boot camp presented by Khaled Adas, international expert on innovation, aimed at developing their pitching skills and fine-tuning their business plans. In addition to that they were featured in the WEIF Smart Zone Expo where they presented their innovations / technologies and to connect with investors and other potential business partners. On March 27th the teams presented their business ideas to a panel of VIP judges to decide on the winning teams.

The winning teams received the opportunity to pitch their ideas in front of the WEIF participants at Dubai Expo.

Virtual Pre-Incubation Bootcamp, validating the business plans and pitching skills:



Arab Rally 2022



Competition Results:

1st Place:

The Bevol project from Syria, which is an independent interactive platform that promotes a culture of volunteerism and social responsibility through motivational means.

2nd Place:

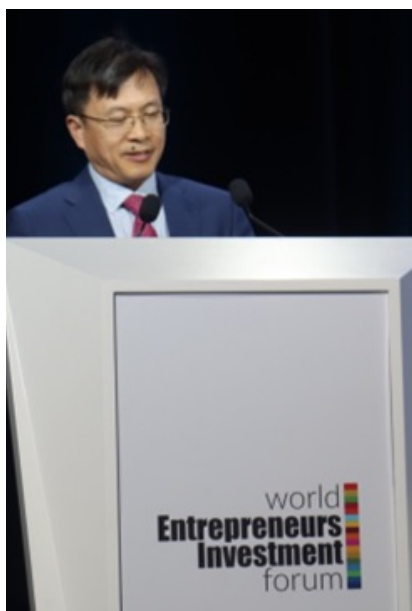
Walter from Palestine, a gray water treatment system that finds a solution to the problems of water shortage.

3rd Place:

Cloud, a startup company from Lebanon, which produces affordable, hypoallergenic, organic and biodegradable sanitary pads to combat poverty related to women's health.

In addition to the winners of the first three places in the competition, two appreciation awards were presented to two teams from Qatar and Tunisia.

WEIF 2022 Closing Session



The closing session was held in the presence of HE Mr. Ahmed Abou El Gheit, Secretary General of the League of Arab States whereby he hailed the enthusiasm and lively interaction of entrepreneurs and officials over the WEIF days. He also concluded that an overwhelming consensus has been reached that one of the main keys to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is through a more inclusive and sustainable environment for entrepreneurs, with special attention to people with disabilities, youth, and women on the macro, meso and micro-level and the call for exploring and expanding into new investment sectors namely Green and Renewable Economy, Blue Economy, Orange Creative Economy with a focus on reviving trade and heritage.

Speaking in the session was HE Mr. Ciyong Zou, Managing Director, Directorate of Program, Partnerships and Field Coordination, UNIDO; whereby he praised the major development of WEIF and hailed its integration with AIM. He also stated that "...both events are playing a crucial role towards achieving economic development and we have seen the focus during these days on how we can create, ensure resilience and developing tools that would help the global economy to strive and grow; in the backdrop of the COVID pandemic and the fast digital transformation; yet at the same time working collectively toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals."

As a gesture of appreciation, the WEIF secretariate awarded the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa for their continuous support and partnership to WEIF since 2015. In addition to an award was provided to HE Mr. Farouk Y. Almoayyed in recognition for his lifetime outstanding support to Economic Development; and finally, HE Mr. Raouf Abou Zaki in recognition for his pioneering role in supporting the Arab private sector.

In line with the 3-day deliberations the call of action was summarized in the “United Arab Emirates WEIF 2022 Declaration” and announced by two entrepreneurs namely; Mrs. Antonia Coker Caramba, Owner Wickburn Services and Consultancy from Sierra Leone and Mr. Hadi Diwani, Owner Eat Co. from Bahrain.

The Declaration was submitted to the Annual Investment Forum, and subsequently handed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the United Arab Emirates in order to be submitted officially to the United Nations General Assembly for its endorsement.



*Please revert to Annex 2 for the WEIF Declaration.

Additional Side Initiatives

Enterprise Development and Investment Promotion Program - Boosting Women Creativity

In the build up to WEIF; ITPO Bahrain in cooperation with the Women Council at the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and the Emirates Business Women Council conducted a 3-day virtual EDIP capacity building program targeting 49 Egyptian and Emirati Women entrepreneurs towards boosting women creativity and the means to develop, sustain and grow their projects.

People of Determination Economic Empowerment

One of the main initiatives announced during WEIF is the launch of the "People of Determination Initiative for Economic Empowerment" held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, Chairman of Emirates Airline and in the presence of HE Dr. Ahmed Abou El Gheit, Secretary General, League of Arab States

The initiative calls for a collective effort between the Union of Arab Chambers and the International People of Determination Expo (AccessAbilities Expo) headquartered in Dubai and through the technical support of ITPO Bahrain in establishing an incubation management system program targeting initially the Arab countries and the United Arab Emirates in particular. The program aims at facilitating and unleashing the entrepreneurial and economic capabilities of people of determination and developing smart projects that can play a positive role in ensuring they can live independently.



Media Coverage

WEIF – AIM received a wide media coverage represented by 500 media representatives representing local, regional and international audio-visual channels, written, social media and the UN Official media team from New York.

The social media coverage was shared across multiple platforms and accounts including WEIF, AIM and UNIDO Bahrain in addition to various partners thus creating 5,000 daily visits on each day of the event.

Social media activities included successful pre-event coverage, live and post-event coverage. The stories and posts were posted across 3 social media platforms – Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

The profile visits on ITPO Bahrain Facebook were up by 743% whereby a maximum of 2,000 people were present at any given time. The Twitter account topped an average of 1,000 impressions per day. As for Instagram, the highest number of views received by panel was 175 views. Furthermore, UNIDO ITPO Bahrain YouTube account was used to live broadcast. The WEIF AIM events were live streamed and the peak number of viewers reached 5,200.



Partners



Annex 2:

United Arab Emirates - World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2022 / Declaration

“Connecting Minds towards Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Investment Post COVID 19”

March 28 to 30, 2022 (HYBRID) / Dubai Expo, UAE

We, the participants in the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum held as an integral part of the 11th Annual Investment Meeting Under the Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai, met in Dubai Expo from March 28th to 30th, 2022 along with experts and entrepreneurs gathered from 100 different countries engaged in this integrated event.

Appreciating the United Arab Emirates leadership efforts towards sustainable development, we express our gratitude to the vision of His Highness towards achieving economic development and empowerment of youth and women across the World. We also express our sincere gratitude to the League of Arab States, Union of Arab Chambers, Dubai Expo 2020 and Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa.

Recognizing the role of UNIDO towards fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development and the considerable

achievements of previous editions of WEIF, we welcome the progress and environment it created, effectively enabling the importance of promoting entrepreneurial resilience and innovation towards sustainable development in the backdrop of the Fourth Industrial Digital Revolution.

We once again reiterate our gratitude and support to the WEIF secretariat in UNIDO ITPO Bahrain for their role in promoting resilience and economic development;

1. We express our strong commitment to achieving the 17 Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
2. We recognize that entrepreneurship and innovation are the driving force to the creation of jobs, spurring of economic growth and the realization of social gains;
3. We are united in our belief that the empowerment of women at all economic levels is crucial in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals through innovation and entrepreneurship;
4. We recommend that all efforts are focused towards achieving sustainable development through entrepreneurship and innovation that can be accomplished via strong, inclusive, sustainable and resilient economic growth;
5. We recommend that developing strong partnerships are built between entrepreneurs, women and men alike, to share best practices in line with linking financial to non-financial services towards the development of entrepreneurs and MSMEs;
6. We encourage the active involvement of women in all sectors through entrepreneurship and innovation;
7. We recommend that sound economic policies, legislation and programs be adopted as important strategies and elements of sustainable development to strengthen and ensure women's empowerment at the national, regional, and global levels;
8. We call for exploring and expanding new investment sectors namely Green and Renewable Economy, Blue Economy, Orange Creative Economy with focus on trade and heritage
9. We call for special programs and initiatives that would economically empower people with disabilities
10. We call on all ecosystem stakeholders to adopt modalities that would leverage access to finance, access to markets, mentors, and economic infrastructure
11. We call upon governments, the private sector, philanthropists, civil society, financial institutions, think tanks, universities, schools, chambers, NGOs, media, and international organizations to cooperate in facilitating the promotion of resilient entrepreneurs and innovative enterprises towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals; through developing economic infrastructure, incubation management systems, etc.
12. We urge the international community, United Nations Organization, UNIDO, and other relevant international and regional organizations, think-tanks, institutions, civil societies and various stakeholders to take these recommendations into account when shaping their policies and strategies to support entrepreneurship and innovation for sustainable development.



Entrepreneurship, investment key to achieving SDGs and resilient po recovery



ITPO-UNIDO | Dr. Hashim Hussein, Head of Investment and Technology Promotion Office at UNIDO, inaugurates the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2022 at Expo Dubai.

28 March 2022 | Economic Development (/en/news/topic/economic-development)

A United Nations forum opened in Dubai today, spotlighting entrepreneurship, innovation, and investment in a post-pandemic recovery as vehicles to Development Goals (SDGs).

Held under the aegis of Dubai Exhibition Centre at Dubai Expo 2020, it is the 4th edition of the bi-annual World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum (WEIF 2022) which is co-sponsored by the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO (<https://www.unido.org/>))/Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (Ba

"The Dubai Expo 2020 is all about connectivity and connecting brains," said Dr. Hashim Hussein, Executive Director, WEIF.

"We'll see, in the coming three days, connecting brains between entrepreneurs and experts, from more than one hundred countries all over the world, experts in trade and skill development, experts in research, experts and scholars from universities, financial institutions, chambers and of course the NGOs a Mr. Hussein, who is also the head of Investment and Technology Promotion Offices at UNIDO (<https://www.unido.org/>) .

Over the next three days, more than 1,000 business leaders, government officials, academics and entrepreneurs will be discussing the ways to strengthen glc entrepreneurship, innovation and investment opportunities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>) .

This year WEIF's theme is Achieving the SDGs through Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Investment Post COVID 19, which is closely aligned with the theme c Sustainable Innovation for a Thriving Future."

The Sustainable Development Goals (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>) (SDGs), were adopted by the United N universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

Integration in a post-COVID world



UN Dubai Forum closes with calls for focus on women entrepreneurs and sustainable development for all



ITPO-UNIDO The closing day of the WEIF 2022 saw WEIF, UNIDO-ITPO, Arab League, Arab Chambers of Commerce, Chambers of Bahrain come together with the government of UAE Declaration 17 Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by 'connecting minds, connecting brains.'

30 March 2022 | Economic Development (/en/news/topic/economic-development)

The World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum (WEIF 2022) closed in Dubai on Wednesday with participants adopting the 'UAE Declaration', w collaboration, integration and connectivity across the Arab world and a strong focus on women entrepreneurs to help achieve the Sustainable by 2030.

Youth and innovation were the highlight of the Forum's closing ceremony, as the three top winners of the 'Arab Rally (<https://www.thewEIF.com/ab events/arab rally2>)' for Entrepreneurship and Innovation were announced. The entrepreneurship competition for university students from the Arab | sidelines of WEIF 2022.

Sustainable development through entrepreneurship

The closing day of the WEIF 2022 (<https://www.thewEIF.com/about-us/wEIF-2022>) saw the participants, partners and co-sponsors, including the U Organization (UNIDO (<https://www.unido.org/>)) -ITPO, as well as the Arab League, Arab Chambers of Commerce, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce the United Arab Emirates (UAE), express their strong commitment to achieving the 17 Global Goals (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>) outlined in the 203 (<https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>) for Sustainable Development.

Further, the UAE Declaration stated: "We recognize that entrepreneurship and innovation are the driving force to the creation of jobs, spurring of ex social gains; We recommend that all efforts are focused towards achieving sustainable development through entrepreneurship and innovation ths inclusive, sustainable and resilient economic growth."



مكتب الـ"يونيدو" في البحرين ينظم المنتدى العا الأعمال والاستثمار بدبي

تحت مظلة رواق جامعة الدول العربية في إكسبو دبي، عقد المنتدى العالمي لرواد الأعمال والاستثمار ٢٠٢٢ ترويج الاستثمار والتكنولوجيا التابع لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للتنمية الصناعية في البحرين بالشراكة مع اتد والمصرف العربي للتنمية الاقتصادية في إفريقيا، وذلك كجزء لا يتجزأ من منتدى الاستثمار السنوي الحادي السمو الشيخ محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم، نائب رئيس الدولة، رئيس مجلس الوزراء، حاكم دبي.

وتجدر الإشارة إلى أن المنتدى الأول الذي عقد في عام ٢٠١٥ ساهم في أن يصبح منتدى دولياً يهدف إلى تبادل الدولية وتبادل الخبرات حول وسائل تطوير النظام البيئي والمثالي وأن يطلق العنان للاستثمار المحلي ند المباشر من خلال ريادة الأعمال والابتكار والاستثمارات وإنشاء روابط وشراكات تجارية بين رواد الأعمال في ج

وتماشياً مع البيئة الحالية لريادة الأعمال تمحور المنتدى العالمي لرواد الأعمال والاستثمار ٢٠٢٢ حول معالجة مستوى الحكومات والمنظمات والقطاع الخاص لتحقيق النجاح في ريادة الأعمال والاقتصاد بعد COVID ١٩



أخبار الأمم المتحدة
@UNNewsArabic

...

"يمثل النجاح الذي يحققه رواد الأعمال دافعا ورضا بالنفس. أحيانا يأتيني رائد أعمال ويقول لي إنني دربته قبل 15 سنة وإنه نجح وفاقت ثروته مليون\$\$\$.. أنا رجل تنمية وإنسانية وأسعى لتقدم هذا الكوكب"

-حوار مع د. حسين رئيس @unidobahrain على هامش
@ExpoDubai في #WEIF2022
news.un.org/ar/interview/2...



5:56 pm · 1 May 2022 · Twitter Web App



الدكتور هاشم حسين: رواد الأعمال هم المستقبل وهم من يديرون



ITPO-UNIDO | الدكتور هاشم حسين، رئيس مكتب ترويج الاستثمار والتكنولوجيا التابع لمنظمة الأمم المتحدة للتنمية الصناعية (اليونيدو)، يفتتح منتدى رواد الأعمال في إكسبو دبي.

1 أيار/مايو 2022 | التنمية الاقتصادية (/ar/news/topic/economic-development/)

أكثر من أي وقت مضى، بدأ مفهوم ريادة الأعمال يكتسب زخما في المنطقة العربية. وتلعب تكنولوجيا الاتصالات والمعلومات دورا مهما في تسريع نمو الأعد

ويؤدي مكتب ترويج الاستثمار والتكنولوجيا التابع لمنظمة اليونيدو في البحرين دورا مهما في هذا الجانب.

إذ تتمثل مهمته في تعبئة الموارد المالية، والتكنولوجية، والمعرفية، والإدارية من البحرين والمنطقة العربية إلى البلدان النامية والاقتصادات التي تمر بمراحل انتقاليا

وظل المكتب ينظم باستمرار فعاليات عديدة متعلقة بمسألة ريادة الأعمال في الشرق الأوسط وأفريقيا من بينها المنتدى العالمي لرواد الأعمال والاستثمار.

الزميل عبد المنعم مكي تحدث إلى الدكتور هاشم حسين، رئيس مكتب ترويج الاستثمار والتكنولوجيا، في ختام فعاليات المنتدى العالمي الرابع (https://news.un.org/ar/story/2022/03/1097732) الذي عقد مؤخرا في دبي ضمن فعاليات معرض إكسبو (https://news.un.org/ar/audio/2022/04/1098092)

