

HOST



دائرة التنمية الاقتصادية
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ORGANISER



14TH WIEF

GLOBAL ECONOMIC AGENDA:
SHAPING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

6 - 8 FEBRUARY 2024

ABU DHABI NATIONAL EXHIBITION CENTRE (ADNEC)
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

PROGRAMME





GLOBAL ECONOMIC AGENDA: SHAPING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

OVERVIEW

As the world population continues to grow and natural resources become increasingly scarce, there is a growing need to promote sustainable economic growth. This could involve exploring new models for economic development that prioritise environmental sustainability and social equity, such as practices of Islamic macroeconomics, which emphasises the role of institutions, in ensuring equitable distribution of wealth and resources for all humankind. Therefore, a future economic agenda should offer a unique approach to economic development and financial stability grounded in diligent principles as well as values, while supporting needful innovation and technology, if not already in place.

Undeniably, a tenable economic agenda will offer significant prospects for the future. To achieve this, the 14th WIEF in Abu Dhabi will bring together leaders, experts, entrepreneurs and experienced individuals to focus on how countries can work together to create a more sustainable future, the need for sustainability in the global economy, ways to maximise economic growth and ensure the benefits of growth are shared fairly across society through policies and collaborations of governments, enterprises and individuals.

PROGRAMME

DAY 1 // 6 FEB 2024

8.00am – 9.30am	Arrival of guests and participants Registration
10.00am – 12.00pm	OPENING SESSION OF 14th WIEF
12.00pm – 1.00pm	PLENARY 1 – FACE-TO-FACE Technology in the Changing World Technology has significantly impacted the world, transforming various sectors, changing the nature of work, enhancing communication, and driving societal changes. A unique one-to-one session with the Moderator, where the Speaker will address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The opportunities and challenges harnessed by the organisation • Factors influencing organisational success • Development strategy and plans for the future
1.00pm – 2.30pm	Lunch / Informal Networking
2.30pm – 3.30pm	PLENARY 2 Middle East’s Economic Prospect: Building Bridges, Driving Prosperity Discover emerging trends, opportunities, and strategies that have been developed in the Middle East for a prosperous future. Experts from diverse sectors shared their insights and experiences, shedding light on the potential of the Middle East to become a global hub for cutting-edge advancements. The panel discussion will focus on various key areas including technology, sustainability, innovation, and economic growth. This session will discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of technology in shaping the Middle East's future • Middle East's economic potentials within the emerging sectors • Sustainable practices to mitigate environmental impact in the region • The region's potential through collaboration, sharing knowledge and partnerships across sectors

<p>3.30pm – 4.30pm</p>	<p>PLENARY 3 Global Outlook: What’s Driving the Economy?</p> <p>Despite various challenges, the global economy is expected to rebound in 2024 with Middle East and Asia showing positive trends in macroeconomic growth prospects. However, factors such as sudden repricing in financial market, tight monetary policy due to elevated inflation, widespread social unrest and escalations in geopolitical tensions could further fragment and influence the trajectory of an already fragile global economy.</p> <p>This session will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic strategies for now and beyond • Forecasts and insights into the global economy • Changes to policies affecting global trade and economic collaboration
<p>4.30pm – 5.30pm</p>	<p>PLENARY 4 Economic Shift to the East: Follow the Money</p> <p>Asia witnessed a massive transformation in the latter half of the 20th century with the rise of Japan and the Asian Tigers. An economic miracle through the first quarter of the 21st century has been the rise of China into a global economic superpower. Industrialisation, rising per capita income, high investment and saving rates, improved education as well as literacy rates, all contributed to the supercharged economic development of East Asia. With China, now on the cusp of surpassing the United States in economic prowess, it is shifting the global economic balance towards the East.</p> <p>This session will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic centre of gravity shifting to the East • Implications of the shift to the rest of the world • Challenges and opportunities for businesses • Geopolitical security and global economy
<p>5.30pm</p>	<p>Refreshments / Informal networking</p>
<p>7.00pm – 9.30pm</p>	<p>GALA DINNER</p>
<p>9.30pm</p>	<p>END OF DAY ONE</p>

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DAY 2 // 7 FEB 2024

<p>9.00am – 11.00am</p>	<p>BUSINESS NETWORKING BREAKFAST</p> <p>4 thematic clusters to complement the Plenary Sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of <i>Islamic Fintech</i> • <i>SMEs</i> and Internationalisation: Winning Strategies • Business Potential of <i>Islamic Cultural Entertainment</i> • <i>Waqf and Islamic Microfinance</i>: Empowering Communities
<p>11.00am – 12.00pm</p>	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION 1 - YOUNG LEADERS SESSION Investing in Youth: Ensuring a Bright Future</p> <p>There are 1.8 billion people between the ages of 10 and 24 in the world today. The big challenge will be to find gainful employment for the young, especially at a time when AI and other technologies are expected to upend the labour market. In the Arab World, there is a need to create 100 million jobs for youths entering the labour market. Youths are influencing urbanisation, technological trends, civil society and national policies. With the right investments, guidance and policies, they can become future leaders, entrepreneurs and agents of change. At the same time, intergenerational inequality, unaffordable housing and non-steady employment are leaving many youths behind in the new economy.</p> <p>This session will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practices to enhance the level of youth expertise and productivity • Government policies to promote young entrepreneurship and small business development • Importance of young people’s voice in addressing challenges impacting their future
<p>11.00am – 12.30pm</p>	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION 2 - BUSINESSWOMEN SESSION Women in Tech: Closing the Gender Gap</p> <p>The global digital transformation provides new platform for the economic empowerment of women and creates a pathway to greater gender equality. This new phenomenon helped women explore new opportunities and contribute to shape the digital ecosystems in their entrepreneurship world.</p> <p>This session will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors underpinning the digital gender divide • Opportunities to help advance women in tech industry • Driving change and breaking glass ceilings in ICT industry • Gender equality achievements in selected countries

<p>12.00pm – 1.00pm</p>	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION 3 Environmental Crisis: How ESG Investments Affect Islamic Finance</p> <p>Islamic finance and ESG investing have a shared principle of good stewardship towards the environment. If these two branches of finance converge, it could possibly lead to the opening up of Islamic finance market to ESG investors worldwide.</p> <p>This session will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for Islamic finance to build new markets • Differences and similarities of the two investment approaches • Challenges in constructing a common ESG or Islamic finance investment proposition
<p>1.00pm – 2.30pm</p>	<p>Lunch / Informal Networking</p>
<p>2.00pm – 3.00pm</p>	<p>MASTERCLASS 1 Usefulness of Web 3</p> <p>The technologies, networks and protocols supporting the internet are evolving at a rapid pace and affect user experience.</p> <p>This session will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explanation and in-depth guide of Web 3 • Benefits of metaverse for business applications • Downside, issues and future projections of metaverse • Potential to integrate metaverse into the broader crypto-economy
<p>2.30pm – 3.30pm</p>	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION 4 Food Security: Sustainable, Affordable, Accessible</p> <p>Food security exists when everyone has physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meet their basic needs. In a world so rich there are still millions who go hungry each day. Not only is this a human tragedy, but it is also a lost economic opportunity in not developing a country's greatest asset – its human capital. When people are hungry or food insecure, they are hindered in learning, or to apply themselves effectively at their jobs. In extreme cases, they may also lead to counterproductive social behaviour. An urgent and concerted multi-dimensional action plan has to be put in place.</p> <p>This session will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solutions to challenges in ensuring accessible and affordable food • Sustainable farming techniques • Community food systems, national and global food policies • Strategic alliances and collaborations • Abu Dhabi's achievements in agritech to turn the desert green

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<p>3.00pm – 4.00pm</p>	<p>MASTERCLASS 2 Environmental Education in Schools: Starting Young</p> <p>It is important that environmental education is introduced in schools as it propels and inspires school children to become more engaged with their communities and raise greater awareness in protecting the environment in which they live.</p> <p>This session will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How education promotes environmental awareness • Benefits of environment education model programme • Alliances and collaboration
<p>3.30pm – 4.30pm</p>	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION 5 Green Economy and Islamic Finance: Towards a Sustainable Future</p> <p>An economy supported by Islamic finance may be able to address some of the shortcomings that may otherwise arise in solving challenges from climate change. Islamic finance emphasis on balance between economic and environmental factors can be crucial in moving towards a more sustainable future.</p> <p>This session will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synergies between Islamic finance and sustainable finance • Role of Islamic finance in the green economy • Challenges and potential of Islamic green finance • Adoption of Islamic finance by governments as part of its sustainable finance policy
<p>4.00pm – 5.00pm</p>	<p>MASTERCLASS 3 Digital Health and AI</p> <p>Challenges such as the rising cost of healthcare, physician burnout, inconsistent, and complex nature of health data have caused the healthcare industry, as well as governments, to increasingly adopt machine learning into their delivery of health services. This is expected to accelerate the pace of innovation and improve efficiency; However, as with any new technology, there are bumps along the way to the transition.</p> <p>This session will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of AI in healthcare • Security, legal issues and future development • Realities and projections • Efforts by governments in implementing new technologies • Examples of advances in AI in healthcare

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4.30pm – 5.30pm	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION 6 Economic Recovery: Role of Halal Industry</p> <p>The halal industry has proven to be resilient despite the challenges in the last few years. Many Muslim-majority economies have identified the halal industry as an engine of growth in their economic recovery plans.</p> <p>This session will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shift in perception towards the halal industry• Enhanced ecosystem and synergistic collaboration between stakeholders• Future of the halal industry• Impact of tourism on countries with growing halal industries
5.30pm	Refreshments / Informal Networking
6.30pm – 8.30pm	MOCOfest SOUNDSCAPE CONCERT
8.30pm	END OF DAY TWO

PROGRAMME

DAY 3 // 8 FEB 2024

9.00am – 10.30am

PLENARY 5 - SPOTLIGHT: ABU DHABI Abu Dhabi: The Future of Investing

Abu Dhabi strives to nurture businesses in all sectors and welcomes all businesses to set up in the city. Abu Dhabi has historically focused on areas where it has a competitive advantage and can help drive global innovation. But at the same time, bold moves are also needed to move into high-value spaces without a history in the region. The sectors that Abu Dhabi is currently targeting as part of its Industrial Strategy include financial services, tourism, agtech, ICT, health services and biopharma.

This session will showcase:

- Opportunities for entrepreneurs to be a part of Abu Dhabi's economic growth
- Areas of interest for foreign investments as well as the framework and incentives for investors

10.30am – 11.30am

PLENARY 6 The Path Towards Net Zero

The campaign towards carbon neutral economy is essential for the global economy to avoid catastrophic climate change. All sectors of society and economy are rallying behind net zero – a goal to achieve global net zero in carbon production by 2050. It is a huge commitment that requires changes in policy, how businesses are run, and through all parts of society. Where there is change, there will also be opportunities. The path towards net zero need not, and should not, be detrimental for the economy. The objective is to create a decarbonised economy and reaffirm the pledge expressed in the Paris Agreement and to find ways to repivot the economy towards a green economy that provides green jobs, green opportunities and measures green outputs.

This session will discuss:

- Strategies for meaningful contribution towards sustainability and climate change fight
- Positioning sustainability as a market differentiator
- Abu Dhabi's plans to achieve net zero by 2050

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DAY 3 // 8 FEB 2024

11.30am – 12.30pm	<p>PLENARY 7 Sustainable Energy: Powering Future Needs</p> <p>A large portion of greenhouse gases (GHG) is generated through energy production, mainly by fossil fuels to produce electricity and heat. About 75 per cent of the world's GHG comes from coal, oil and gas. To achieve net zero by 2050, cleaner, affordable and sustainable renewable energy sources like the sun, wind, water and waste are needed.</p> <p>This session will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technological developments, new trends, research and future projections• Strategic alliances and collaborations• Strategies to encourage industries and communities to embrace sustainable energy• Abu Dhabi's green energy transformation plan
12.30pm – 1.00pm	<p>CLOSING SESSION OF 14th WIEF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statement on 14th WIEF read by Secretary General, WIEF Foundation• Address by Representative of Department of Economic Development Abu Dhabi and Host of 14th WIEF• Vote of Thanks by Chairman, WIEF Foundation
1.00pm	<p>Lunch / Informal Networking</p>
1.00pm	<p>END OF 14th WIEF</p>

OTHER PROGRAMMES



WIEF EXHIBITION & BUSINESS EXCHANGE

6 – 8 February 2024

WIEF Exhibition provides organisations an opportunity to promote their brands whilst engaging with guests and participants of the Forum. Exhibitors include SMEs, NFPs, corporations, media organisations and country pavilions.

Business Exchange is a platform for organisations to expand their outreach by hosting a networking table at the Business Exchange Lounge. The session is crafted around a 7-minute business presentation, followed by a networking session with interested participants at the designated tables.



WIEF MOCAfest

6 – 8 February 2024

WIEF MOCAfest is an international arts and culture festival. It is an initiative to recognise the potential of the creative industries and its role in economic empowerment and social enterprise. A melting pot of artistic expressions, where artists come together to create unique blends of arts cutting across race, religion and culture.



COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAMMES

7 February 2024

Complementary Programmes comprise a series of dedicated sessions for organisations or governments to engage with an exclusive group of audience on specific topics of interest.



WIEF SCALEUP

7 February 2024

WIEF ScaleUp is a one-day pitching platform for established startups from all over to pitch to investors for funds to develop their already working product or service further. Thus, bringing it to the next level. It is also a platform for them to explore possible partnerships and widen their global network.



WIEF LinkedUp

7 – 8 February 2024

WIEF LinkedUp is an online business matching system for 14th WIEF Forum participants to use to engage with new business contacts and networks for possible collaborations. It allows participants to schedule meetings online and meet face-to-face at the LinkedUp Lounge.

HOST



دائرة التنمية الاقتصادية
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ABOUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (ADDED)

Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (ADDED) regulates the business sector in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and leads economic initiatives to achieve a knowledge-based, diversified, and sustainable economy.

ADDED proposes policies and best practices based on the latest research and statistics from local, regional, and global indicators to drive growth and diversity across various sectors.

ADDED also prepares strategic programs by adopting the best economic and administrative practices, employing the best human resources, and using the latest global technology and expertise. It advances the economic interests of Abu Dhabi by cooperating with regional and international partners, creating innovative synergies built on transparency, innovation, and knowledge exchange. All this benefits the business ecosystem and makes Abu Dhabi's investment globally attractive. A competitive investment climate is further enhanced by promoting the emirate's business-friendly strengths worldwide.



www.added.gov.ae



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ORGANISER



ABOUT WORLD ISLAMIC ECONOMIC FORUM FOUNDATION

The World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) Foundation was established in 2006. It is the organising body of the annual World Islamic Economic Forum. The Forum serves as a focal point where country leaders, captains of industry, emerging entrepreneurs, academics and other stakeholders from the Muslim World and beyond, meet to build bridges through business. The Foundation also undertakes various capacity building programmes under the WIEF initiatives of the Businesswomen Network (WBN), Young Leaders Network (WYN), Education Trust (WET), Roundtable Series (WRT) and Powertalk (WPT).

 www.wief.org


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