

THE ARAB WORLD'S NEW NORMAL: Challenges, opportunities and what next?

9-10 May 2012 – The Grand Hyatt, Washington D.C.

Wednesday 9 May 2012

17.00-17.30	Participant registration
17.30-19.00	<p>Roundtable</p> <p><i>The Arab world one year after... Struggling for political and economic stabilization</i></p> <p>What characterizes the new Arab world landscape and how does this impact on the region's prospect for either stabilization or protracted uncertainty?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ One year later, what is the state of play for the Arab world?✓ What initial indications about the ability of Islamist parties now in power to meet the crucial economic challenges confronting them?✓ What are the prospects for stabilization? <p><u>Discussion leaders:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marina Ottaway, Senior Associate, Middle East Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, USA• Michael Singh, Managing Director, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, USA <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Claude Smadja, Founder and President, Smadja & Smadja, Switzerland
19.00-19.30	Welcome cocktail reception
19.30-21.30	<p>Opening dinner</p> <p><i>A fragmented economic outlook for the Arab world: What should business focus on?</i></p> <p>In a weak global economic context and as political uncertainties continue to cloud the picture the ability to restore some life in the economies of the countries in turmoil might prove to be the most important make or break factor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are the Islamist parties now in power "ready for business"• How will businesses address the sustainability challenge in a context of regional political turmoil and global uncertainty?• How can the Arab world avoid an even greater divide between the big oil producers in the region and the other countries? <p><u>Discussion leaders:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inger Andersen, Vice President, Middle East and North Africa Region, The World Bank, USA



- **Bhushan Bahree**, Senior Director for Global Oil and the Middle East, IHS, USA
- **Clyde Prestowitz**, Founder & President, Economic Strategy Institute, USA

Moderator:

- **Amin G. Salam**, Director, Business Development Nation U.S. Arab Chamber of Commerce, USA

Thursday 10 May 2012

9.00-12.30 *Assessing the region's big question marks: What signposts, what prospects?*

09.00-10.00 Roundtable

→ *Egypt's transition as a bellwether for the Arab world: What to expect?*

With the Islamists having established their victory in the 6th polls, Egypt is entering a new phase of the post-revolution era where the ability to get the economy re-started might well be the make or break factor between stabilization and protracted chaos.

- ✓ Will the Muslim Brotherhood be able to cooperate with other political forces and can it achieve a modus vivendi with the military?
- ✓ What the presidential election will tell about the prospects for stabilization
- ✓ Can a consensus be reached on how to run the economy to get back to much needed growth?

Discussion leaders:

- **Khairi Abaza**, Senior Fellow, the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD), USA
- **Mohamed Elmenshawy**, Scholar, the Middle East Institute; Columnist, Egyptian daily Ashorouk News, USA
- **Curt Silvers**, Executive Vice President, National US-Arab Chamber of Commerce

Moderator:

- **Claude Smadja**, Founder and President, Smadja & Smadja, Switzerland

10.00-10.15 Coffee break

10.15-11.15 Roundtable

→ *What scenarios for Syria?*

- ✓ How long will Basher Al Assad be able to rely on violent repression to maintain his tight grip on power?
- ✓ What possible scenarios for Syria and what are their implications for the region's balance of forces?

Discussion leaders:

- **David Schenker**, Aufzien Fellow and Director, Program on Arab Politics, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, USA
- **Andrew J. Tabler**, Next Generation Fellow, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, USA
- **Radwan Ziadeh**, Executive Director, Syrian Center for Political & Strategic Studies, USA

Moderator:

- **Yael Smadja**, President, Smadja & Smadja USA, USA

11.15-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-12.30 Roundtable

→ *Libya: How will the major uncertainties for business be addressed?*

- ✓ Will Libya's National Transitional Council (NTC) be able to stabilize the country and keep it together?
- ✓ What will be the influence of Islamist movement on Libya's political future?
- ✓ Will the June elections help create some predictability for the economy – and especially the energy and infrastructure sectors?

Discussion leaders:

- **Mansour O. El-Kikhia**, Chair of the Department of Political Science and Geography, University of Texas at San Antonio, USA
- **Fadel Lamen**, President, American-Libyan Council, USA

Moderator:

- **Claude Smadja**, Founder and President, Smadja & Smadja, Switzerland

12.45-14.00 Follow-up luncheon

Participants will be able to select specific tables to follow-up on the discussions about Egypt, Syria, and Libya

14.15-15.30 Roundtable

The Gulf countries: A safety zone for investors in the midst of Arab turmoil?

- ✓ Testing the waters for gradual reforms rather than radical changes to answer some of the aspirations of the middle class and of the youth
- ✓ Assessing the structural investment plans in the key countries of the Gulf
- ✓ How will the monarchies be able to coexist with new regimes emerging from popular revolts or revolutions?

Discussion leaders:

- **Ali Al-Ahmed**, Founder and Director, Institute for Gulf Affairs, USA
- **Jean-Francois Seznec**, Visiting Associate Professor, Georgetown University, USA
- **Daniel Yergin**, Chairman, IHS CERA and Executive Vice President, IHS, USA

Moderator:

- **Judith Kipper**, Director, Middle East Programs at the Institute of World Affairs, USA

15.30-15.45 Coffee break

15.45-16.45 Roundtable

What kind of influence will the US maintain in the Arab world and how?

The developments of the last two years have raised questions about the US' ability to maintain a strong influence in the Arab world and its reliability as a strategic ally for the monarchies of the region, while Iran remains a major strategic concern and Turkey is pushing to expand its role and influence in the region.

- ✓ How will the business, trade and economic dimensions play out in shaping the US role and influence in the region in the coming years?
- ✓ In what ways can the US continue to assert its influence in a reshaped Arab world?
- ✓ What does the interplay between the US, Turkey and Iran mean for the region's stability?

Discussion leaders:

- **Michele Dunne**, Director, Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, the Atlantic Council, USA
- **Stephen R. Grand**, Director, U.S. Relations with the Islamic World, Fellow, Foreign Policy, Brookings Institution, USA

	<p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yael Smadja, President, Smadja & Smadja USA, USA
16.45-17.00	Coffee break
17.00-18.15	<p>Roundtable</p> <p><i>The shifting business landscape in the Arab world: time to stand still or time to move forward, and if so, in what direction?</i></p> <p>The business and investment landscape in the Arab world is being redrawn. While major political and economic uncertainties are leading many investors to a “wait and see” attitude, some assets classes in the Gulf countries have benefited from the turmoil in the region; and while billions of investment dollars remain frozen, the medium and long term prospects of the 400 million plus people market cannot be ignored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How could business leverage new opportunities as the changes in Arab countries have overturned entrenched interests and opened the door for new entrants in some sectors? • What questions should investors and business people ask themselves? • Where are the biggest growth opportunities? • Could the changes in the Arab world bring the region into the global supply chain, opening a whole new range of opportunities? <p><u>Discussion leaders:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saifaldin D. Abdul-Rahman, Vice-President, IWG, USA • Nigel J. Sutton, Director, International BD Operations, Raytheon International, USA <p><u>Moderator:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amin G. Salam, Director, Business Development Nation U.S. Arab Chamber of Commerce, USA
18.15-18.25	Closing remarks
18.30-19.00	Farewell drinks

Smadja & Smadja thanks the following organizations for their collaboration



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