AGENDA

Registration [12.30pm-1pm]

Opening Session [1pm-1.30pm]

- Recitation from the Holy Quran
- Opening Remarks by Dr. Mohamed Jouini, Acting Director General, IRTI
- Statement by H.E. Dr. Mohamed Anouar Maarouf, Minister of Communication Technologies and Digital Economy, Tunisia
- Keynote Speech by Dr. Hayat Sindi, Senior Advisor to the President, IDB

Panel Session I: FinTech and Islamic Finance [1.30pm-2.20pm]

Topics of Discussion:

- Latest trends in FinTech and blockchain technology
- Islamic finance for development solutions using FinTech
- Role of FinTech in economic development

Panelists:

- Dr. Tunc Uyanik, CEO, World SME Forum
- Matthew Van Niekerk, Co-Founder of SettleMint, Belgium
- Dr. Mahmoud-Sami Nabi, Full Professor of Economics, University of Carthage

Moderator: Dr. Dawood Ashraf, Acting Manager Research Division, IRTI/IDB

Panel Session II: Open Learning [2.20pm-3:15pm]

Topics of Discussion:

- Transforming learning and education using new technologies
- Some practices in open learning

Panelists:

- H.E. Dr. Anouar Maarouf, Minister of Communication Technologies and Digital Economy, Tunisia
- Dr. Rami Ahmad, IDB Special Envoy on SDGs
- Ms. Margot Brown, Director, Global Themes Knowledge Management, the World Bank

Moderator: Dr. Rami Abdelkafi, Acting Manager Training Division, IRTI/IDB
Dr. Uyanik has been the CEO of the World SME Forum since 2015. Before this, he was the Special Envoy and Chief Adviser to the President of TOBB and B20. He was also the Chair of the Turkish B20 Steering Committee; Director of the Financial and Private Sector Development Department in East Asia and Pacific Region at the World Bank; and Director of the Financial Systems Global Practice. He was co-chair of the Financial Sector Liaison Committee (FSLC), which is the decision making body on Financial Sector Assessment Programs and other joint financial sector activities of the World Bank Group with the IMF.

Matthew Van Niekerk, an Economist and holder of MBA, is the Co-Founder of SettleMint, a company offering a suite of modular middleware solutions that remove the complexity of the blockchain journey for organisations. Matthew has led SettleMint, since its founding in 2006, to deliver blockchain-based solutions for electoral processes, identity management, Shari’ah-compliant finance and community empowerment. SettleMint is recognised among the top three blockchain companies in Europe, and is the winner of numerous FinTech and blockchain awards in Europe and the Middle East.

Dr. Mahmoud-Sami Nabi is a Full Professor of Economics at the University of Carthage, Tunisia. Previously, he was Head of the Economics Department at Tunisia Polytechnic School (TPS); Senior Economist at IRTI of IDB; and Vice-Director of IHEC Sousse (University of Sousse). Dr. Nabi holds an Engineering Diploma from TPS, and a PhD in economics from the University of Paris I Sorbonne. He published several papers in refereed international journals under the broader theme of finance development. He participated as economist and team leader in many international strategic reports and consultancies.

Dr. Dawood Ashraf is a Senior Researcher at Islamic Research and Training Institute of IDB Group. He led several important projects including Global Report on Islamic Finance. He has combined banking and academic experience of more than 20 years. His research interests are in portfolio management, banking, corporate finance, Islamic capital markets, and Islamic banking with special focus on the interaction of incentive structure and risk-taking behavior of financial institutions. He holds a PhD in Banking and Finance from the University Wales, UK. He is also a charter holder and member of the CFA Institute.

H.E. Dr. Mohamed Anouar Maarouf is the Tunisian Minister of Technology and the Digital Economy. He holds a Master of Change Management from Université Paris-Dauphine and a PhD in Mathematics from the University Joseph Fourier in Grenoble (France). He began his career as a consultant to numerous prominent companies including France Telecom, Bouygues Telecom, SFR and Nokia. He joined the Department of Information Technology and Communication as Adviser to the Minister and was in charge of, among other responsibilities, the steering of the National Strategy Tunisia Numérique 2018.

Dr. Rami Ahmad is Special Envoy on SDGs and Senior Advisor to the President, IDB Group. Since joining IDB in 1993, he has been involved in policy dialogue, partnership strategies, country programing, project appraisal and implementation in most of the 57 member countries. He was instrumental in reviving the IDB cultural model and enhancing the work environment. Dr. Rami holds a Master’s degree in Systems Science, a PhD in Business Administration from Louisiana State University, and a Master’s degree in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Ms. Margot Brown is the Director of Global Themes Knowledge Management at the World Bank Group. Prior to joining the World Bank, she served as the Executive Director of Knowledge Services with KPMG Canada, Director of Knowledge Management with Canada Health Infoway, and Manager of Organizational Development at PricewaterhouseCoopers. She is an information and knowledge management professional with leadership experience in both the private and public sectors, and experienced in developing and implementing innovative and effective knowledge programs.

Dr. Rami Abdelkafi is a Senior Research Economist and Acting Manager of the Training Division at the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI). He joined the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in August 2008 and has accumulated experience in the field of economic development. Prior to this, Rami worked as Assistant Professor at the University of Sfax in Tunisia. He earned a Doctorate in Economics from the University of Nice, France, in 2002. His areas of expertise are economic growth and development, Islamic economics and finance, and macroeconomic policies.