



M A S

Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute

**Annual Conference**

**Economic Unity: A Key for Ending  
the Occupation and Sustainable Development**

23-24 January 2011

# Introduction

The Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute – MAS continues to hold an annual conference to discuss in depth one of the strategic and pressing issues of the Palestinian economy, with the participation of policy makers, leaders of the private sector and the civil society as well as economic researchers.

The following are some of the topics addressed by previous MAS conferences; ‘Enhancing the Capacity of the Palestinian Economy’ in 2002, ‘Palestinian Economy Agenda in a Transforming Environment’ in 2005, ‘Unemployment in the Palestinian Territories: Reality and Strategies to Alleviate it’ in 2006, and finally ‘Palestinian Economy: forty Years of Occupation – Forty Years of Arrested Development’ in 2007. These conferences contributed to the enhancement of knowledge on the reality of the Palestinian economy and helped in highlighting the challenges facing the Palestinian economy. They also attracted the attention to the research and reports prepared by MAS, expanding their adoption and use as a key source for economic and social policy and decision making.

This conference focuses on the ‘Palestinian Economic Unity: A Key for Ending the Occupation and for the Sustainable Development of the Independent Palestinian State’. The choice of this topic is a contribution from MAS in emphasizing the importance of the unity of the Palestinian economy and of ending the political divide that occurred after Hamas took over the Gaza Strip in June 2007. This also highlights the risks of dealing lightly with the threats of an established divide, and the risks of dealing without national responsibility with the need for regaining the unity of the two parts of the homeland.



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## INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

### **The Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS)**

Founded in Jerusalem in 1994 as an independent, non-profit institution to contribute to the policy-making process by conducting economic and social policy research. MAS is governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of prominent academics, businessmen and distinguished personalities from Palestine and the Arab Countries.

### **Mission**

MAS is dedicated to producing sound and innovative policy research, relevant to economic and social development in Palestine, with the aim of assisting policy-makers and fostering public participation in the formulation of economic and social policies.

### **Strategic Objectives**

- ◆ Promoting knowledge-based policy formulation by conducting economic and social policy research in accordance with the expressed priorities and needs of decision-makers.
- ◆ Evaluating economic and social policies and their impact at different levels for correction and review of existing policies.
- ◆ Providing a forum for free, open and democratic public debate among all stakeholders on the socio-economic policy-making process.
- ◆ Disseminating up-to-date socio-economic information and research results.
- ◆ Providing technical support and expert advice to PNA bodies, the private sector, and NGOs to enhance their engagement and participation in policy formulation.
- ◆ Strengthening economic and social policy research capabilities and resources in Palestine.

# MAS Annual Conference

## MAS 2010 Conference

Various social classes and economic sectors in the Palestinian Territory suffer from the geographic separation that exists between the two wings of the country- the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This geographic separation has been intensified with the closure imposed by the Israeli occupying forces, hindering human interaction and trade exchange. The political divide between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, since mid-2007, has reinforced and widened this gap.

The objective of the 2010 conference is to study the nature and implications of the economic gap that stems from the geographic and political separation between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Moreover, it aims to study the optimal approaches for bridging it and reintegrating the economy in such a way that utilizes the advantages of each part and secures an equitable distribution of the burden and fruits of economic development.

The conference will focus on analysing the implications of geographic separation, its economic disadvantages, and the need for bridging it on various fronts: economically, legally, administratively and concretely (infrastructure). Through thorough research and intensive debate the conference aims to achieve the following goals:

- ✧ Identify the root causes behind the existing economic gap between the West Bank and Gaza and the factors behind its rapid expansion over the last few years.
- ✧ Develop an economic vision of the role Gaza's economy can play in the sustainable economic development of an independent Palestine State.
- ✧ Study the possibilities for regional development: the relative spatial advantages in the various governorates of the future Palestinian State.
- ✧ Understand the mechanisms currently at work in Gaza's economy.
- ✧ Identify and study policies and mechanisms that can best integrate the two wings of the state. Seek possible alternatives to current infrastructure and administrative structures to help achieve this integration.

# Conference Schedule

<b>First Day 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2011</b>	
<b>9:00 -9:30</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>(9:30 -10:30)</b>	<b>Opening Session</b>
<b>9:30</b>	Dr. Samir Abdullah, Chair of Session
<b>9:40</b>	Dr. Ghania Malhees, MAS Chairwoman
<b>9:55</b>	Dr. Salam Fayyad – The Prime Minister
<b>10:15</b>	Dr. Mohammad Mostafa, Palestine Investment Fund CEO & Chairman - main Sponsor of the Conference
<b>10:30-11:00</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>First Session:</b>	<b>Development Gap, Internal Distortions and Disparities in the Palestinian Economy</b>
<b>(11:00-12:30)</b>	<i>Chair: Prof. Rami Al Hamdallah, President of An-Najah National University</i>
<b>11:05</b>	Presentation of paper: Dr. Samir Abdullah, Director General of MAS.
<b>11:30</b>	<b>Discussants:</b> Dr. Mohammad Al Samhouri, Economist. Dr. Adel Alzzagha, Vice-president for Planning & Development & Quality - Birzeit University.
<b>11:50</b>	Open Discussion
<b>Second Session:</b>	<b>The Palestine State: Economic Integration Despite Geographical Discontinuity</b>
<b>(12:30 -14:00)</b>	<i>Chair: Dr. Mohammad Mostafa, Palestine Investment Fund CEO &amp; Chairman</i>
<b>12:35</b>	Presentation of paper: Dr. Numan Kanafani, Copenhagen University and Fellow Researcher at MAS Institute.
<b>13:00</b>	<b>Discussants:</b> Dr. Muin Rajab, Lecturer at Al Azhar University -Gaza Ms. Samia Al Botmeh , Director of the Center for Development Studies.
<b>13:20-14:00</b>	Open Discussion
<b>(14:00-15:30):</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
<b>Third Session:</b>	<b>The Central Role of Jerusalem in the Development of an Independent Palestinian State</b>
<b>(15:30-17:00)</b>	<i>Chair: Dr. Sabri Saidam, Telecomm. and IT Advisor to the President</i>
<b>15:35</b>	Presentation of paper: Prof. Abd Al Fatah Abu Shokor, Prof. of Economics and Chairman of Economics Dep. An-Najah University.
<b>16:00</b>	<b>Discussants:</b> Eng. Mazen Sinokrot, CEO of Sinokrot Global Group Dr. Mahmoud Al Jafari, Prof. of Economics – Birzeit University
<b>16:20-17:00</b>	<b>Open Discussion</b>

## Second Day 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011

<b>Fourth Session:</b>	<b><i>Building an Efficient and Effective Public Administrative Structure Despite Geographical Separation</i></b>
<b>(9:00 – 10:30)</b>	<i>Chair: Dr. Ali Jarbawi, Minister of Planning and Administrative Development</i>
<b>09:05</b>	Presentation of paper: Dr. Nabeel Kassis, former Minister of Planning
<b>09:30</b>	<b>Discussants:</b> Dr. Walid Abed Rabboh, Economist and Businessman. Dr. Loay Shabaneh, Senior Advisor to the Population Public Census - United Nations Fund for Population-Iraq office/Jordan.
<b>10:30 – 09:50</b>	Open Discussion
<b>Fifth Session:</b>	<b><i>Options for Achieving Internal Economic Connectivity and Effective International Trade for a Viable Palestinian State</i></b>
<b>(10:30-12:00)</b>	<i>Chair: Mrs. Ola Awad, President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics</i>
<b>10:35</b>	Presentation of paper: Dr. Faisal Awadaallah, Associate Prof. of Engineering- Birzeit University
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Discussants::</b> Eng. Souad Nasr Makhoul, City & Regional Planner & Director of the Center for Planning & Urban Studies- Haifa Dr. Khalil Najm, Planning Consultant
<b>11:20</b>	Open Discussion
<b>12:00-12:15</b>	<b><i>Coffee Break</i></b>
<b>Concluding Session:</b>	<b><i>Roundtable Discussion: Towards building a Palestinian Economy Paving the Road For National independence and Sustainable Development.</i></b>
<b>12:15-13:15</b>	<b><i>Chair: Dr. Ghania Malhees, MAS Chairwoman</i></b> <b>Participants:</b> Dr. Hasan Abu Libdeh, Minister of National Economy Dr. Jihad Al wazir, PMA Governor Dr. Ghassan Al Khatib, Director of the Government Media Center Mr. Samir Hulieleh, CEO of PADICO Dr. Loay Shabaneh, Senior Advisor to the PPC- UNFP Dr. Mamoun Abu Shahla, Palestinian Businessman
<b>13:15-13:45</b>	<b><i>Press Conference: Launching the Palestinian Entrepreneur Monitor 2009</i></b> Dr. Samir Abdullah Dr. Yousef Daoud
<b>13:45 -</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>



## **Working Papers**

# **Development Gap, Internal Distortions and Disparities in the Palestinian Economy**

*Dr. Samir Abdullah*

## **Abstract**

The main objective of this study is two-fold: first, it aims to measure the volume and causes of the development gap between the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the economies of neighboring countries in the immediate sub-region. Second, it aims to measure the volume and causes of the disparity between the economy of the Gaza Strip and that of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Determining both the amount of development and the extent of the internal distortions gap will assist in identifying the volume of economical and social damage caused to the Palestinian economy by the Israeli occupation. Moreover, it would highlight the nature of challenges that Palestinian development encounters in both the short and the long term. In order to achieve this objective, this study adopts an analysis for the behavior of the main economic and social indicators, quantitative and qualitative, during the past four decades.

This study conducts a comparison between the Palestinian investment climate and the investment climate in neighboring countries. Palestinian performance in the investment cannot be described as poor; however, the region is still unable to attract largely due to the instability resulting from the Israeli occupation and its aggressive policies.

Furthermore, the Palestinian territories are underdeveloped compared to other countries in the region in terms of infrastructure, which suffered from lack of investments for decades. The numbers show that both the efforts of the Palestinian Authority and those of the donor have realized remarkable achievements in rebuilding roads, schools, hospitals and water and sanitation networks since 1994. However, these efforts have had to confront continuous frustrations and received major blows since many of the OPT's infrastructure facilities and government building had been exposed to destruction by the Israeli forces in the last few years. From here, the Palestinian infrastructure stayed lagging in comparison to neighbor countries, which in and of itself constitutes an obstacle to the Palestinian Authority in terms of providing effective and competitive services compared to its neighbors.

This study also deals with the economic performance in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in comparison with its neighboring countries. The Palestinian GDP has remained much less than the average when compared to

nearby countries and other developing countries around the world. In terms of economic structure, the Palestinian economy has remained incapable of developing and diversifying products because of the Israeli restrictions; this explains the Palestinian economy's reliance on agriculture in the past and the service sector in the present time.

The study utilizes the index of surplus and disparity indicators for measuring internal disparities, where the excess indicator measures the differences between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank economy, while the inequality indicator measures the Gaza Strip economy compared to the whole Palestinian economy. It has been found that the economy of the West Bank stayed at higher levels in terms of quantity and quality. The reason for this is that most refugees to Gaza Strip were from the poor districts of Gaza and Beer al Sabe', and they form the majority of population in a small area of space, with limited resources, and most important of all, is that the Strip had been deprived from benefiting from the most significant advantage which is its geographical location, which qualifies it to be Palestine's window to the world. The study ends by suggesting recommendations for decision makers to reduce the volume of these differences. Furthermore, to achieve justice in the internal economic development, the study recommends – and above all – in a political conciliation between the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Secondly, the study recommends suggestions for improving the investment climate in Gaza Strip which could be achieved by empowering the Strip to exploit its comparative advantages which could be represented by its human capital and geographical location.

# The Palestine State: Economic Integration despite Geographical Discontinuity

*Dr. Nu'man Kanafani*

## **Abstract**

The aim of this paper is to examine and shed light on the two related questions:

*Firstly:* Why the economic integration of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (WBGs) into a coherent economic entity is necessary to secure sustainable growth in the forthcoming Palestine state and improvement in the well-being of the Palestinian population. The paper puts forward a number of reasons as to why Gaza Strip is economically indispensable to the West Bank, and the West Bank is to Gaza; including access to sea, economies of scale and durability of the political settlement and its role in attracting foreign investment. The paper discusses the issue of non-contiguity and argues that the integration of the two wings can enhance the prospect of creating a viable and dynamic economy.

*Secondly:* What are the alternative models to bring about this economic integration, and what are the policy recommendations that can be drawn from these models. The paper argues for the importance of utilizing the great economies of location and economies of urbanization of Gaza Strip and the chances of developing it into a metropolitan area. The issue of integration on basis of current comparative advantages is discussed, along with the pros and cons of establishing an instant single labour market in Gaza and the West Bank. The need to create and nourish networks of clusters within the framework of knowledge-based economy is addressed along with the need to establish an efficient transportation network to make the WBGs a single urban-basin. Finally, the paper touches upon some of the socio-political dilemmas and problems that will accompany the economic integration.

# **The Central Role of Jerusalem in the Palestinian Economy and the Independent Palestinian State**

*Dr. Abd Al Fatah Abu Shokor*

This paper addresses the central role of Jerusalem in the Palestinian economy and the independent Palestinian state. It aims to determine the central role of Jerusalem in the Palestinian economy and to identify the population changes that occurred in Jerusalem since its occupation in 1967. The paper looks into the most important developments which have taken place in various economic aspects as well as the Israeli plans and mechanisms that had been used for the annexation and Judaisation of Jerusalem through the evacuation of its Palestinian population then its isolation from its Palestinian and Arab surroundings as well as the marginalization of its role in the Palestinian economy. This paper also aims to identify the Palestinian plans and programs in face of the Israeli annexation and Judaisation policies and the central role of Jerusalem as a the capital of the independent Palestinian state.

The paper outlined the strategic objectives that should be emphasized to combat the Israeli plots and to prepare Jerusalem to perform its significant role in the Palestinian economy as the capital of the independent Palestinian state. These goals are summarized in the following:

1. Support the steadfastness of Jerusalemites to maintain their living in their city, providing the protection for their lands and property and for their cultural, social, economic, religious and youth institutions.
2. Protect the Arab Palestinian social structure with the focus of efforts on child protection.
3. Unify, regulate, develop and activate all sorts of peaceful mass resistance in Jerusalem.
4. Reconnect Jerusalem to its Palestinian, Arab and Islamic surroundings spiritually, culturally, economically and socially.
5. Accomplish economic revival in Jerusalem to increase job opportunities to absorb its labor force.
6. Reinforce Palestinian national unity in Jerusalem and preserve its Arab Islamic and Christian nature.

The achievement of the above mentioned national and economic objectives requires adequate financial and human resources and an efficient executive authority in addition to the political will.

The paper proposes the need for the Palestinian national movement on both the immediate and long term, as a practical way of addressing these objectives, in light of the status quo.

Listed under the immediate action, there is the activation of external tourism to Jerusalem, specifically the revival of Islamic pilgrimage to Jerusalem following the Hajj ordinance (to consecrate the Hajj). Also, there is the activation of internal tourism, encouraging investment in Jerusalem through providing easy financing and technical support, giving preferential treatment for Jerusalem products in governmental purchases as well as supporting cooperative and individual housing in Jerusalem. Moreover, give attention to the implementation of employment programs inside Jerusalem, allocating sufficient budgets for the development of public services especially education, health services and social welfare; in addition to supporting the institutions operating in the development field.

On the long term, new structural plans for Jerusalem must be prepared, determining its extensions in order to reconnect it effectively with its Arab Palestinian surroundings. Also, structural plans should be made for the headquarters and premises of the Palestinian National Authority which have temporarily settled in Ramallah or other Palestinian cities. Plans for roads and transport must be also made for the reconnection of Jerusalem to its Arab Palestinian surroundings. It is necessary to prepare studies for the transitional period following the end of the occupation in Jerusalem, to ensure the smooth transit from the previous legal status to a new one in which Jerusalem assumes its role as the capital of the independent Palestinian state.

# **Building an Efficient and Effective Public Administrative Structure Despite Geographical Separation**

*Dr. Nabeel Kassis*

## **Abstract**

The largest effort that must be exerted in setting up the appropriate and effective administrative structure of the Palestinian State is that given to the leadership of the process and to the achievement of the necessary discipline in order to move forward with the approved program and implement it. This is in spite of the obstacles, the attempts to cutoff efforts, the improvisation and of bringing in the elements of narrow interests as spokes in the wheel of change. The appropriate and effective is not the production of theoretical diligence, but can only be appropriate and effective in a practical framework based on a theoretical framework, inlaid with our experiences and those of others. In this paper, we raised many questions and attempted to answer them. In view of our belief that the practical viable structure of the Palestinian State is that we come over as a result of experience – and not necessarily that structure that looks attractive due to the successes achieved in other communities. We have intended while answering the pivotal questions raised, that these answers would emerge from the Palestinian experience over the last two decades; undertaking what proved its effectiveness, discarding what proved sterile, and making the necessary additions in the context of a sovereign independent state. While doing this, we did not provide a final answer with regard to the details (what? When? and How?). The models for government regulation may vary by the number of governments on earth and each model may fit its place. Undoubtedly, no model can be adequate unless backed with efforts, commitment, discipline, a strong leadership and a community that is aware of the requirements for advancement and progress and acts with confidence and faith in the future.

The summary of the proposed model here consists of a centralized government, slim in ministries and institutions that it comprises of, but forceful in defending the high national interests, adhering to its objectives, management of authority, efficiency of its agencies, concern for citizens and their needs, retain responsibility and authority necessary to protect the state from internal and external threats, keen about involving non-governmental organizations in the private and civil sectors for the development of policies, planning and implementation, as well as providing the needs of the society in services and awareness in different fields and different ways, including the establishment of independent organizations with the other sectors. The government follows democratic decentralization through local authority on

two levels (four large governorates, each comprising of municipalities and local authorities) that rest on councils directly elected by citizens. These councils are entrusted with the largest possible level of responsibilities and authorities in all sectors (economic, social, infrastructure and cultural), without contradicting the responsibilities of the government/state in maintaining regional, political, social, economic and cultural security, provided that necessary technical capacity is provided to the local authorities to manage their affairs in the specified fields, as well as providing the requirements for their development, together with a system of incentives that encourages each governorate or local council to use its competitive advantage for the benefit of the area and the country as a whole.

# **Options for Achieving Internal Economic Connectivity and Effective International Trade for a Viable Palestinian State**

*Dr. Faisal Awadallah*

## **Abstract**

A coherent and effective Palestinian economy is directly related to internal connectivity of transport systems within the West Bank and Gaza Strip and between them. In addition, a sound economy needs free international trade and open borders. This paper addresses the current transportation facilities and mobility for people and goods in the West Bank and Gaza. In addition, it provides a historical background on the mobility and transportation conditions in Palestine. Finally the paper addresses transportation options for a viable Palestinian State in the Palestinian areas occupied by Israel in 1967.

Various studies that evaluated transport needs for a viable Palestinian State, including studies by the PNA, Israel, and the RAND Arc plan were reviewed. The main internal connectivity transport element recommended in this study is a main backbone corridor in the central West Bank from Jinen to south of Hebron and then crosses Israel south of Beit Awwa to a point south of Beit Hanoun. The corridor continues south along the Gaza Strip eastern border to Yasser Arafat's airport and the Rafah border crossing. A spur to the west, located south of Gaza city that leads to Gaza seaport is also needed.

The corridor between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is recommended to be at-grade level with suitable security measures to protect both Palestinian motorists and Israeli residents along the corridor. It should be under Palestinian control. Short segments of bridges or tunnels may be possible, especially as overpasses or underpasses to Israeli roads and railroads. A continuous bridge or tunnel option is very expensive and could be sabotaged by Israeli extremist. In addition such options could stress drivers (especially a tunnel) and in case of major accidents the corridor could be closed for extended periods.

The study also emphasized that the Palestinian Himma area occupied in 1967 (which is part of the British Mandate Palestine that was a demilitarized zone between 1949 and 1967 as part of the armistice agreement between Israel and Syria in 1949) should be part of the Palestinian State. Thus the study suggests

a transport corridor between the West Bank and Himma region along the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers.

Finally, the study recommends at least two border crossings with Jordan, one with Egypt, and one with Syria, as well as a number of border crossings with Israel. In addition, to a safe passage to Lebanon that could be utilized at the first stage with several scheduled convoys per day. The Palestinian State should have at least Gaza's Yasser Arafat airport and Jerusalem airport operational, along with a seaport in the Gaza Strip. Three airways of suitable altitude range should be reserved; namely, between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, north of the West Bank to the Mediterranean Sea, and from Yasser Arafat airport across the Negev desert to Jordan.

## **Participants' Bios**

## **Dr Jihad Al Wazir**

was appointed as Governor and Chairman of the Board of the Palestine Monetary Authority (PMA) in January 2008. Dr. Al Wazir other and previous positions include: Chairman of the Palestinian National Committee on Anti Money Laundering, Deputy Governor and member of the Board of the PMA 2006-2008, Vice President of the Board of Trustees of Jenin Arab American University, Acting Minister of Finance November 2005 to March 2006, Deputy Minister of Finance 2004 – 2006, Member of the Board of the Palestine Monetary Authority 2005, Head of the Macroeconomic Policy committee of the Ministry of finance and Chairman of the National Road Accident Insurance Fund 2004-2006; Chairman of the committee of Certification of Legal Auditors 2005-2006, Assistant Deputy Minister and Later Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning, Dr. Al Wazir was the Founder and Managing Director of the World Trade Centre Palestine (a member of the World Trade Centers Association 1995-2000).

Founder and Chairman of the first Palestinian Internet Naming Authority (2001-2002), the first independent private-public sector collaborative agency which established and regulated the Palestinian internet domain “.ps”, Was elected as a member of the Board of the Palestinian Businessmen Association in Gaza in 1991, and served until 2001, he was also a member of the Board of the Palestinian Industrial and Free Trade Zones Agency (PIFZA),

Born in Gaza in 1963, Dr. Al Wazir obtained his Ph.D. in Business Administration from Loughborough University, in the United Kingdom in 2001, Dr Al Wazir had also worked as a communications engineer in Rochester, NY and a consultant Milwaukee Wisconsin, USA and holds an M.Sc in Engineering Management in 1990, and obtained a B.Sc in Electrical Engineering from Marquette University, in the USA in 1986.

Dr Al Wazir has written and co-authored a number of papers including :” From occupation to an independent monetary policy: achievements and aspirations in Palestine”, The 10th Mediterranean research meeting, EUI, Florence – Italy, 2009, “Israeli “Disengagement” and its Impacts on Political and Economic Developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: A Palestinian Perspective”, 2004; “Socio-Economic Stabilization Plan 2004-2005”, Ministry of Planning, 2004; “Quick Impact Intervention Programme 2003”, Ministry of Planning, 2003; “Emergency Public Investment Plan 2003”, Ministry of Planning, 2003; “An Exploration of the Compatibility between New wave Manufacturing Strategies and Advanced Manufacturing Technologies”, Management and New Technology, Cost A3 Action. European Commission, 1994. Dr. Al Wazir is married to Judge Thuraya Judi Al Wazir and they have Three sons.

## **Dr. Hasan Abu-Libdeh**

Minister of National Economy, Palestinian National Authority

The founder and X-President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for 13 years. An expert in socio-demographic statistics, with B.Sc. in mathematics (Birzeit Univ. 1979), M.Sc. in Mathematical Statistics (Stanford Univ. 1981), M.Sc. in Applied Statistics and Ph.D. in Biostatistics (Cornell Univ. 1986, 1988). Prior to his current post, he worked as the Cabinet Secretary of the Palestinian Council of Ministers in (May-Oct. 2009) and the special advisor to the Prime Minister (July-2008-Oct. 2009). During the last fifteen years, he assumed several assignments including; Coordinator of the Gaza Emergency Support & Reconstruction Programs (Humanitarian, Housing, Private sector, agriculture), Coordinator for the development of four Industrial Estates, CEO of the Private Sector Empowerment Program, CEO of *Palestine Investment Conference, PICPalestine- 2008*, Chairman of the Board and CEO of the Palestine Stock Exchange, Minister of Labor, Minister of Social Affairs, Cabinet Secretary and Bureau Chief of the Prime Minister's Office, Chairman of the Quality Improvement Fund for Higher Education, member of the board of Governors of Palestine Monetary Authority, member of the board of Governors and acting Managing Director of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction- PECDAR-, Deputy President of the Technical and Advisory Committees supporting the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral and multilateral negotiations, and prof. of Math. & Statistics at Birzeit (1988-1991).

During the last three decades, Dr. Abu-Libdeh was an activist and a board member of many Palestinian organizations, including Al-Quds Open University, the Arab American University, the Palestinian Economic Policy Research Institute and others. He also participated in the negotiations of the Oslo-2 interim agreement with Israel 1994-1995, and later served as a member of the joint Palestinian-Israeli Steering Group, supervising the implementation of Oslo-2 agreement.

Currently, he is chairing the Boards of Palestine Standards Institute (PSI), Palestine Investment and Promotion Agency (PIPA), and Palestine Industrial Estate and Free Zone Authority (PIEFZA).

He has written in several areas including research papers on statistical modeling of skin cancer, the demographic and health statistics of West Bank and Gaza, and several articles/presentations on official Statistics as a “Public Good”. He is also known in Palestine as a short story writer and a poet. He has published two poetry and two short stories books, in addition to scores of stories, poems, and articles which were published in local journals and newspapers. Born in 1954, Married, two boys, two girls.

## **Dr. Khalil Nijem**

Born in Jerusalem 1956, Khalil is a Strategic/spatial planning and project management specialist with a regional planning and civil engineering background. He started university studies in Civil Engineering at the American University of Beirut. Due to the eruption of the civil war in Lebanon, he moved to Bosphorous University in Istanbul where he completed his Bachelor and Master degrees in Civil Engineering. Later he continued his studies in Regional Planning at the Technical University in Berlin. Khalil consolidated over 30 years of experience in public, private, and NGOs sectors as an academic, researcher, and practitioner working in spatial and strategic planning, project planning and management, applied and empirical research, community development, and institutional building. He started his career as construction manager and planner in several countries including Turkey, Iraq, Kuwait, the Emirates, and Jordan. After his return to the West Bank, he worked as a planner at UNRWA, then as a lecturer in the Civil Engineering Department in Birzeit University, and later as a resource manager at Save the Children Federation. After the establishment of the PNA, Khalil joined the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (and later Ministry of Planning), where he headed several directorates, lastly the General Directorate for Spatial Planning. From 1995 to 2007 and during his work at the Ministry, Khalil led the work in developing several regional physical plans for the West Bank and Gaza. He was also the lead person in formulating national policies and strategic directions for physical and infrastructure development in Palestine. Currently, he is working as a consultant in spatial and strategic planning, project planning and management, and in community research methods. Khalil is NGOs activist serving as a Board member of several NGOs. He has several publications and studies in planning and project management.

## **Prof. Rami Hamdallah**

became An-Najah National University's fifth president on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1998 after a sixteen-year career at An-Najah National University. After serving as Chair of Department of English from 1988-1992, Prof. Hamdallah was named the Dean of the Faculty of Arts in 1992. He was also the Academic Vice-President for the Colleges of Humanities. He served in the post for three years until he assumed An-Najah's presidency. An expert in Applied Linguistics, Prof. Hamdallah has written more than a dozen articles on contrastive linguistics, translation, and linguistics.

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 the Board of Directors of the Palestine Securities Exchange (PSE) has assigned Prof. Rami Hamdallah as its new Chairman; he had held the position from December 2003 to January 2006.

Nationally, Prof. Hamdallah has been involved with education issues through the Palestinian Council for Higher Education; he is a leading member of the Palestinian Universities Council. Prof. Hamdallah is also actively involved in a number of higher education committees such as the Palestinian Constitution Committee and the Steering Committee of the Union of Islamic Universities.

Prof. Hamdallah is a member of the Executive Council of the Association of Arab Universities. He is Trustee of Yasser Arafat Foundation, he is also Trustee of Palestine International Award for Excellence & Distinction, and Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute-MAS.

Internationally, Prof. Hamdallah also served as the Vice-President of the Mediterranean Universities Group in Spain. He was the President of the Palestinian-European-American Universities Program of Academic Cooperation (PEACE) from 2005-2007. He is an active member of the executive committee of UNIMED.

He is also a member of Steering Committee of the Council of Arab Universities. He served as the Vice-president of the Palestinian Scientific Academy. Additionally, Prof. Hamdallah has held a presidential appointment to serve as the Secretary General of the Central Elections Commission in Palestine.

Prof. Hamdallah received his BA in English Language from the University of Jordan in 1980, his MA in Linguistics from the University of Manchester in 1982, and the Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics from the University of Lancaster in 1988. He has been teaching in the English Department at An-Najah National University since 1982.

## **Sami Abdel-Shafi**

Prior to establishing Emerge Consulting Group, LLC., a management consulting firm he started in 2004 in Gaza City, Sami Abdel-Shafi worked for 13 years in small to medium size and fortune 500 companies in Silicon Valley, California. He managed business and IT teams spread over different geographies. His background is in Commerce & Business Administration with a concentration in Information Technology. Since 2005, he was engaged in several projects implemented by the World Bank and the United Nations Development Program for the benefit of the Palestinian National Authority in Gaza and the West Bank. Most recently, he has been engaged in providing analysis and recommendations on the great challenges facing the Gaza Strip's private sector and was one of the speakers representing it in the Palestine Investment Conference held in May, 2008. He is on the Board of Directors of several Palestinian Non-governmental organizations, writes and publishes economic and political analysis and provides commentary on Palestinian affairs in the international media.

## **Samia Botmeh**

Samia is the director of the Centre for Development Studies at Birzeit University and specialises in labour economics. Samia worked before as Senior Researcher at the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) in Ramallah and has published on contemporary Palestinian economics, labor markets, and gender differentials.

## **Su`ad Nasr Makhoul**

Director of Center for Planning and Urban Studies and city Planner, Haifa. Planning consultant up to 50 Arab local councils and cities, In the Palestinian Authority and Israel, 1989-2011. Consultant –Ministry of tourism for developing tourism initiations for Arab sector in Israel. Assistant Director, Ministry of Planning, Palestine Authority, Institutional Buildings, 1995. Lecturer at Najah University, Faculty of Architecture, 1984-1995. Civil Engineering Projects , 1976-1984. Member in the Directory Board of Israel Nature & National Parks Protection Authority- Ministry of The Environment. Member of public Steering committee for planning, Haifa.

Holds Doctorate degree in Urban and Regional planning, Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning, from Technion, Israel Institute of Technology. and M.Sc in City & Regional Planning, Technion ,1984, and B.A. Fine Art University of Haifa, from Practical civil Engineering, Technion-Israel, 1980 .

## **Mr. Samir Hulileh**

Chief Executive Officer  
Palestine Development & Investment Ltd. (PADICO HOLDING)

Mr. Hulileh has held various management positions in the public and private sectors. He served as the Cabinet Secretary General of the Palestinian government during 2005-2006 and the Assistant Undersecretary for the Ministry of Economy and Trade in 1994-1997.

Mr. Hulileh is an active member in many economic and academic establishments. He was the Chairman of the Palestine Trade Centre (PALTRADE) in 2004-2005 and a board member since 2002. Hulileh is also the Chairman of Palestine International Business Forum as well as a board member of the Applied Research Institute (ARIJ) in Jerusalem, Arab Thought Forum, Palestinian Banking Corporation, Palestinian-British Business Council, Palestinian-Russian Business Council, and Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS). He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Friends Schools, Ramallah.

Currently, Mr. Hulileh represents PADICO HOLDING on several boards of subsidiary companies, including Palestine Telecommunications Group (PALTEL), Palestine Securities Exchange (PSE), Palestine Real Estate Investment Company (PRICO), and Palestine Mortgage and Housing Corporation (PMHC).

Mr. Hulileh graduated from the American University of Beirut in 1983 with a Masters degree in Economics.

## **Dr. Samir Abdullah Ali**

Director General of the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS), a position which he previously held from 2004-2007. Prior to this position Dr. Abdullah served as the Minister of Planning and Minister of Labor in the Palestinian Government from June 2007 to May 2009. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics since 1984. He started his career as Assistant professor at An-Najah University in Nablus in 1985. He chaired the economics department from 1986 to 1989, and became Associate professor in 1990. Dr. Abdullah was selected as a member of the Palestinian Delegation to the Bilateral Peace Negotiations and the Multilateral Middle East Economic Working Group. He participated in the Madrid Peace Conference in November 1991, and the bilateral Negotiations in Washington until the Oslo Accords in September 1993. During his academic and professional career Dr. Abdullah has conducted numerous research papers on the Palestinian economy and its relation with Israel and the region.

## **Dr. Sabri Saidam**

Telecommunications and IT Advisor to the President. Founder of Birzeit Innovation Group (BIG). Former Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology (MOTIT). Member of the Social Science Research Council's Civil Society and ICT group. Served as Executive Director of the Institute for Development Studies (IDS).

Holds a BSc in applied physics and electronics from Imperial College London and a PhD in electrical engineering from the same university. In 2004 he obtained a training certificate in the development of human resources from Oxford University. He is a member of the Fateh movement and head of the Palestine Students Union in Britain and works as director of the Institute of Development Studies founded by UNDP in Gaza. He was the group leader of the Birzeit innovation group at Birzeit University has written about e-governance in conflict affected societies.

## **Dr. Adel Zagha**

Office of Planning & Development, Dr. Adel Zagha was born in Nablus, Palestine in 1956. He finished his high school degree (*Tawjihi*) also in Nablus in 1975, graduated from Birzeit University in 1981 with a B.A. in Economics and Business Administration, received his M.A. in Economics and Economic Development from Vanderbilt University in the U.S.A. in the beginning of 1984, and received his Ph.D. in Economic Theory and Public Finance from the Free University in Berlin in July 1994. He served in different posts: Chaired the Economics Department from 1994-1998, Chaired the MA Program in Economics 1998-1999, and he was the Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Economics at BZU since 1999 until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2005. On September 1, 2005 he became the Director of the Office of Planning and Development at BZU. In January 2007 he was also appointed as the director of the Quality Assurance Unit at BZU. Starting from September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 he was appointed as Vice President for Planning, Development & Quality Assurance.

He is an associate research fellow at the Chris Michelsen Institute in Bergen/Norway. He also offers consultation in the fields of public finance, international trade arrangements, fiscal decentralization, and economic development (including the role international aid in economic development). Dr. Zagha published many books, research papers and reports, both independently and in association with other colleagues.

## **Prof. Dr. Abd Al Fatah Abu Shokor**

Currently Prof. of Economics and Chairman of Economics Department at An-Najah University in Nablus. Prior to his latest position, he served in a variety of posts, including an Economics Professor and Director of Quality Assurance Department at the Arab Open University in Kuwait, and President of the Palestinian Economists Association in Jerusalem. In addition, he worked as an Economic Consultant for the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) in Jerusalem, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in Amman. He was also part of the Palestinian Delegation to Bilateral Economic Negotiations with Israel. Prof. Dr. Abu-Shokor won the Shouman Prize for Arab Young Scientists in 1989 for his research on the Palestinian economy. He holds a PhD in Economic Development (1980) and MA in Political Sciences, International Law and Contemporary History 1976 from Philipps University in West Germany, as well as a BSc in Economics and Commerce from Jordan University (1972). Born in Hebron- Palestine, and speaks Arabic, English and Germany.

## **Ola Awad**

Ola Awad is the President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). She holds Masters in Business Administration from Boston University, and Masters Candidate in Operational Statistics from Bir Zeit University. Before being assigned as president of PCBS, she took the responsibility of acting President of PCBS from 2009 until January 2011. Once she joined PCBS in 2000, Mrs Awad took the responsibility of different positions and participated effectively in the development of PCBS to be as one of the leading statistical bodies in the region. She started her career at PCBS as director of the International cooperation unit, then Director General of the International Relations and Resource Mobilization Directorate of PCBS, then Assistant to PCBS President for International Relations and Planning Affairs.

Besides her duties at PCBS, Mrs Awad presented Palestine in different international and regional activities including the EUROSTAT, MEDSTAT and currently chairing Permanent technical committee for statistics in the Arab League. She is also effective member in several associations and research institutes including International Statistical Institute ISI and Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics. Before joining PCBS, Mrs Awad was working in the field of International cooperation and development in Palestine through different UN and INGOs.

## **Dr. Ali Jarbawi**

was appointed Minister of Planning and Administrative, Development on May 19th 2009.

Born in Jenin in 1954, Dr Jarbawi has lived and worked in Palestine and the USA. After a long career in academia as a political scientist, during which he earned two Masters Degrees and a Doctorate, he has held senior leadership positions at Birzeit University, the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens Rights and the Central Elections Commission.

Dr Jarbawi has dedicated his professional life to the study of Palestinian political and governing institutions as an independent analyst, and more recently as a leader committed to their reform. He was the main author of the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan 2008-10 and, as Minister of Planning and Administrative Development, is overseeing the preparation of the Palestinian National Plan 2011-13. Dr Jarbawi has a passionate belief in the will.

## **Dr. Ghania Malhees**

Senior economics in the League of Arab States, 1984-1995 with many positions, senior researcher in the department of strategic studies, coordinator of technical Arab team of petrochemical industries, Head of the Department of Industry in the General Administration of Economic Affairs, and Head of the Palestinian economy. Former assistant deputy minister between 1995 and 1997 in the Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry. The Former Director General of Palestinian Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) in the period between 1998-2004. Director of the department of planning and the former deputy general director of Samed Institute, Beirut, 1979 -1982. Dr. Malhees served as Director of the Department of International Organizations - Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organization 1983-1984.

After returning to the League of Arab States in the year 2004 to work in the research field until her resignation in 2010 Dr. Malhees worked as director of development and reconstruction in the General Directorate of Palestinian Affairs.

Academically, Dr. Malhees holds PhD in Economics and has many published articles in the field of economics, public administration and policy. Moreover, she has participated in many conferences and seminars and she is a member of Palestinian National Council and the chairman of the board of trustees of Palestinian Economic policy research Institute.

## **Dr. Ghassan Khatib**

the current Director of Government Media Center. He has served as Palestinian Minister of Labor in 2002-2005 and Minister of Planning in 2005 - 2006. Khatib was Vice-President for community outreach at Birzeit University in 2006-2009, and was founder and Director of the Jerusalem Media and Communication Center, which specializes in research, opinion polling and media activities. He was a member of the Palestinian delegation for the Madrid Middle East Peace Conference in 1991 and the subsequent bilateral negotiations in Washington from 1991-1993. Khatib co-founded and co-directed bitterlemons.org, a Palestinian-Israeli internet-based political magazine. Khatib holds a PhD in Middle East politics from the University of Durham in UK.

## **Dr. Faisal Awadallah**

Associate Professor at the Department of Civil Engineering at Birzeit University, Palestine. He served as the department head between 1995 and 1997 and as dean of the Faculty of Engineering between 2004 and 2010. He received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Maryland at College Park in the fields of civil engineering and transportation engineering in 1978, 1982, and 1987 respectively. Dr. Awadallah is a registered Professional Engineering in the State of Maryland since 1987. He has published tens of papers in refereed journals and in conference proceedings. In addition, Dr. Awadallah served as a consultant for various transportation related projects in Palestine and the Arab Gulf region, as well as in Europe and the USA.

## **Dr. Luay Shabaneh**

Ph.D in Applied Social Statistics (1967- his DoB), Chief Technical Advisor, population and Development Strategies at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Iraq country office. Senior researcher in statistical development, organizational development and public sector reform. Ex-President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) 2005-2010. Chairman of the Arab region measuring progress steering committee within OECD measuring progress global initiative. Member of ISI (International Statistical Institute). Member of the International Association of Official Statistics (IAOS). Research interests cover wide range of applied social sciences such as women empowerment, population development, Labour market dynamics, organizational development of statistical offices, and statistical monitoring systems. He wrote and published many papers in labour dynamics, integration of population issues in development plans, quality assurance for population censuses under adverse conditions, operating statistical service under fragility, health services and women empowerment

## **Mazen T. Sinokrot**

Chairman & CEO of Sinokrot Global Group, from January 2006 to March 2006 Mr. Sinokrot was the Minister of Economy (Palestinian National Authority) and the Chairman of the Board of the Palestinian Investment Promotion Agency, also the Chairman of the Board of Palestinian Industrial Estates and Free Zones Area, he is the Chairman of the Board of Palestinian Standards Institute.

From 1982 to 2011 he held the position of the Chairman & CEO of Sinokrot Global Group which is an assembly of more than 10 different companies working in the various economic activities such as agro-industrial, commercial, agricultural, tourism, services and informational technology sectors. It is considered one of the largest economic groups working in Palestine.

From 1982 to Present he has a various activities in Public, Private and Governmental Institutions:

- ✧ The Founder and Ex-Chairman of Palestinian Food Industries Association
- ✧ The Founder and Ex-Chairman of Palestinian Federation of Industries
- ✧ Ex-Chairman of the Industrial Modernization Center (IMC)
- ✧ Board Member of Palestinian Investment Fund – PIF
- ✧ Chairman of Education For Employment Foundation (PEFE)
- ✧ Board Member of Palestinian AMMAR
- ✧ Member of Board of Trustee AlQuds University.

Mr. Mazen have a Bachelor's Degree (with honors) Production Engineering and Industrial Management, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, 1980.

## **Dr. Mamoun Abdelhadi Hasan Abushahla**

Representing Almaseera International Company E.C.  
was born in Acre on the 15th of June 1943 and got his education in Gaza  
Egypt and the UK, he was qualified as Chartered Accountant, but was a  
Business Man most of his business life.

He worked in Palestine Jordan Egypt Libya, and in the United Kingdom  
Where he lived and worked for about 22 years. He is a Palestinian and British  
Citizen. He is married with four children; they all are living in Gaza since five  
years now.

Mr. Abushahla owns and manages three companies in Gaza are dealing in  
Infra structure equipments contracting, Computing and Information  
Technology also Hospitals requirements.

He is a board member in some Palestinian businesses: Bank of Palestine,  
Alazhar University, Give Gaza, Pension Fund, Paltrade and Paltel.

## **Dr. Mohammed Samhuri**

Is a Palestinian economist, and a former senior lecturer and a senior fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Brandeis University in Boston, USA (2006-2008). From 1995-2005, he served as a senior economic adviser in the Palestinian authority (ministry of planning and ministry of foreign affairs) where he was involved in the preparation of most Palestinian development and reconstruction plans. He also served as a secretary general of the first national Reform committee, 1999-2000, and as a member of the board of governors of the Palestinian economic council for development and reconstruction (PECDAR) since its inception in October 1993. As an educator and researcher, he held various academic positions in the Palestinian universities in Gaza and published regularly on issues related to the Palestinian economy.

Dr. Samhuri holds a doctoral degree in economics from Kansas state university (USA), a master's degree in Economics from the University of Saskatchewan (Canada), and a bachelor's degree in Economics from Cairo University.

## **Dr. Mohammad Mustafa**

Dr. Mohammad Mustafa was appointed CEO of the Palestine Investment Fund on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and Chairman on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. He also has been serving as the Economic Adviser to H.E. President Mahmoud Abbas, (a Ministerial level ranking), since November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Dr. Mustafa represents PIF on the Boards of several leading Palestinian companies, including Wataniya Mobile (Chairman), Amaar Real Estate Group (Chairman), The Palestine Commercial Services Company-PCSC (Chairman), The Arab Palestinian Investment Company – APIC (Member) and Palestine Electric Company (Member).

Prior to joining PIF, Dr. Mustafa served for fifteen years at the World Bank (Washington, D.C.) in several positions, where his work covered various countries in four different regions and multiple sectors, including Private Sector Development, Infrastructure, Industry & Energy, Project Finance and ICT. He also served as Senior Adviser on privatization and public-private partnerships to the Public Investment Fund (in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) (1997-98), and as an Economic Adviser to the Government of Kuwait on economic reform (2000). Over the years, Dr. Mustafa worked in various capacities in the corporate sector in the US, Kuwait and Palestine, including as the founding CEO of the Palestinian Telecommunications Company- Paltel (1995-1996).

Dr. Mustafa holds a BSc Degree in Electrical Engineering (Baghdad University) and Master's Degree and PhD degrees in Management and Economics from George Washington University.

## **Professor Mahmoud K. ELjafari**

Professor of Economics, Mahmoud Eljafari was the Dean of the Business and Economics Faculty, Director of the Institute of Business and Economics 1995-2010. He is Professor of Economics, at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem. Currently, he is a visiting Professor at Birzeit University He is also a member of the Palestinian Monetary Authority Board and the Advisory Committee of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. Also, he is a member in the Femise Board. Dr. Eljafari has served as a visiting Professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Toronto, and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He has published a number of articles in international journals on agricultural economics, international trade, economics of education and labor economics. Dr. Eljafari holds a PhD and MA in Economics/Agricultural Economics from the University of Missouri, in addition to a B.sc in Economics and Statistics from the University of Jordan. He was awarded the Shoman Prize in 1994 for being the Best Young Economist in the Arab World. I the year, 2008, he was chosen the Dean of one of the Best World-wide Business Schools, granted by EDUNIVERSAL, FRANCE. Recently, he was awarded a Research Fellow with life membership by the Board if Trustees of the Economic Research Forum of the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey.

## **Dr. Mo'een Rajab**

PhD in Economics. Economic lecturer Al- Azhar university, Gaza since 1980. The former dean, faculty of Economics and Administrative sciences, Al- Azhar University, Gaza, 1993-1996 and 1998 – 2003. Dr. Rajab has published many articles in scientific journals conferences, and participated in many scientific conferences. Members at many local and Arab scientific societies.

## **Dr. Nabeel Kassis**

Membership of Boards: Palestine Monetary Authority; Yasser Arafat Foundation; Mahmoud Darwish Foundation and several other organizations. Chairman of the Yasser Arafat Achievement Prize; Chairman of the Audit Committee of the PNA. Formerly: President of Birzeit University (2004-2010); Minister of Planning (2003-2004); Minister of Tourism (2002-2003). Minister in charge of the Bethlehem 2000 Project (1998-2002); Director General/ Palestine Institute for Economic Policy Research (MAS) (1994-1998); Director General/ Technical and Advisory Committees, Orient House, Jerusalem (1993-1994); Deputy Head/ Palestinian Delegation to the Peace Talks in Washington (1992-1993).

Professor of Physics with a Ph.D. degree in Theoretical Nuclear Physics, American University of Beirut (1972), and an M.Sc. degree in Nuclear Physics, University of Mainz, Germany (1969). Held academic ranks and research fellowships at the University of Jordan (1972-1978), the University of Sussex, England (1978-1980) and Birzeit University (1980-1994); Germany, Britain, France and Italy (1973-1990). Has numerous publications in nuclear structure and quantum theory as well as many articles and interviews on current issues relevant to the Palestinian scene, including politics, economy, culture and education.

## **Dr. Numan Kanafani**

Professor in Economics at the Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen and former General Director of the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS). He has been a visiting professor in a number of European Universities, including Why College, University of London, and Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. He is member of a number of international and Scandinavian professional committees, including the board of Development at the Nordic Association of Agricultural Economic Research, and the editorial board of Routledge book series on the Political Economy. He has been consultant for a number of international and Scandinavian organizations, including Danida, the World Bank, and the EU. He authored several papers and articles in professional journals as well as newspapers and magazines, including co-editing: *The Economics of Palestine* (Routledge 2004).

## **Dr. Walid Abed-Rabboh**

Director General of Horizon for Sustainable Development since August 2006 – Present. Former Minister of Agriculture, (PNA) starting Feb 2005- March 2006. Former Chief Technical Advisor (UNDP)/ PAPP since Jan 1998 - May 2004. Holds Ph.D. from the University of Arizona, U.S.A. in Natural Resource Management and Policies (1986-1988) and M.Sc. from the University of Reading, England in Economics of Research and Extension (1982-1983) and his B.Sc. from the University of Mosul, Iraq (1970-1974) in Agricultural Science/ Forestry

His major works currently are:

- ✧ Team leader for the development of the National Strategy and Action Program to Combat Desertification and its Integrated Financing Strategy (NSAP/IFS), UNDP, October 2010 (ongoing).
- ✧ Preparation of a Territorial Development Programme for Iraq, IFAD August 2010.
- ✧ Individual Independent Reviewer for Badia Ecosystem Restoration Program in Jordan, UNCC, August 2010 (ongoing).
- ✧ Developing the Country Strategy Note for Iraq, IFAD July 2010.
- ✧ Team leader for the preparation of a Shared Vision for Agricultural Sector Development - Consultation Phase, FAO, January 2010.
- ✧ Team leader for the update and identification of Strategic Issues for Local Governance in Palestine. UNDP / June 2009.
- ✧ Senior Coordination Advisor for the preparation of the Iraqi Marshlands Strategic Plan, UNDP/Iraq, March 2009.
- ✧ Team leader for the formulation of the Restructuring Plan for the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development in Khartoum, September, 2007.
- ✧ Team leader for the preparation of the Strategy and Implementation Plan for the Local Administration in PNA, for the Office of the President of PNA, June, 2007.

## **Conference Sponsors**



## **The Palestine Investment Fund**

The Leading Investor in Palestine

PIF was established in 2003 as an independent investment company, which aims to strengthen the local economy through key strategic investments, while maximizing long-run returns for its ultimate shareholder; the people of Palestine.

PIF prudently invests through an investment strategy focused on long-term value creation. With an aim to generate high and stable returns through diversified strategic investments in partnership with international, regional and local partners, based on values of transparency, accountability, commitment and in line with its corporate social responsibility and sustainability objectives. PIF has a strong reputation across global markets as a trusted and responsible investment partner.

PIF's establishment was marked by the transfer of assets previously managed by the PA. PIF thereby inherited responsibility for managing assets in a manner that contributed to sustainable economic development, as well as maintaining and growing existing national reserves.

PIF today is a publicly limited company, fully owned by the people of Palestine. It is financially and administratively independent and is governed by an independent General Assembly and Board of Directors.

PIF owns direct majority and minority stakes in companies, including several fully owned subsidiaries, with a vision to establish pioneering platforms, effect strategy, consequently grow companies with the aim to become leaders in their respective fields. PIF's business model is based on a positive transformational impact through public-private partnership.

PIF prides itself on being a beacon of achievement, and a regional benchmark.

A seven-member Board of Directors has senior oversight over all PIF activities. Members of the Board of Directors are selected as renowned and leading independent figures. The 30-member General Assembly includes

representation from all stakeholders including; civil society, non-governmental organizations, academia, the public and the private sectors.

Currently, PIF has approximately \$800 million in assets under management. Since inception, approximately \$606 million has been distributed to the Shareholder as dividends that were transferred in full to the Palestinian Treasury. Despite the world financial crisis, in 2009, PIF achieved a profit of approximately \$60million.

PIF is currently leading an ambitious \$4 billion investment program expected to stimulate economic growth and create over 100,000 new job opportunities within the next five years. This program includes the implementation of several strategic investment projects.



### **AFD (Groupe Agence Française de Développement),**

is a bi-lateral development finance institution that works on behalf of the French government. AFD promotes the Millennium development Goals (MDG) through supports projects with economic and social impacts in both public and private sectors: infrastructure and financial systems, urban and rural development, private sector development, education and health. AFD operates in over sixty developing countries via a wide range of financial instruments from grants to market condition loans.

AFD has been active in the Palestinian Territories for the last 10 years. Since the beginning of its activities, AFD has committed 180M€ in grants to support the development strategies of the Palestinian Authority. AFD's support contributes to the emergence of a viable Palestinian State by strengthening institutions and creating the conditions for sustainable development. Through water and sanitation, local and municipal development, private sector and health projects, AFD have endeavoured to improve the livelihood of the Palestinians.

AFD's support for the past 10 years has contributed to giving access to water to more than 800,000 people, to create more than one million days of work, to support the implementation of over 500 micro projects by Municipalities, village councils and NGO.



## **Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development**

The Ministry believes that “development is a continuous, complicated and overlapping process to which all the community sectors and institutions contribute. In this sense, the process of development requires the widest possible partnership among all operating parties in the framework of clear coordination relations and mechanisms. In this regard, the Ministry of Planning is confined to leading, coordinating and managing the development process, in addition to following up on the implementation of this process, clarifying its results on the national level. The Ministry of Planning endeavors to provide support means to different plans and programs and to follow up on this in coordination with the executing parties on one hand, and with international donors, on the other hand. In this regard, the Ministry coordinates with the Ministry of Finance in defining the sector distribution of different investment projects and programs financial resources, and in preparing the PA investment budget and following up its funding with international donors. The entire work of the Ministry aims at contributing to the provision of an environment appropriate for enabling the Palestinian people to achieve progress and prosperity as well as to raise their standards of living and improve their quality of life. Thus, the main motivation behind any intervention undertaken by the Ministry must be strategically consistent with this objective and with the necessity to create the environment that enables and supports all development processes and humanitarian activities, whether on the individual level or the entire community level. The Ministry undertakes its activities in accordance with the following principles:

Lead and coordinate the development process in order to achieve progress and prosperity for the Palestinian People, raise standard of living, and improve quality of life so as to catch up with the progress in different walks of life, taking into consideration the special situation of Palestinian aspirations, and the importance of involving all concerned institutions in the economic, social, cultural, environmental, constructional, and technological sectors, as well the field of capacity building. In addition, the Ministry seeks to adopt public policies, development and emergency plans, coordinate financing and implementation of such plans as well as follow up on their implementation with relevant local and international agencies.”