

## How the Iraqi private sector can lead the way to a successful future.

Building economic resilience for companies facing covid-19, low oil prices and fragile markets.

### AGENDA

Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>

09:00

#### Official Opening

Dr. Ole Diehl (German Ambassador)

#### Official Opening

Salem Chalabi (Head of the Economic Reform Unit & Advisor to the Prime Minister of Iraq)

#### Setting the Scene

Thomas Schaef (GIZ Country Director)

09:30

#### Presentations

20 minutes presentation + 10 minutes Q&A

- Impact of COVID-19 on (global) economy, Prof. Dr. Peter Bofinger (Senior Economist and former member of the German council of economic experts)
- Impact of COVID-19 on the Iraqi Economy, Mohammed Tarkhani (Senior Economist)
- Foundation for a New Economy in Iraq/ digital transformation, Wael Mansour (Senior Economist, World Bank)

11:00 – 12:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:00

### Breakaways

10 minutes input + 50 minutes discussion

#### **BA 1: Coping with the pandemic - a private sector view.**

COVID-19 has affected businesses around the globe. This session is going to discuss how businesses in Iraq tried to adapt to the new situation, coping with lockdowns, health measures and other challenges. Can start-ups and long-established businesses learn from one another and can they support each other during these challenging times?

Input by *Alice Bosley*

- Alice Bosley (Five One Labs)
- Huda Abdulrahman (Lala Handmade)
- Dawood Abd Zayer (INBC)
- Mohamed Al-Hakim (Careem)
- Moderator: Anas Chalabi

#### **BA 2: Made in Iraq: Iraq's potential in the agricultural & food production sector.**

Due to the closure of borders at the beginning of the pandemic, international trade almost stopped. Local food production increased, which was welcomed by local producers and consumers. Can Iraq use the momentum and support local production? This session talks about the potential of the agricultural sector and agri-businesses.

Input by *Dr. Mahdi Al-Qaisy*

- Faisal Ali Abdul Kareem (Kanoon)
- Mahdi Al-Qaisy (Consultant at Ministry of Agriculture)
- Sanaa Mohammed (Ministry of Industry)
- Fareed Al-Obaidi (deputy head of poultry association)
- Dr. Barik Schuber (economist)
- Moderator: Anas Morshed

13:00

#### **BA 3: Digital transformation of Iraq.**

Digitalisation is changing the way we learn, work and interact with each other on a personal and business level. This session will talk about why Iraq needs to accelerate this transformation and why digital platforms and services are key elements for improving public services and fostering economic growth.

Input by *Dr. Haider Al-Ameed*

- Dr. Haider Khalid Al Ameen (Economist)
- Alexandre Hugo Laure (WB)
- Abbass Al-Bakri (President of Technology University)
- Dhuha Abdulkarim (CBI)
- Ali Al Saeed (Switch)
- Moderator: Muhammad Al Waeli

14:00 – 15:00 LUNCH BREAK

15:00

### Presentations

20 minutes presentation + 10 minutes Q&A

- Coping with low oil prices, Ali Al Saffar (Energy Analyst, International Energy Agency)
- Rapid assessment on the impact of COVID-19, low oil prices and fragile markets on the labour market in Iraq, Maha Kattaa (Head of agency, ILO)

16:00 – 17:00 COFFEE BREAK

17:00

### Breakaways

10 minutes input + 50 minutes discussion

#### **BA 4: Low oil prices – a chance for diversification.**

Although COVID-19 is primarily a health crisis but it also affects the global demand for oil. The drop in crude oil prices caused a severe budget crisis in Iraq. Is the country at a turning point to diversify its economy and decrease its dependency on oil?

Input by *Andrew Bauer*

- Andrew Bauer (Natural Resource Governance Institute)
- Ali Al Saffar (IEA)
- Dr Falah Al-Amery (Advisor to Ministry of Oil)
- Robin Mills (Global Energy Policy)
- Moderator: Yesar Al-Maleki

#### **BA 5: Labour market – why young Iraqis don't aim for career in the private sector.**

A *secure* job in the public sector is what most Iraqis aim for. This session discusses why social security is so important and why the private sector doesn't seem to be attractive for many people.

Input by *Anas Morshed*

- Maha Kattaa (ILO)
- Raed Jabbar Bahidh (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs)
- Dr. Azhar Al Zubeidi (MoHESR)
- Ameer Murad (Gilgamish)
- Anas Morshed (Economist)
- Moderator: Ali Mawlawi

18:00

### Closing of the day

Peter Gerdemann

## How the Iraqi private sector can lead the way to a successful future.

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Wednesday, August 26th

09:00

### Re-cap day 1

Peter Gerdemann

09:10

### Presentations

20 minutes presentation + 10 minutes Q&A

- (Economic) impact of COVID-19 on women in Iraq, Aram Shakerm (Country Director, Women for Women International)
- Social ecological market economy & mitigating COVID-19 impact, Prof. Dr. Alexander Kritikos (Senior Economist, DIW German Institute for Economic Research)
- Financial Inclusion of MSMEs and start-ups, Hayder Al-Bagdadi (GIZ)

10:10 – 11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:00

### Breakaways

10 minutes input + 50 minutes discussion

### BA 6: Financial Inclusion for MSMEs in Iraq.

Access to finance has been one of major challenges for SMEs in Iraq long before Corona. It is now more important than ever to make funding available for businesses to survive the crisis. What needs to be done and what can we learn from other countries?

Input by *Abdulghany Al-Hassani*

- Hayder Al Bagdadi (GIZ)
- Ali Tariq (Iraqi Private Banks League)
- Rusul Abdulrasool (Ministry of Industry)
- Abdulghany Al-Hassani (GroFin)
- Ala'a Ghazi Abdullah (CBI)
- Moderator: Anas Chalabi

12:00

### **BA 7: Build back better.**

The response to the Covid-19 crisis provides an opportunity for Iraq to employ crisis response actions to “build back better” – making economies and businesses more resilient to future shocks, enabling a long-term sustainable growth pattern. How can this be achieved in Iraq?

Input by *Daniel Taras*

- Daniel Taras (GIZ)
- Gary Rynhart (ILO)
- Karokh Abdullah (ETTC)
- Mahmood Shaker (Basra Chamber of Industries)
- Hind Khadum (Akel Ahelna kitchen for catering services)
- Moderator: Philipp Neuerburg

13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH BREAK

14:00

### **BA 8: Women economic empowerment.**

Women are still the ones who take over the care and nursing of children, the elderly and the sick. What needs to be done so that they can (continue to) participate actively in the economic process?

Input by *Gharam Alkastalani Dexter*

- Gharam Alkastalani Dexter (WB)
- Aram Shakerm (Women for Women International)
- Ibtesam Al Badran (Basra Businesswomen Center)
- Dr. Najla Alawi (Policy Advisor)
- Moderator: Basima Abdulrahman

### **BA 9: First Iraqi start-up act**

Tunisia was the first country to pass legislation known as the startup act. The legislation is touted to set the country on the path to becoming a startup nation. How can Iraq get on the same track?

Input by *Safa Al-Qoch*

- Safa Al-Qoch (UNDP-Accelerator Lab)
- Labeeb Kashif Al-Getta (Nakhla)
- Dr. Akram Atwani (Ministry of Youth and Sports)
- Ammar Al-Khateeb (The Station)
- Moderator: Wissam Auda

15:00

### **BA 10: Tourism in Iraq.**

Iraq is a country with a rich history – culturally and religiously. Many tourists from neighbouring countries visit each year, hence creating jobs for Iraqis and creating revenue for businesses and the government. Is there a way to explore this potential even more?

Input by *Ali Al-Makhzomi*

- Ali Al-Makhzomi (Bil Weekend)
- Dr Mohammed Al-Obaidi (State Board of Tourism)
- Ali Rauoof Ghafoor (DG Tourism Department representing KRI)
- Lanah Haddad (Archeologist + tour guide)
- Moderator: Mohammed Ghani

16:00

### **Closing of the day**

Peter Gerdemann