



***GIFT-MENA Steering Committee  
Report of working sessions  
Granada Spain, June 8-10, 2006  
Euro Arab foundation for Higher Studies***

**Meeting Description:**

From 8-10 June 2006, the Steering Committee of the MENA Governance Institutes Forum for Training (GIFT-MENA) met in Granada, Spain, in order to (1) Review progress on previous network activities, (2) Decide on organizational, financial and managerial aspects of GIFT-MENA, and (3) Set up a work plan for 2006-2007.

The meeting was organized and hosted by the Euro Arab Foundation for Higher Studies in Granada; it was funded by the Euro Arab Foundation, the National Institute of Public Administration of Madrid and the World Bank Institute; it was attended by training schools and institutes from the MENA region as well as from Europe, and by regional and international organizations (see participant list in appendix).

**Background on GIFT-MENA:**

GIFT-MENA is a locally-owned initiative for knowledge-sharing on governance which was launched in Beirut in March 2006. The network brings together MENA schools and institutes specialized in the training of government civil servants and other experts from international and regional organizations in order to accomplish the following four objectives: 1. Support the capacity building and institutional development of its members, 2. Promote networking and strengthen partnerships among its members, including on the exchange of trainers and training programmes; 3. Disseminate information about best practices among its members; 4. Facilitate the development and implementation of new training materials on governance among its members

**Main message of the Steering Committee meeting:**

The steering committee members endorsed the mission of GIFT-MENA to act as a facilitator for knowledge-sharing and capacity-building. The long-term objective of GIFT-MENA is to create the capacity prerequisites for governance reform in MENA.

In the lapse of time until the next Steering Committee meeting to be held in Amman, Jordan, in December 2006, GIFT-MENA will implement the following actions: (1) Common web portal; (2) Draft work plan for trainers exchange programs; (3) Two pilot Training of Trainers (TOT) projects; (4) Mapping of training institutes and schools in MENA; and (5) Various dissemination tools for GIFT-MENA.

**Meeting Outcomes:**

*i) Membership:*

- Membership will be considered in terms of flows and exchanges of knowledge and expertise between Europe and MENA, rather than according to geographical boundaries.
- Criteria: (1) non-profit orientation; (2) relevance to the activities of GIFT-MENA including governance priorities; and (3) willingness to participate and contribute to the network.
- Composition: (1) National schools of public administration and training institutes affiliated to MENA governments; (2) Faculties and school of public administration in public and private universities in MENA (and in Europe to the extent that they focus on the MENA region); (3) Regional MENA organizations involved in training on public administration; (4) International organizations involved in training/capacity building on governance; (5) European and MENA Network of universities or individuals involved in public administration in MENA; (6) NGO's undertaking training in governance-related areas
- Types: (1) Full members, (2) Associate members,
- The Euro Arab Management School will be in charge of delivering a mapping of all training institutions working in the MENA region public sector. The technical permanent staff of the school will develop this project.

ii) *Constitutive issues*

- Decisions concerning (1) Status description; (2) Drafting and adoption of bylaws; (3) Election of a steering committee; (4) Nomination of an advisory board; and (5) Legal registration will be discussed in the next steering committee meeting in Amman.
- Ms. Ludmila Gajdosova, Executive Director of NISPAcee (Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe) will be hired as a consultant in order to advice on drafting of regulations and bylaws and for setting the GIFT-MENA membership legal framework. A study tour of some of the members to NISPAcee headquarters will be considered to learn from its experience.

iii) *Secretariat*

- GIFT-MENA will design and set up a full time secretariat within the next year. Until the next steering committee meeting, the Institute of Finance of Lebanon will fulfill the function of a temporary secretariat.
- Mr. Ricardo Vázquez, Director General for MENA and Africa at the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI - Ministry of Foreign Affairs) offered a special funding for the GIFT-MENA secretariat. Some of the activities of the Secretariat could be assured by the permanent staff located within the facilities of the Euro Arab Foundation in Granada.

iv) *Funding*

- The overall funding strategy aims to develop a multi-donors fundraising strategy; in parallel, each member of GIFT-MENA would be task to seek funding for the activities it would carry.
- For the first six months, WBI will continue to support selected GIFT-MENA activities. It has already allocated 15000 US\$ for the preparation of GIFT-MENA activities in the fiscal year 2007.

v) *Exchange and training of trainers*

- The Institute of Finance (IoF, Lebanon) and ADETEF (Ministry of Finance, France) jointly developed a training of trainers' (TOT) series of modules which will be tested in Lebanon in June 12-16, 2006. A brochure on TOT series will be developed as well.
- Based on the results of a questionnaire which was developed by IoF and distributed to public training schools and institutes in MENA, detailed working plans for trainers exchange programs will be jointly developed by IoF, ADETEF and NIT (National Institute for Training, Jordan) in the lapse of time until the next steering committee meeting. The exchange program will be launched beginning of 2007.
- The World Bank Institute (WBI) will provide support in identifying governance expertise for TOT activities.
- Each training institute/ school represented at the Steering Committee meeting would start identifying and preparing trainers for the exchange programs.

vi) *GIFT-MENA portal*

- In November 2006 a GIFT-MENA web portal with a trilingual interface will be launched providing information about (1) GIFT-MENA member institutions, (2) Database of publications related to governance, (3) Database of training material, (4) Announcements and follow-up news on events and activities, (5) Database of trainers and governance experts.
- The portal will be jointly developed by WBI and ARADO (Arab Administrative Development Organization).

vii) *Awareness raising and promotion of the network*

- An Information Brochure, a common PPT on GIFT-MENA and a letter of interest will be circulated by the IoF and send to potential GIFT-MENA members.
- Information about GIFT-MENA will be presented at the following venues: (1) The Annual Conference of IASIA (International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration) held in Warsaw, Poland, 5-8 July 2006; (2) The EGPA (European Group of Public Administration) Annual Conference, held in Milan, Italy, 6-9 September 2006; and (3) The meeting of the Arab Ministers of Administrative Development representing the Executive Board of ARADO in Kuwait City, Kuwait, in November 2006.



- Each training institute/ school represented at the steering committee meeting will held an (informal) national meeting to raise awareness on GIFT-MENA and to encourage other potential members.

*APPENDIX 1: Participant List; APPENDIX 2: GIFT-MENA Work Plan 2006 – 2007*