

Samir AITA

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Independent Consultant 2000 -

- Consulting studies (the Arab World): for the European Union, International Labor Organization (ILO), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), UN-Economic & Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), UN-Habitat, the OECD, the World Bank, CGAP and the IMF.
- Technical Assistance to the Ministries of Finance and of Telecommunications
- Consulting & development Studies: high tech & information and telecommunications, oil, gas & energy; banking; hotel & tourism; cement.
- Most recent projects:
 - ESCWA & UN-Habitat: *Local Needs Assessment of the cities of Homs and Nawa.*
 - Urban Recovery Framework for Post-Conflict Housing in Syria
 - UN-Habitat & UNDP Iraq: *International Advisor Municipal Financing and Industrial Strategy.*
 - UN-Habitat Tunisia for Libya: *International Advisor, city profiling for Libya.*
 - WB Group: *The Political Economy of Lebanon Financial Crisis*

Cercle des Economistes Arabes Paris, France www.economistes-arabes.org 2009 - ...

- Co-founder, President
- Non-profit think tank for the analysis of economic policies in the Arab countries.
 - Organizing yearly conferences on key issues in social & economic development in the Arab countries. Most recent conference:
 - July 31, 2018: *"The IMF and the Fragile States"*, jointly with the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
 - Teaching at universities of Paris I, Dauphine (Tunisia), Saint Joseph (Beirut), Bologna and Venice (Italy).

EDUCATION

Ecole Polytechnique Paris, France. Engineering. Class 74. Graduated in 77.

Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées Paris, France. Engineering. (77 - 78).

Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales Paris, France. Master Specialization in Social Sciences (77 - 78).

Institut National des Sciences et Techniques Nucléaires Saclay, France. Master Specialization in Mechanical Engineering for Nuclear Power Plants (79 - 80).

Centre de Perfectionnement aux Affaires Jouy-en-Josas, France. Executive Management program (October 93- January 94).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Le Monde Diplomatique Editions Arabes www.mondiploar.com Paris, France 2005 - 2013

Co-founder, General Manager & Editor in Chief

- More than 800,000 issues distributed in the Arab countries (Egypt, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen)
- *Monthly Letter of the Editor (in Arabic)*

**Economic Research
Forum
Cairo, Egypt
2008-2009**

Technical Director

- Concept Note for the Arab League Summit Conference on Social & Economic Development
- Piloting economic studies and programs on the Arab countries

SOCIETE GENERALE

Advisor to the Chairman for Conducting the Banking Project in Syria

**Société Générale de
Banques au Liban
Beirut, Lebanon
2001- 2002**

- For the creation of a new private bank in Syria
- Analysis of the Economic and Financial Situation in Syria

**Contracting &
Engineering Enterprises
Group
Royal Monceau Group
Cham Palace Hotels
Group
Paris, France
Beirut, Lebanon
Damascus, Syria
1994 - 1999**

Advisor to the President, Executive Manager of Contracting & Engineering Enterprises Group, member of the boards

Contracting & Engineering Enterprises; Group Suburbaine International S.A; SETI S.A

- Development, technical, commercial and financial rising and negotiation of projects in the Middle East.
- Executive Manager of the construction group:

FRAMASOFT S.A.

Negotiator for acquisition, Then President and C.E.O.

**Engineering Systems
International Group**

FRAMASOFT S.A. renamed as SYSTUS International

May 1996 - November 1997
Part time,
Simultaneously and
independently from above

- Company acquisition:

President and C.E.O of FRAMASOFT S.A.

**INDEPENDENT
CONSULTANT
January - May 1994**

- Market studies for the development in Middle East Countries.
- Strategic audits.
- Strategic analysis for privatization.
- Feasibility studies.

**ESI
Engineering Systems
international**

1987-1993

Vice President Industrial Strategy and Director of Department

Engineering Systems International S.A. The European leader and 3rd worldwide in virtual prototyping: numerical simulation for design in automotive, train, aerospace and defense industries.

- Management of the products development department,
- Development of Company's Japanese market.

C.E.A
1981 - 1987

Senior Engineer

Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique, Saclay Research Center

SOFRATOME
1978 - 1981

Project leader

SOFRATOME, an affiliate of CEA and EDF (Electricité de France)

SELECTED REPORTS & PUBLICATIONS

- **The Socio-Economic Challenges of Akkar-Lebanon and its interactions with its Surroundings;** The Legal Agenda, to be published.
- **Women's Economic Status in Syria;** UN Women and Ugarit, to be published.
- **Assessment of the Economic, Social, and Governance Challenges in Syria Internally Displaced Population Camps;** January 2023.

- **The Political Economy of Lebanon financial and economic crisis**; 2022.
- **The Economic and Social Impact of Open Government: Policy Recommendations for the Arab Countries**; OECD & UN report, 2022.
- **Developing Labour Statistics with a Focus on Informality and social protection in the Arab Region**; ILO report, to be published 2022.
- **The Political Economy and its Social Ramifications in Three Syrian Cities: Tartous, Qamishli and Azaz**; Cercle des Economistes Arabes, January 2021.
- **The Unintended Consequences of the US and European Unilateral Measures on Syria's Economy and its Small and Medium Enterprises**; the Carter Center, 2020.
- **Local Needs Assessment (LNA) of the cities of Homs and Nawa, Syria**; ESCWA & UN-Habitat studies, 2019-2020.
- **Urban Recovery Framework for Post-Conflict Housing in Syria. A first physical, social and economic approach**; 2019.
- **Rapid City Profiling & Monitoring System, Libya**; The cities of Benghazi, Sirte, Sebha and Ubari, UN-Habitat Reports, 2018.
- **Industrial Spatial Vision for Iraq**; UN-Habitat Report, LADP Program, 2018.
- **Municipal Finance & Improved Budget Execution in 5 urban cities**; UN-Habitat Report, LADP Program, 2017-2018.
- **Economic Assessment of Urban Issues for the Reconstruction of Syria**; State of the Syrian cities 2016-2017 project funded by the EU.
- **The innovation Landscape in the Arab countries, a critical review**; UN-ESCWA study 2017.
- **The informal employment in the Arab countries**; ANND Arab Watch Report, 2017.
- **The innovation Landscape in the Arab countries, a critical review**; ESCWA study 2017.
- **The informal employment in the Arab countries**; ANND Arab Watch Report, 2017.
- **The EU and energy in the Arab countries**; CEE Bankwatch and ANND study; November 2015.
- **Labor Markets Policies & Institutions, with a Focus on Inclusion, Equal Opportunity and the Informal Economy: the Case of Syria**; ILO study, July 2009.
- **Labor Market Performance and Migration Flows in Syria**; European University Institute/EU study, presented at Montecatini conference, March 26-27, 2009.
- **Towards the Reinforcement of the Role of Capital & Investment in Arab Social & Economic Integration**; Economic Research Forum paper presented to the Arab Summit in Kuwait, January 2008 (in Arabic).
- **EU Banking Sector Support Programme Report**; Syrian Ministry of Finance, Central bank and EU; July 2006.
- **Analyzing ICT Policies & Strategies in the ESCWA Region**; ESCWA Report May 2006.
- **The Syrian ICT Sector Strategy 2004-2103**; Syrian Ministry of Telecommunications and UNDP; February 2004.

BOOKS AUTHORED

- **Les Travailleurs Arabes Hors-La-Loi**, éditions L'Harmattan, 2011.
- **Employment & Labor Laws in The Arab Mediterranean Countries, and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership**; Fundacion Paz y Solidaridad (Spain) in English, French, Spanish and Arabic; (available at <http://www.ccoo.es/cscocoo/menu.do?Areas:Internacional:Euromediterraneo>); to appear in French at L'Harmattan Ed., 2011.
- **The Road Ahead for Syria, Syria Country Profile**, Editor, FEMISE, Economic Research Forum, 2006.

INVITED LECTURES & PUBLICATIONS

- **The earthquake in Syria: A crisis of nature and politics**; Atlantic Council, March 17, 2023.

- **Labour Statistics, Informality and Social Protection in the Arab Countries;** at the Regional Policy Forum Building Universal Social Protection Systems in the Arab Region, December 8, 2022.
- **The present context and reality of Syrian women;** invited lecture by EuroMed Feminist Initiative, March 9, 2020.
- **Informality and prospects of economic consolidation in Syria;** invited lecture in the workshop on “The Politics and Modalities of Economic Reconstruction in Syria”, Geneva, February 7-8, 2019.
- **Foreign debts, reforms and the change of the social pact in the Arab World;** keynote lecture at the workshop “The Making of the Washington Consensus in the Middle East and North Africa. Negotiating international assets, debts and power (1979-91)”, University of Bologna, Italy, October 10, 2018.
- **Innovation & Technology in Arab SMEs for achieving the 2030 agenda for sustainable development;** invited lecture at Expert Group Meeting on Innovation and Technology for Achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, December 5-7, 2017.
- **A gender and Informal Employment perspective on IMF policies in the Arab Countries;** IMF/WB Annual meeting Civil Society Policy Forum, Washington DC, October 11, 2017.
- **The Informal Employment in the Arab Countries, Statistics and Challenges;** invited lecture at the 12th meeting of the expert group on Informal Sector Statistics (Delhi Group); ILO, Geneva, October 2 and 3, 2017.
- **Issues and traps in labor statistics in the Arab World with a special focus on informal labor;** Arab Trade Union Confederation, 2017.
- **The Syrian Women during recovery from war and reconstruction.** Existential challenges; invited lecture by EFI, July 15, 2016.
- **The Syrian Migration Crisis: Shaping a Development Post Conflict Model;** IMF/WB Group Spring Meeting Civil Society Policy Forum; April 2016.
- **Syria: Aspirations and Fragmentations;** in “Arab Spring: Negotiating in the shadow of the Intifadat”, edited by I. William Zartman, 2015, University of Georgia Press.
- **The economic futures invented by Arab countries and the Middle East;** in “Planet for Life”, 2015, Agence Française pour le Développement, Armand Collin.
- **Penser Alep autrement ;** in « Alep et ses Territoires », Presses de l’Ifpo, Institut français du Proche-Orient, 2014.
- **Variables et enjeux économiques du soulèvement;** in “ Pas de printemps pour la Syrie, La Découverte, 2013.
- **Financing ICT Sector Investments in Times of Global Crisis; Investing in Telecommunication Infrastructure in the Region: Policies & Strategies Dilemma; Digital Arabic Content: a Wishful Ideological Thinking or a Business Opportunity?;** invited lectures in ESCWA workshop on Investment in the ICT Sector; Cairo, May 5-7, 2009.
- **Capital et Travail dans le Monde Arabe;** Invited Course at the Institut des Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po; Paris) ; May 29, 2009.
- **Sovereign Wealth Funds: an Instrument Marked by Its Birth Conditions;** in Managing Arab Sovereign Wealth Funds in Turbulent Times and beyond; Carnegie Paper no 16; April 2009.
- **The Political Economy of the Banking Sector in Syria,** Invited lecture, conference on reforms in Syria, Saint Andrews, UK, April 2008.
- **L’Economie de la Syrie peut-elle devenir sociale ?!,** in « la Syrie au Présent », Actes Sud, 2007.
- **Reform, State and Politics in Syria,** in “the Changing Role of the State”, S. Radwan and M. Riesco Eds, ERF book, Egypt, 2007.
- **Syria: a History of Troubles & Constructions,** in Italian in the collective book « Siria: Dalle Antiche Citta-Stato alla Primavera Interrotta di Damasco, Jaca Book, Milano, 2006.
- **Syria, between Storms and Reforms,** Invited lecture at the Department of Political Sciences at Yale University, USA, November 2005.
- **I HAVE A DREAM;** in Syria; Oxford Business Group 2004 (English) and Al Hayat, October 13, 2004 (Arabic).
- **Globalization, Economic Impact and Democracy in the Arab World ...presented to the “Mediterranean Dialogue Program” Conference, Beirut 11-12 May 2002.**

- **Syrian Banking & Financial Sectors** ...presented at the Conference on “Syria: A New dawn of Business, Trade & Investment”, London, July 3-4 2001

SELECTED ARTICLES

- Bimonthly editorials in Shorouq (Egypt) since 2018.
- Weekly editorials at Assafir (Lebanon), 2014-2017;
- Bimonthly editorial at Al Bayan (UAE, in Arabic) 2015-2018.
- Monthly editorials of Le Monde diplomatique editions arabes (in Arabic) 2005-2013.
- **The Political Economy of Syria’s Physical Fragmentation and Dependence**; GCSP, August 2021.
- **Reconstruction as a political-economy issue: The case of Syria** ; The Cairo Review of Global Affairs, September 2019.
- **Inequalities in the Arab World: Move from Rent to Tax**; ID4D, February 7, 2018.
- **Trade without Religion between Turkey and Syria**; IFRI Editorial, March 24, 2017.
- **Syrie, une guerre confessionnelle sans confessions** ; Orient XXI, May 25, 2016.
- **Post-Arab Spring : Sustainable development via a nexus approach** ; September 8, 2015, ID4D.
- **Vers un alliance de l’Occident et des pays du Golfe pour imposer un nouvel ordre régional?** L’ENA hors les murs, n°414, Septembre 2011.
- **Follow the Money** ; Le Monde diplomatique English Edition, April 2011.
- **Comment la Crise a-t-elle Impacté le Monde Arabe : la Fin des Chimères des « Dubai Boys »** ; L’ENA hors les murs ; March 2009.
- **A Christian and Secular Muslim Brotherhood**; Le Monde diplomatique French & Arabic editions; May 2008.
- **Inflation in Syria... An Economic or a Monetary Policy Issue**; Al Hal Magazine, Damascus, August 2007 (in Arabic).
- **Special Economic Zones or Economic Reforms....** Article Teshrine 5-6 July 2003, in Arabic.
- **The Syrian Pound, the Euro and the Dollar** ...article Teshrine 21 October 2002, in Arabic