

The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI)

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The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) is a stand-alone institute within AUB that inaugurated its ongoing activities in Fall 2006 with a generous endowment grant from His Excellency Issam Fares. It aims at harnessing the policy-related research of AUB's internationally respected faculty to achieve several goals:

- Raising the quality of public policy-related debate and decision-making in the Arab World and abroad, and enhancing the Arab World's input into international affairs.
- Enriching the quality of interaction among scholars, officials and civil society actors in the Middle East and abroad.

Until the permanent building of IFI is completed, its strategic work plan for the first three years comprises an inter-related series of activities:

- Identifying the policy-related research of AUB professors and priority policy issues in the Arab world, and generating linkages among them.
- Bringing together AUB faculty from different schools with common research interests to define a solid foundation of research activity on which to engage with others in the region and globally.
- Organizing public activities that promote IFI's profile in the public realm and help to develop contacts with a network of like-minded colleagues in the Arab World and abroad. The aim of this is to launch sustained collaborative research and advocacy
- Initiating some core programs and projects, namely:
- The Distinguished Peacemakers Lecture Series, which may trigger a long-term conflict-resolution program.

The Arab Public Policy and Think Tank Program, to assess the way public policy is made and implemented in the region, and how and why think tanks and research centers contribute to policy-making.

- The Youth-related Research and Policy Program.
- The Arab Region Research and Policy Forum on Climate Change.
- Visiting fellows, public lectures, panel discussions, workshops, seminars and conferences.
- Publishing policy papers and working papers by AUB faculty and other researchers.
- The Institute aims at bringing the power of knowledge, research, and critical thinking to inform and enrich debates on public policy and international affairs.
- The Institute promotes good governance in the various fields of public policy and international affairs in keeping with the best interests of the people of Lebanon and the Arab world.
- The Institute's scope of concern in public policy and international affairs is broadly conceived and includes such fields as the environment, public health, agriculture, urban planning, energy policy, in addition to the traditional areas of economics, development policy, governance, and international relations.