



**Second Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations
Istanbul, Turkey, 6-7 April 2009
Breakfast Session#7: Jobs in Period of Recession: A Global Challenge for Youth
Monday, 6 April 2009, 07:45-08:45
Organized by the Education For Employment Foundation**

Objectives and Expectations of this Session

The objective of the session is to explore the links between employment and the development of societies. In a period where global turmoil is producing steep increases in the unemployment rate, some regions suffer more than others.

A new model for employment is needed especially in the MENA region which has the highest first-time jobseekers unemployment rate.

Unemployment devastates the social and economic fabric of society, cheating countries of their greatest potential. Further, unemployment can cause people in general and youth specifically to feel marginalized, frustrated, and angry at a society that has failed them – and can thus lead to destructive behaviour. Economic and social inclusion of young people is vital for peace and stability worldwide. Employment confers identity, self-respect, economic security, and a stake in the future – all important cornerstones for citizens of a peaceful and prosperous society.

Questions for Discussion

- How employment opportunities sustain the economy of countries and therefore the dialogue of cultures?
- How can unemployment lead to antisocial behaviour?
- How can international organizations such as the Alliance of Civilizations, the United Nations, the World Bank, in coordination with CSOs and others, facilitate and support the creation of youth employment programs?
- What's in it for the private sector? How can companies improve their staff recruitment systems through tailor-made training of first-time job seekers?
- How can foundations, CSOs, youth organizations and companies gain in terms of visibility and media attention from the partnerships created?
- What can we learn from the EFE Model in MENA?

Organization of this Session

This will be an interactive session. The Education For Employment model will be analyzed and the session will examine the different opportunities of investing in youth employment programs. The speaker will give a 5 minutes presentation to introduce the topic and then the floor will be opened for half an hour for an open debate with all participants.

Speaker

Mr. Michael Hager, President, The Education for Employment Foundation

Participants

Government, International Organizations, Private Sector and CSOs representatives