

## Amman: An engine of economic growth

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019, 17:00

**Location:** Columbia Global Centers | Amman

**Address:** 5 Moh'd Al Sa'd Al-Batayneh Street | King Hussein Park – Amman, Jordan

### Programme

17.00-17.30	Registration and coffee	
17.30-17.35	<b>Welcome Remarks</b>	<b>Jonathan Leape</b> (Executive Director, International Growth Centre)
17.35-17.45	<b>Keynote Speech</b>	<b>HE Yousef Shawarbeh</b> (Mayor of Greater Amman Municipality)
17.45- 18.15	<b>Presentation on the challenges and opportunities of rapid urbanisation</b>	<b>Nick Tsivanidis</b> (Research Programme Director for Cities, International Growth Centre; UC Berkeley)
18.15-19.10	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	<p>Chair: <b>Astrid Haas</b> (<i>Cities that Work</i> Manager, International Growth Centre)</p> <p>Speakers: <b>Rami Farouk Daher</b> (Associate Professor, German Jordanian University (GJU)) <b>Susan Razzaz</b> (Economist, ERF) <b>Heike Harmgart</b> (Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Region, ERBD) <b>Yusuf Mansur</b> (Chief Executive Officer, EnConsult) <b>Edward Glaeser</b> (Research Programme Director for Cities, International Growth Centre; Harvard)</p>
19.10-19.30	<b>Q&amp;A and Closing Remarks</b>	
19.30-20.30	Reception	

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### Speaker bios



**H.E. Yousef Shawarbeh** is the 40th and current mayor of Amman, Jordan. Previously, he was the Chairman of the Amman Municipal Committee. In 2016, he was appointed Minister of Political and Parliament Affairs. Shawarbeh was Greater Amman Municipality (GAM) Deputy Mayor between 2013 and 2016 and a member of GAM Council since September 2013. He holds a PhD degree in the constitutional law.



**Jonathan Leape** is the Executive Director of the IGC and an Associate Professor of Economics at the LSE. He was the founding director of the Centre for Research into Economics and Finance in Southern Africa, which was established at LSE in 1990 as an initiative of the Commonwealth Heads of Government to support the democratic transition in South Africa. Leape has advised a number of African governments, with a focus on tax and regulatory issues, and he served as Chief Academic Advisor on Taxation to the UK Government Economic Service.



**Astrid Haas** is *Cities that Work* Manager at the IGC and Senior Country Economist for IGC Uganda. Prior to joining the IGC, she worked for Innovations for Poverty Action as the Interim Deputy Country Director for Uganda as well as a Program Manager for Evidence Action, which included work in Uganda, Rwanda, and Malawi. Astrid has also worked as an analyst on a large-scale agriculture project in South Sudan and as an Overseas Development Institute Fellow in the Ministry of East African Community in Kenya.



**Nick Tsivanidis** is a Research Programme Director for the IGC's Cities Programme. In Fall 2019, he will join the University of California Berkeley Haas School of Business and Department of Economics as Assistant Professor. Tsivanidis is currently International Economics Fellow at Dartmouth College. His recent research includes examining the impact of Bus Rapid Transit on productivity and inequality in Bogotá, using satellite imagery and

artificial intelligence to understand the dynamics of slums in Mumbai, and understanding the impact of the refugee influx on Amman.



**Susan Razzaz** is an economist based in Amman. She is currently working with an inter-ministerial committee representing the ministries of planning, education, health, labour, and social assistance to develop Jordan's National Social Protection and Poverty Reduction Strategy. Susan recently retired from the World Bank where she worked in Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Yemen, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Her work for the World Bank covered macroeconomics as well as labour markets, poverty issues and the economic role of refugees.



**Dr. Yusuf Mansur** is Chief Executive Officer of Envision Consulting Group (EnConsult). Dr Mansur is former Minister of State for Economic Affairs and he served as Member of the Prime Minister's Economic Policy Advisory Committee.

Dr Mansur holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Oklahoma.



**Dr. Heike Harmgart** is heading the activities of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development in Jordan since the beginning of the Bank's expansion to the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean Region. With the launch of EBRD's activities in the West Bank and Gaza (May 2017) and Lebanon (September 2017), Heike became the Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Prior to joining the EBRD, Heike worked several years for the Economist Group, mainly on emerging markets in the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). She holds a PhD in Economics from University College London (UCL).



**Ed Glaeser** is a Research Programme Director for the IGC's Cities Programme. He is the Fred and Eleanor Glimp Professor of Economics at Harvard University, where he also serves as Director of the Taubman Center for State and Local Government and the Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston. He also edits the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. Glaeser studies the economics of cities, and has written several papers on urban issues, including the growth of cities, segregation, crime, and housing markets.



**Rami Farouk Daher**, Ph. D., M. Arch., B.Sc. is Associate Professor at the School of Architect and Built Environment at the German Jordanian University (GJU) and a practicing architect and general director of TURATH: Architecture & Urban Design Consultants and Metropolis: Cities Research Council, the research arm of TURATH.

Daher had earned a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Jordan (1988), a Master of Architecture from the University of Minnesota (1991), a PhD in Architecture from Texas A&M U (1995), and was a recipient of a FULBRIGHT Scholarship through which he did his post-doctoral studies at the University of California, Berkeley (2001).