 

**Iraq’s Economy: Challenges and Opportunities**

**AGENDA**

**08.30 a.m. - 09.30 a.m. Registration and light breakfast**

**09.30 a.m. Opening remarks**

**Introduction by:**

* **Sasha Toperich, Senior Fellow and Director, Mediterranean Basin Initiative, CTR-SAIS**
* **Michael J. Delaney, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for South Asia**
* **Lukman Faily, Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United States**

**10 a.m. - 11.15 a.m. Economic Mosaic of Iraq**

**Speakers:**

* **Joseph S. Pennington, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Iraq, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, U.S. Department of State**
* **Noori Abdulrahman, Chairman, Board of Investment and Minister of Coordination and Follow Up, Kurdistan Regional Government**
* **James Parks, Financial Advisor to the KRG Deputy Prime Minister**

**Commentator:**

* **Mark Kimmitt, Brigadier General (U.S. Army, ret.)**

**Moderator:**

* **Andrew Parasiliti, Director, Center for Global Risk and Security, RAND Corporation**

**11.15 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. Coffee break**

**11.30 a.m. - 12.45 p.m. Centralization or Decentralization of Iraq's Economic and Commercial Policy**

**Speakers:**

* **Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman, Kurdistan Regional Government Representative to the United States**
* **Sami Al-Araji, Head of the Iraq National Investment Commission (Via Skype)**
* **Justin Carney, Regional Vice-President, Middle East North Africa at Business Impact Networks**

**Moderator:**

* **Daniel Serwer, Professor and Director, Conflict Management Program, and Senior Fellow, CTR at SAIS**

**12:45 p.m. - 1.15 p.m. Doing Business in Iraq**

* **Iraq Commercial Office, Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Washington, D.C.**

**12.30 - 12.45 p.m. Speech:**

* **Jasim Husein, Commercial Attache', Iraq Commercial Office, Embassy of the Republic of Iraq**

**12.45 - 1 p.m. Presentation:**

* **Qasim Basry, Executive Assistant, Iraq Commercial Office, Embassy of the Republic of Iraq**

**1.15 p.m. - 2.30 p.m. Lunch Break**

**2.30 p.m. - 4 p.m. Business Challenges and Opportunities**

**Speakers:**

* **Steve Lutes, Executive Director, Middle East Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce**
* **Ginger Cruz, CEO, Mantid International LLC**
* **Rebwar Berzinji, Founder and President, Pericles Capital Advisors, LLC**

**Moderator:**

* **Sasha Toperich, Senior Fellow CTR at SAIS**

**4 p.m. - 5.15 p.m. Economic Growth and Trade Competitiveness Through Job Creation and SME's**

**Speakers:**

* **Zainab Allawi, Advisor to Executive Director, The World Bank**
* **Marc Tejtel, Deputy Chief Counsel for the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), US Department of Commerce**
* **Christopher Schroeder, Venture Investor and Author, Startup Rising: The Entrepreneurial Revolution Remaking the Middle East**

**Moderator:**

* **Rebeen Pasha, Founder & President SDH/REbuild Iraq and Middle East Young Entrepenurs' Dreams**

 **5.15 - 5.30 p.m. Coffee Break**

**5.30 p.m. - 6.45 p.m. Private Sector Growth - Strengthening Transatlantic Partnership**

**Speakers:**

* **John J. Sullivan, Mayer Brown LLP**
* **Jorge Restrepo, Managing Partner, New Frontiers Legal Consulting Services**
* **David M. Tafuri, Partner, Dentons US LLP and President of the US-Kurdistan Business Council**

**Moderator**

* **Sasha Toperich, Senior Fellow CTR at SAIS**

**6.45 p.m. Reception**