The International Monetary Fund expects the Gulf's GDP to double by 6.5 percent

The International Monetary Fund expected that the GDP growth of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries would double, to reach 6.5 percent by the end of 2022, indicating that the rise in commodity prices reduced the indirect effects of the war in Ukraine and the impact resulting from the tightening of global financial conditions and allowed for more expectations. Positive for the economies of the six Gulf countries.

According to the analysis of the report, which was titled "Economic Prospects and Policy Challenges for the GCC Countries 2022", the GCC countries will provide much more resources than they were during previous periods due to the financial and structural reforms that were taken in the region. The overall fiscal surplus has increased to more than $100 billion, as the increase in expenditures, especially on wages, has so far been contained.

The report shows that while the Gulf countries have benefited from high oil and gas prices, albeit volatile, many risks still hang over the outlook, especially the global economy's slowdown. This is what is required in light of this situation to maintain the reform momentum.

The report recommended that medium and long-term challenges should be firmly addressed, by implementing a comprehensive package of policies that includes the use of additional revenues from high oil prices, while giving priority to targeted support for the most vulnerable groups, thus enhancing the progress made in digitization.

Source (Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper, Edited)
Assets of Islamic Banks Increase in Qatar

Qatar Central Bank data showed that the assets of Islamic banks in Qatar were registered at a level of 535 billion riyals, during the month of October, which is the latest available data, up by 0.6 percent compared to September 2022, and up by 10.4 percent on an annual compared to October 2021, compared to a marginal decrease in the assets of traditional commercial banks of 0.8 percent on a monthly basis, and a decrease of 1 percent on an annual basis.

This growth in the assets of Islamic banks led to an increase in the balance of foreign assets by 4.6 percent, while Islamic banks acquire a share of 29 percent of the assets of the banking sector in Qatar.

Expectations for the Growth of the Egyptian Economy by 5 Percent

Egyptian Minister of Planning, Hala El-Said, expected to achieve a growth rate of approximately 5 percent by the end of the current fiscal year 2022-2023, despite the current effects of the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, whose repercussions are likely to extend during the next year.

During her review of the initial indicators of the Egyptian economy at the cabinet meeting, Minister Al-Said stated “The preliminary data showed that the Egyptian economy continued to achieve a high growth rate during the first quarter of the fiscal year 2022-2023, at a rate of 4.4 percent, despite the challenges posed by three global events: the continuing repercussions of the Coronavirus the Russian-Ukrainian crisis, and the unfavorable effects of climate change.”

The report monitored a decrease in deposits with Islamic banks by 1.1 percent on a monthly basis, amounting to 314 billion riyals. This monthly decline was led by the decline in deposits of non-residents by 11.4 percent. While deposits in Islamic banks rose on an annual basis by 1.7 percent. Deposits of conventional commercial banks decreased by 1.1 percent on a monthly basis and an annual decline of 2.5 percent.

Deposits in Islamic banks are 5.6 percent higher than they were in the corresponding quarter of the previous year, and the inflation rate is witnessing a rise driven by the upward trend of global inflation.

Source (Al-Sharq Al-Awsat Newspaper, Edited)