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President's Message: Diversity in higher education

Prejudice is a scourge that has no place in the life of an educated person. By prejudice here we mean one who is ignorant of other ethnic groups or religions than his own. Politics and political parties and movements are another matter altogether.

Part of education, especially higher education, is becoming acquainted with diverse cultures and nationalities and religions.

The root of prejudice is actually fear. Unfortunately, we are afraid of that of which we know little or nothing. What is worse than this is that sometimes we have our heads and hearts full of a lot of nonsensical information about a certain ethnic culture or religion. We are taught to fear. From where does this nonsensical information come? Unfortunately, a great deal of it comes from family and friends from the time we are small children. Be that as it may, there is still no place for it in the life of an educated person. Part of the purpose of education in general and higher education in particular is to go beyond those who have gone before us. This is not to criticize our forefathers but to advance our culture.

NDU is a good example of young people learning about other cultures. A percentage of the student body of NDU comes from outside of Lebanon. This means that not only do the students, and some faculty for that matter, come to know Lebanese society but also that of many other places in the world, and so they learn about many different cultures and religions. In one sense, diversity of experience is a better teacher than the classroom. Alas, the classroom is necessary because some things, in fact most things, cannot be learned by personal experience only.

The business of religious prejudice is a very important element in the 21st century. It seems the more advanced



Father Boutros Tarabay

the world is becoming scientifically and technologically, the more important is the role of religion. In order for people to overcome fear of other religions and cultures they must to know them, or what is far better, know persons from these cultures and religions. Once a well known Catholic evangelist said: "I've never met anyone who hates the Catholic Church, but I know many who hate what they THINK is the Catholic Church". In truth, prejudice is a despicable and dangerous thing. Necessarily, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews and people of every other religion could say the same thing. At least, NDU is contributing to the future of the youth of the world by helping to eradicate such ignorance and prejudice.

Rev. Fr. Boutros Tarabay, President

Notre Dame University
Lebanon

God and Man

Two Mysteries in the Eternal Journey

[Presented at the International Conference on God and Man, organized by the Lebanese Center for Research and Studies (LCRS), Notre Dame University, Lebanon, February 18 & 19, 2005]

The human journey towards God has been matched with the divine journey towards man at several stages in history. These journeys are described and expressed in several cognitive and spiritual approaches. Theology, philosophy and science have their own different interpretations for this extraordinary moral and mental endeavor. The philosophical perspective is one of the most challenging and significant attempts to understand this historic anonymity.

Kant, unlike scholasticism, tried to put an end to the conflict between science and religion by restricting the authority of reason to the phenomenal world. Kant argues that since science cannot claim knowledge over all of reality, and since knowledgeable man reaches a point of complete ignorance concerning things in themselves, then the only way out is the possibility of faith where conviction, belief and devotion can be exercised in the absence of all other tools of knowledge. One could argue with Kant that if the moral aspect in man is only the result of belief. Then does this mean that man before the history of religions was an immoral creature? In other words if it is true that morality is tied with religious values, is it also true that morality could exist regardless of spirituality? Here one would ask to what extent moral existence is separated from, or related to, the freedom of the will. Could man imagine a certain value system without the divine context? If yes, then the moral argument of Kant's faith is questionable, and if no, then the pre-religious system of values is questionable.

The moral argument explaining the historic journey between Man and God might be necessary but not sufficient, true but not comprehensive. Isn't there a place where the human mind, because of its ultimate ignorance, has to exercise its anguish, its need, its desire to know more, to discover more, to understand more, and thus to believe more, and trust more? In that sense knowing God is part of knowing our rational power; believing in God is a fraction of believing in our limited but coherent supremacy. Thus the moral existence is counter-balanced with the rational existence, and both are challenged with the physical and metaphysical existence.



Dr. Ameen A. Rihani

Facing this reality, Hegel attempted to comprehend all dimensions of existence; and in order to see it as a whole package-deal for Man's historic journey towards God, Hegel saw these dimensions, and eventually every dimension of the human mind, as dialectically integrated, and diagnostically incorporated in one unique uninterrupted whole. For Hegel, human thought is saturated with contradictions. Similarly reality is, in turn, overwhelmed with oppositions and paradoxical facts. He went as far as considering that each stage of being contains within itself the features of contradiction. This fact, or this truth, serves as the momentum and the energy of its own movement towards a higher and more complete phase of the same reality, and the same being. In order to face these real challenges Hegel suggests that through an ongoing dialectical development of opposition and synthesis, the world is always in the process of completing itself. It is worthwhile noticing here that the verb complete, in this philosophical context, cannot mean finish or conclude or finalize. It rather suggests the meaning of ultimate comprehension and crucial intellectual understanding of the world.

The dialectical argument makes truth radically paradoxical. However the highest developed human mind, according to Hegel, is capable of realizing and apprehending such a paradoxical truth. This sounds contradictory in Hegel's approach, nevertheless simultaneous paradoxical and apprehending adjectives are synthesized in Hegel's mind believing that the human reason is ultimately stranded in the divine reason itself. Here we are facing two opposite mysteries in Man's journey towards God: while Kant argues that reason cannot penetrate the veil of phenomena to reach the ultimate truth, Hegel argues that reason can penetrate that veil because it is found eventually ashore with the divine reason itself.

How to solve this problem? In other words how to draw the route of Man's journey to God? Heidegger in his *Being and Time* (Sein und Zeit) deprives the idea of transcendence from the religious and theological implications that it had with Kierkegaard. Time transcendence is achieved, in Heidegger's understanding of being and time, through man's anxiety for the future and his preoccupation with the idea of death.

God and Man (continued)

The transcendental argument, although deprived from any religious and theological perspective with Heidegger, can easily be geared towards a spiritual and metaphysical connotation if the term "time" is replaced with Man's understanding of God, with Man's mystical journey towards the metaphysical or towards a divine transcendentalism. After all, Heidegger himself, at the end of his life, said: "Only a god can save us."

Perhaps philosophy and theology will keep debating the significance of a small "g" versus a capital "G" as they attempt, over and over again, to interpret the world in its physical and metaphysical existence.

Ameen Albert Rihani, Ph.D.
February 18, 2005

"God and Man Between Destiny and Becoming"

Was the title of the international conference that was organized by the Lebanese Center for Research and Studies (LCRS) at NDU in Zouk Mosbeh. The conference was graced by the attendance and participation of the Father General of the Maronite Mariamite Order, Abbot François Eid, the President of NDU, Father Boutros Tarabay, and a wide array of spiritual leaders, researchers and Lebanese and foreign thinkers.

The opening session entitled "Religious Belief in Today's World between the Preoccupation of Religious Institutions with the Relation between God and Man and the Amplitude of the Promise of Faith: How can we Revive this Promise?" opened with the national anthem, which was followed by a minute of silence in homage to the late Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri.

The first session: The dynamics of values in the contemporary world.

The second session: The dynamics of religious dogmas.

The third session: The dynamics of faith.



Some of the participants

The fourth session: The problematic of dialogue.

The last session: The framework of a continuous creation.

The recommendations that ensued from the conference centered on three main issues: the current state of affairs of religious phenomena and beliefs, the religious institution in its relation with the society and the community of believers and practical and future suggestions.

First: on the current state of affairs of religious phenomena and beliefs: The conference deduced six quintessential issues: the dangers of politicized religion, the dangers of the transformation of religious practices into closed dogmas, the transformation of values to mere consumer products and their deviation sometimes from their philosophical, religious and moral sources, and the problems that face religious freedoms and the freezing of the religious text.

Second: on religious institutions:

- Faith is the essence that leads to the finding of God; therefore, the road to faith is through a direct knowledge of the Holy Books, self-experience and the relation with God. Consequently, faith presumes an acknowledgment of all religious freedoms and the acceptance of religious criticism, often to the advantage of the religions themselves; otherwise religions will become nothing but traditions, religious rituals and social set-ups with the risk of having religions enter into the field of power, authority and politics.
- Every religion is in need of institutions that help in the transmittance of the testimony and in its continuity and development. These institutions, which are led by humans, might deviate from their spirituality and might combine with interests, authority and power.

Third: On freedom, knowledge and positive models: Religious freedom: stemming from a definition of the

God and Man (continued)

levels of knowledge and the nature of faith, religious freedoms go in par with free faith, the spirituality of institutions and the transmittance of the testimony of faith.

1- The religious institution: its spirituality and its transmittance of the testimony and its role in society with respect to its communication with the different factions of believers.

2- Transfer of knowledge: the mechanisms of the transfer of the testimony of belief require a renewal in education and in the religious speech. Knowledge is gradated and relative even in natural sciences; and wisdom, i.e. knowledge juxtaposed with experience, is deeper than an ideological knowledge that contradicts with the scientific path of today.

3- No ruling in the name of religion: one cannot separate between religion and politics in all religions, but the need lies in separating religion from the practice of power, that is no ruling in the name of religion. This is the summation of an entire historical experience. The religions that practiced political command in the name of religion turned into dictatorships. Ruling is subject to legal situational rules (that might be inspired from religious canons) with the aim of protecting individuals and communities from political hegemony and from practices that hide behind religion to judge people before the Day of Judgment.

4- Bridges between religions and believers: a closed dogma does not contribute in building bridges between religions, while believers from different religions meet by finding the right path to God and participating in faith and lived experiences, especially the experiences of saints and mystics.

5- Positive models: positive and practical models in finding the right path to God and in the dialogue between religions through a partnership of faith that is not duly disseminated by the mechanisms of the transfer of knowledge and the media. Often, the negative phenomena in religious practices and in the relations between religions are placed under the microscope and greatly highlighted because they are much more exciting. Today, we are in dire need of finding and disseminating positive and practical experiences that motivate emulation and oneness and that substitute for a repetitive speech in a world where people are increasingly seeking meaning and working towards discovering means of change.

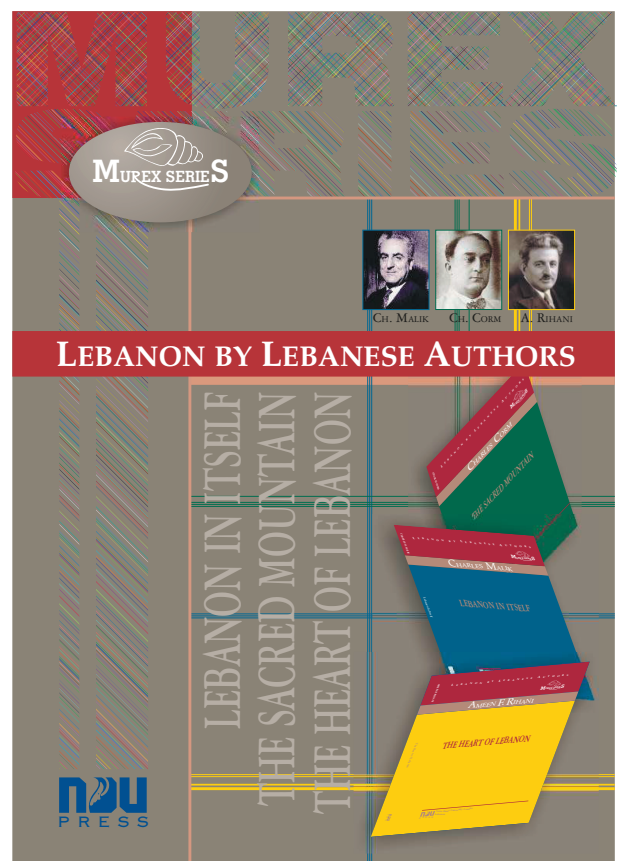
The Murex Series: Lebanon by Lebanese Authors

Notre Dame University, has launched a new series, the Murex Series, under the headline Lebanon by Lebanese authors.

It is basically made up of selected works by great Lebanese authors ranging from literary to political to social and historical writings about Lebanon. The books are translated and published in an elegant cover that bears the slogan of the Murex connotatively and denotatively.

The aim of this series is to bring forth the civilizational aspect of Lebanon in its cultural, historical and social dimensions and to present it to the Western reader as a rich subject matter that enables him to understand the Lebanese presence on the international map.

This project was introduced in 2003 and is ongoing with the publication of an average of one or two books per year.



Lebanon In Itself

The book of Dr. Charles Malik, the author, was originally published in Arabic in 1973, by the general editor, Dr. Fouad Frem Al-Boustani. The translator, Dr. George Sabra, was asked to kindly translate it into English.

The book treated the subject of "Lebanon in its innermost being" which means "Lebanon in Itself". The author considered Lebanon as a special identity, through its relations with both the Arab and the international worlds. He stressed that Lebanon is an existential and distinctive thing, and that its essence is the picture he drew in the book, from his own ideas.

Charles Malik treats thoroughly this special, existential and distinctive "thingness" of Lebanon. The author clearly states that his study is neither a historical, nor a poetic, nor an imaginary, nor a political study. Fundamentally it is a philosophical, humanist and existential outlook that penetrates to the ultimate truth of Lebanon.

Author: **Dr. Charles Malik**
 Translated by: **Dr. George Sabra**
 Revised by: **Kenneth Mortimer**
 Edition: 2004
 ISBN: 9953-418-95-0
 Language: English
 Number of pages: 70
 Cover: Colored hardcover

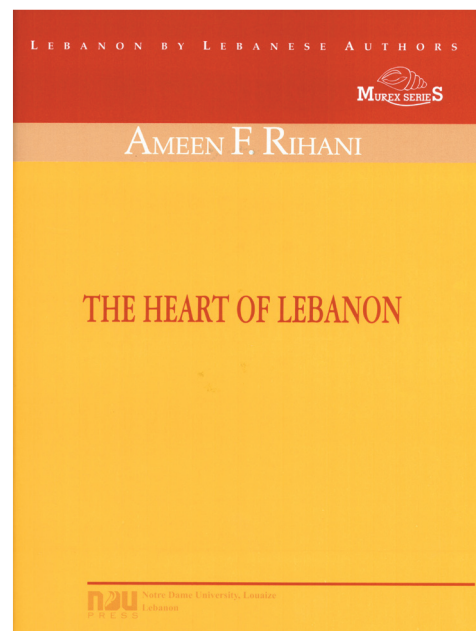
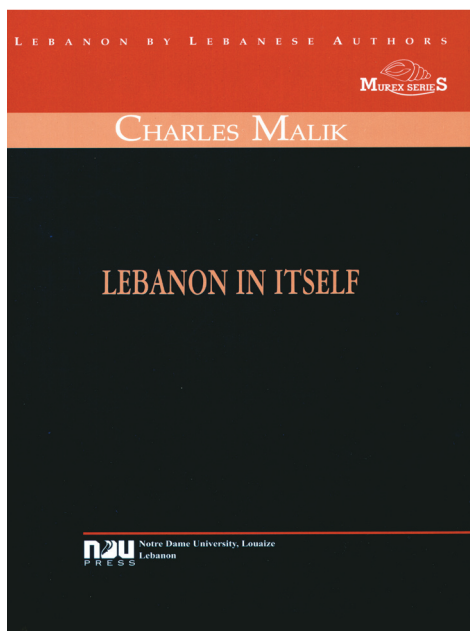
The Heart of Lebanon

The Heart of Lebanon is a book of unique journeys, a diversity of poetry, history, and personal narrative presented by the author who traveled and described the characteristics of his native country. *The Heart of Lebanon* is a first-hand account in which Ameen Rihani wanted the reader to share with him the joys of experiencing authentic scenes of Lebanese life.

This record of different incidents is like a rainbow displaying the different colors of pleasure and pain, hope and despair, beauty and homeliness. Rihani registered history, geography, psychology, sociology, fashion, faith, travel and traditions which, taken together in an amazingly woven tapestry, led to further knowledge and better understanding of the Lebanese character.

This valuable and genuine information was made available for all readers to get an accurate picture of the Lebanon of the first half of the twentieth century. No book has revealed the conduct, secrets, and charms of the Lebanese life in its social, cultural, and literary aspects as thoroughly and beautifully as *The Heart of Lebanon*.

Author: **Ameen F. Rihani**
 Translated by: **Dr. Henry Melki**
 Revised by: **Dr. Paul Jahshan**
 Edition: 2005
 ISBN: 9953-418- 57-8
 Language: English
 Number of pages: 498
 Cover: Colored hardcover



The Sacred Mountain

This is a long poem on the characteristics of Lebanon. It is divided into three parts: enthusiasm, pain and memory. This piece is considered to be among the best works of the French-Lebanese poetry movement that flourished in the 1930's. It has been translated into English for the first time.

This book falls under a project that is being undertaken by Notre Dame University, and that aims at choosing a number of literary and intellectual works on Lebanon and translating them into English in order to promote the cultural aspect of Lebanon in the western milieu, especially in the US.

Author: **Charles Corm**

Translated by: **Dr. Carol Kfourri**

Revised by: **Dr. Paul Jahshan**

Edition: 2003

Language: English

Number of pages: 133

Cover: Colored hardcover



02 Dr. Patricia M. Nabti

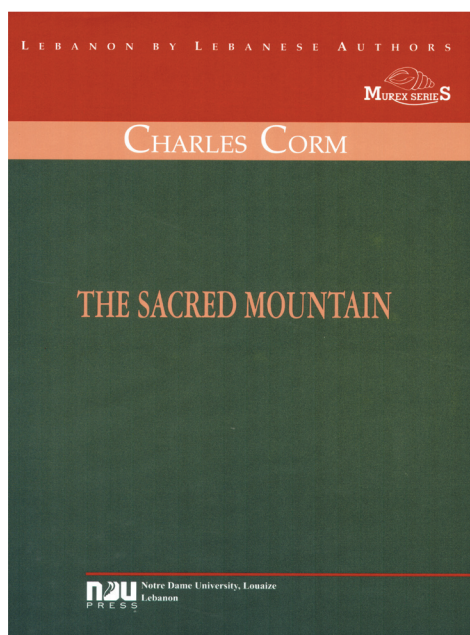
LERC Conferences

Arabic Contributions Down Under: Zero to Zenith - The Lebanese Experience

On the occasion of International Migrants Day, December 18th, 2004, in the NDU Friends Hall a large audience answering an open invitation from the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) of NDU, the Australian Embassy in Lebanon and the Friends of LERC were shown a film entitled Arabic Contributions Down Under, Zero to Zenith (the Lebanese Experience). It was introduced by Her Excellency Stephanie Shwabsky, Ambassador of Australia in Lebanon.

Ambassador Shwabsky is a senior career officer in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, to which she transferred in 1982 from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet where she had been employed since 1974. She has served in Bonn, Hanoi, Colombo, Nairobi, Pnom Penh, Dili and elsewhere. She was a United Nations International Polling Station Officer for the Cambodian election in 1993, UN Observer for the South African 1994 elections, and a member of the Australian Observer Delegation, 1999 East Timor Popular Consultation.

The Australian Arabic Council received a Living in Harmony community grant to produce the above-named documentary film. About forty minutes long, the film outlines briefly the Arabs' contribution to humanity and then the history of Arab migration to Australia. It focuses on the Lebanese experience in Australia and provides portraits of Lebanese-Australians prominent in such fields as art, sport, medicine and industry. It was produced in 1993 in association with the Australian government.



LERC Conferences

Creation of a Global Village Over a Century of Emigration from Bishmizzine

On January 26th, 2005, NDU had the honor of hosting Dr. Patricia Mihaly Nabti, leading anthropologist and Founder-Director of The Association for Volunteer Service, when she gave a lecture entitled The Creation of a Global Village: Over a Century of Emigration from Bishmizzine as part of the Village Network Initiative of NDU's Lebanese Emigration Research Center. She is the first to have used the expression "global village" and to have done field research starting from a particular village, namely Bishmizzine, and later covering the entire globe.

The distinguished speaker was presented by LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani, followed by Dr. Najah Abdallah, Assistant Professor and Advisor in NDU's Department of Mass Communication, acting as Moderator. The audience consisted mainly of NDU academics, Friends of LERC and "Bishmizzinis".

Dr. Nabti wished that the LERC should enjoy collaboration of the major Lebanese universities and the Ministry concerned, and so welcomed the idea of herself working with the LERC on its objectives. Her interest in Bishmizzine emigration arose from its being her husband's village and his having relatives all over the world. Bishmizzine is in the Koura district of North Lebanon and its resident population is under 1500.

Emigration from Bishmizzine started over a hundred years ago. Much information about earlier emigrants was collected by Dr. Afif Tannous in 1939 and the rest was acquired during Dr. Nabti's fieldwork in Australia, the USA, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia and by correspondence with emigrants in Brazil and Argentina from 1985 to January 1989. Dr. Nabti found an important relationship between labor migration, migration for education, step migration, permanent settlement and return migration, influenced by questions of work, education and marriage.

Concerning work, early emigrants to Egypt had important skills, capital and knowledge of the language, unlike those going to Latin America, the USA

and also Australia, where they long had working-class status. The flow to Latin America slowed down due to political and economic difficulties, while entry to the USA became largely limited to students, who however often had the intention of working there. In the 1980s many entered the USA as visitors but worked as illegal aliens. There were two waves of professionals to Saudi Arabia, in the 1950s following the discovery of oil and in the 1970s with the oil boom, but there permanent settlement was not possible.

As for education, many went to continue their education in the USA and stayed there, largely because of educational ties with the American Protestant Mission. Education gained importance as a qualification for migration in 1917, when the USA imposed a literacy test and a quota system favoring professionals "of exceptional ability in the sciences and arts and their spouses and children".

Regarding marriage, emigrants came to realize that wives from their home village and religious sect could alleviate nostalgia and be a financial asset. Some young women went to help their fathers or brothers or to work as nannies, later marrying other Lebanese emigrants. Unlike those in Australia, some men married US citizens in order to acquire citizenship.

Dr. Nabti said that Bishmizzine was not so much a village in the sense of having geographical and social boundaries but rather one with a global dimension. But there was no organization for maintaining formal contacts with the Diaspora and even efforts to institutionalize charitable contributions had not succeeded. The Bishmizzine Charitable Association of Australia was the only association existing abroad. However, there was a very active network of Bishmizzine residents and emigrants crisscrossing the continents by 'phone, mail and visits, reinforced by memorial services and notices in church bulletins. There were "land-hunters" who kept in touch with emigrants in order to buy land from them so as to increase their holdings in the village.

Finally, Dr. Nabti declared that, while in many countries village roots were considered an embarrassment, reflecting a backward heritage, two examples from Australia showed the opposite. One house bore a sign "Bishmizzine 3" instead of a simple number,

LERC Conferences

while the former mayor of a town included the name of the village on his business card and letterhead. During the discussion that followed her lecture, Dr. Nabti remarked that although Bishmizzine showed consideration to Lebanese from all countries, it still failed to adopt immigrants to Lebanon; the Easter Service was celebrated in all languages except Srilanki and Philippini, although people from these places were present.

Conference Award won by Dr. Viviane Naimy

The European Applied Business Research Conference, EABRC, organised by the CIBER Research Institute, was held in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, from 14th to 18th June, 2004. 39 countries were represented in this conference. NDU was represented by Dr. Viviane Naïmy, from the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics. She won the Best Paper Award in the field of finance.

Partners in Success team-up to promote wireless campuses

Release from CIS Group

At Beirut in November 2004, Hewlett Packard, Intel, Microsoft, Credit Libanais Bank, IDM and Hiperdist Lebanon re-launched their "wireless" campaign on Lebanese campuses.

The event is backed by an incredible notebook package providing opportunities for students to be better prepared to compete in the wireless world of tomorrow.

Senior officials from international IT companies namely: Hewlett Packard, Hani Raad , Country Manager, Samer El Sayed , Business Development Manager M.E Roy Chalhoub, Microsoft Commercial Manager, and local IT companies representatives: Antoine Kawkabany, CIS Group Deputy General Manager ME representing Hiperdist Lebanon, Zakié Karam Commercial Manager from IDM and Ghada Hussein, Product Development Officer at Credit Libanais Bank.

The event was opened by Father Boutros Tarabay, the University President, who thanked all participating partners for their commitment to providing advanced technologies at their campus. Samer El Sayed highlighted the benefits of mobile computing, which lead to significant productivity gains of up to 3 hours per

week in productive work time.

Mr Chalhoub commented on the vision of mobility and genuine Microsoft features: Connectivity, reliability, dependability and productivity.

Antoine Kawkabany commented on the event by saying that Hiperdist Lebanon is bringing wireless technology within the reach of every student and the offer is a gift of wireless Christmas...

Ghada Hussein explained the details of the granted loan and benefits, while Zakia Karam highlighted the role of IDM in offering the wireless services at different locations in the NDU campus.

The campaign is scheduled to take place in four leading universities by establishing booths displaying demos of all Hewlett Packard products.

The program is as follows:

- 24/11/04 – Notre Dame University
- 29/11/04 – St Joseph – Huvelin
- 30/11/04 – Medical Faculty -
- 7/12/04 – USEK Kaslik University

About Hewlett Packard: HP delivers unique end-to-

end, scalable, secure manageable mobility solutions for more information, please visit: www.hp.com

About Intel: Intel is the world's largest chipmaker and is also a leading manufacturer of computer networking and communication products. Additional information kindly visit: www.intel.com

About Microsoft: Microsoft is the worldwide leader in software that enables people and businesses throughout the world to realize their full potential. Website: www.microsoft.com

About Hiperdist Lebanon: Hiperdist is the wholesale entity of CIS Group. It sells exclusively through a large IT resellers' network. Please visit: www.Hiperdist.com

About the offer: It includes the following: Hp laptop with Centrino mobile microprocessor, loan from Credit Libanais with a special rate, 3 months free Internet connection from IDM and a 2 years warranty from Hiperdist plus a free carrying case.

About Credit Libanais Bank: Credit Libanais Bank is a leading Lebanese retail bank. Website: www.creditlibanais.com.lb

About IDM: Inconet – Data Management a leading local Internet Service Provider. Website: www.idm.net.lb

Participating Universities websites are:
WWW.NDU.EDU.LB
WWW.USJ.EDU.LB
WWW.USEK.EDU.LBS



Some of the Audience

WEERC and the CDM

On February 1st and 2nd, 2005, there was a high-level international workshop in the Friends' Hall at NDU. This was organized jointly by the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water and the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC) of NDU.

The event came within the framework of the European Commission SYNERGY project Business Opportunities for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Project Development in the Mediterranean and was conducted in cooperation with the European Union and the National Technical University of Athens – Energy Program Unit (NTUA – EPU). It aimed at presenting and discussing the promising CDM proposals concerning Lebanon and Jordan.

If one takes into consideration recent developments such as Russian approval of the Kyoto Protocol, the EU-ETS linking directive, etc., it will appear that great investment opportunities will emerge for the region and that new avenues for EU-Mediterranean cooperation will be opened. It was considered that the establishment of business contacts between potential investors of the EU and Mediterranean would be facilitated by this regional workshop, which brought together potential investigators strongly active in the EU and Mediterranean Region, key energy market decision-makers of the (public and private) energy sector of the EU and Mediterranean countries, international companies acting in the Mediterranean energy sector, key energy advisors of the EC and internationally reputed experts, and key players of CDM in the Mediterranean region.

Participants arrived on January 31st. Proceedings opened at 9 a.m., February 1st, with welcoming speeches by Mr. Suheil Matar, Director of Public Relations, NDU, Fr. Boutros Tarabay, President NDU,

WEERC and the CDM

(continued)

Mr. Saïd Chehab, ALMEE, Dr. Fady Comair, Director General, Ministry of Energy and Water of Lebanon and Director of WEERC, and Dr. John Psarras, NTUA-EPU, who also gave an overview of the project.

After coffee break, Session B dealt with Climate Change and Global Efforts. Dr. Fady Comair took the chair. Speeches were as follows:

Review of COP 10, given by Mr. Joris Laseur, JIN. GHG's National Inventory and the Mitigation Measures Proposed, by Ms. Alia Kaskas, Ministry of Environment of Lebanon.

The Lebanese Industry Case, by Mr. Hisham Abou Jawde, Association of Lebanese Industrialists. Kyoto Protocol, Implementation, Jordan, by Mr. Mahmoud Al-Ees, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Jordan.

Lebanon – Cross Sectoral Energy Efficiency and Removal of Barriers to ESCO Cooperation, by Mr. Anouar Ali and Mr. Nizar Jezzini, UNDP.

Experience in JI Field that Could Be Transferred to CDM Projects, by Mr. Tiit Kallaste, Stockholm Environment Institute, Tallinn Centre.

Session C, 2.40 p.m., chaired by Dr. Chahwan Khoury, NDU Dean of Engineering. Theme: Financing of CDM Projects and the Projects' Life Cycle. Funding of CDM Projects, by Mrs. Marte Nordseth, Pointcarbon.

Analysis of the Netherlands' Funding Programmes, by Mr. Joris Laseur, JIN.

Overview of C-ERUPT, by Mr. Daniel Van Der Weered, SenterNovem.

Analysis of Portugal's Programme for CDM Financing, by Dr. Luis Alves, IST.

Analysis of the Canadian Programme for CDM Financing, by Mr. Georges Zaccour, GERAD.

Session D, February 2nd, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., chaired by Dr. Mohamed Kordab.

Theme: Proposed CDM Projects.

Project Opportunities for CDM Development in MEDA, by Mr. Konstantinos Patlitzianas – NTUA-EPU BOO Wind Power Project, by Mr. Mohammed Faisal, MEMR, Jordan.

Extension of Hofa and Ibrahemia Existing Wind Park, Jordan, by Mr. Mahmoud Al-Ees, MEMR, Jordan.

10.30-11 a.m. Coffee break.

Electricity Wind Farm Project for the Jbeil Electrical Company, Lebanon, by Mr. Tony Matar, ALMEE.

Energy Efficiency in Public Lighting at Jounieh, Lebanon, by Mr. Daniel Geha, ALMEE.

Stimulation of the Solar Market: Upgrading of the Kypros Solar Domestic Hot Water Manufacturing Plant, Lebanon, by Mr. Saïd Chehab, ALMEE.

CDM Project Potential in Borj Hammoud, by Dr. Wolfgang Hager, IPP-Environment.

1-2.30 p.m. Lunch break (Implementation of bilateral meetings).

Session E, 2.30-4.00 p.m., chaired by Dr. John Psarras.

PPC's Strategy for Climate Change and New Business Opportunities, by Mr. Anastasios Varthalis, Public Power Corporation (PPC).

Unilateral CDM: An Opportunity to Enhance Participation in the CDM, by Mr. Joris Laseur, JIN.

Key Parameters for the Effective Application of CDM in the Mediterranean Region, by Mr. Alexandros Flamos, EPU/NTUA.

Concluding Discussion with Dr. John Psarras, EPU/NTUA.

End of WORKSHOP

In his closing statement, Dr. John Psarras showed how the two-day workshop had been most fruitful, and he thanked all concerned for what he described as impeccable cooperation and excellent organization. As the projects from Lebanon and Jordan were mostly focused on wind energy and energy efficiency, their implementation would signal the beginning of systematic utilization of the substantial wind energy potential that both these countries possessed. With the support and contribution provided by very high-level government officials, Dr. Psarras strongly believed that the workshop would constitute the catalyst for the government actors to accelerate procedures for the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and the actions for its implementation afterwards.

His belief was confirmed not only by the presence at ministerial level and the financial support provided by the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water but also by the important announcements made during the Workshop. It had been a pleasure to hear the Ministry Director General, Dr. Fady Comair, announce two very important measures. The first was the creation of a committee of top experts to prepare appropriate actions and to advise the Parliamentary Committee. The second was the acceleration of measures to exploit the high potential of hydro energy in Lebanon, which would further

increase the share of clean energies in the energy balance of Lebanon and contribute to the management of water resources in the country as well. A well-prepared workshop on this subject was strongly advised.

What appeared the most promising and significant result was the contribution to the GHG emissions reduction and sustainability of outputs, as the projects promoted social developments, offered employment opportunities and were generally conducive to the raising of living standards. The European Commission put special emphasis on ensuring sustainability of the projects it financed and Dr. Psarras was happy to note that the project had indeed performed very well.

Dr. Psarras announced future workshops, in Turkey on February, 16, 17th and 18th, in Syria on March 1st and 2nd and finally in Morocco on March 29th and 30th. He said he was glad that close links had now been established and was convinced that these contacts would be expanded to create a forum of key energy and climatic change experts in the various countries to facilitate discussion and dialogue. He repeated that the European Commission was very pleased to see the progress of the proposed CDM projects and the growth of interest of interest in the future aspects of climatic change in the Mediterranean region and again thanked the participants for their presence and contributions..

WEERC Conference

Power for the Cities

Urban Energy Conference

The Ministry of Energy and Water Resources and the NDU Water, Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC) together organized a conference under the title Power in the Cities, held on December 17th, 2004, in Friends Hall, Main Campus, in cooperation with the French World Environment Fund (FFEM) and the French Development Agency (AFD).

Participants included experts and specialists from both Lebanon and abroad and at the opening of the proceedings these were welcomed by NDU Director of Public Relations Mr. Suheil Matar. Insisting on the practical importance of the occasion in view of the present situation, he said that one had only to glance at the media to read about corruption, accusations, embezzlement and wire-pulling. We could only ask with sorrow if this was the Lebanon we wanted for ourselves and our children. Mr. Matar appealed to those present to work in a clear light so as to illuminate a beautiful new city.

The head of the Lebanese Committee for Power and Environmental Protection, Mr. Saïd Shehab, declared that the rise in the level of carbon dioxide and other pollutants in the atmosphere was increasing greenhouse warming, which had already become a matter



Some of the Audience

of worldwide concern. With temperature rising at an annual rate of 0.3 ° Celsius, something completely absent 1,000 years ago, there was a risk of a rise of 3° by the end of the present century. The speaker warned of the dangers of the situation in the coming years if people remained indifferent and there were in consequence unhealthy changes in the atmosphere and environment. Many islands could completely disappear and regions including many around the Mediterranean, such as the Bekaa of Lebanon, could become deserts.

Mr. Philippe Boss, representative of the French World Environment Fund, gave a general outline of the Agency's activities, pointing to the need for specialist associations to cooperate in order to protect the world environment and prevent climate change.

The Director of the French Development Agency in Lebanon, Mr. Claude Raymond, spoke of the need for coordination between the national and municipal authorities in their action and of the readiness of the Agency to make loans for infrastructure in the domains of water and power supply.

Bordeaux - NDU

Bordeaux Business School - NDU Joint Program

Notre Dame University (NDU) and Bordeaux Business School (BBS) of France launched a new Joint Master Program at NDU in Lebanon, entitled MBA-MIB Program on October 1st, 2004. The President of NDU and the Director of the MIB/MACI Program of Bordeaux signed the agreement on July 1st, 2004 at NDU.

The MBA-MIB is an Executive Program, specializing in International Business, taught entirely in English and composed of a 10-month period of formal teaching in class at NDU divided into two semesters. This is followed by a full four-month internship and a formal presentation of an individual Memoir related to the internship in front of a jury. The internship may be taken immediately after the 10-month period or after the summer vacation, in Lebanon or abroad.

The course is highly intensive and demanding and includes 602 hours of formal teaching. It will give participants both NDU's Lebanese MBA and the French national Master's of Science in International Business (MIB).

In order to accommodate executives and top managers already engaged in a career or business, courses are given in the evening (except on Wednesdays) and on Saturday mornings. The program requires not only 20 hours of assiduous presence and participation in the courses delivered at NDU, but also over and above class hours a certain amount of preparatory personal and group work.

Courses are divided into nine teaching units:

- 1- International environment
- 2- Corporate Strategy and Management
- 3- Commerce/Marketing
- 4- Production, Operations and Logistics
- 5- Business Law
- 6- Accounting/IT/Languages
- 7- Corporate Finance
- 8- Human Resources and Communication
- 9- Industrial Goods, in addition to Multi-Disciplinary Case Study under the supervision of a team of consultants and academics

The Director General of the Ministry of Water and Energy Resources, and Director of WEERC, Dr. Fadi Comair, insisted on the importance for Lebanon of inexhaustible energy generated by the sun, wind and water, which safeguarded the environment. The year 2004, he pointed out, had been exceptional for the crises resulting from natural disasters.

Dr. Comair pointed out that 178 countries had been represented at the Buenos Aires Conference held in order to urge the world into action about climate change and that Lebanon should be organized on the basis of world decisions for the protection of the environment. But the question remained of how municipal authorities could apply them, and Dr. Comair urged the formation of town committees to carry out the decisions of the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Conference and to exchange information with urban councils in advanced countries. He closed by saying that our town councils must register success in this undertaking and not wait until the last moment to seriously concern themselves with the poisonous fumes invading the air.

The President of the Beirut City Council, Mr. Abdul Menhem Ariss, described a project for using solar energy for public lighting and insisted on the need to ensure the application of the correct specifications for electrical installations in building in order to economize and reduce electricity bills. He said that factories making solar energy units should be excused from taxes in part or in whole so as to be able to lower their prices.

The Director General of Urban Planning, Joseph Abdul Ahad, spoke of the insertion of specifications for temperature control in building regulations and of work in this direction being done by his Directorate.

The representative of the Director General of the Ministry of the Environment, Maya Abi Zaid, spoke of the basic principles of environment protection, including one that "pollution should be paid for". Mr. Bernard Cornut, Director of the *Agence de l'environnement et de la maîtrise de l'énergie* (ADEME), discussed the role of the state and of municipal councils in advising on demands for power in the country.

The conference close with comments on the experiences of town councils in Europe and Lebanon and a general discussion.

Bordeaux - NDU

(continued)

NDU's partner in this venture is the MIB/MACI Institute (Institute of International Business/*Institut des Affaires et du Commerce International*) of the Bordeaux Business School, a reputed school in France also known under the name of *Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Bordeaux*, in the French *Grandes Ecoles* system. The BBS is one of the largest French business schools outside Paris and in 1999 received the EQUIS Label from the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) in Brussels. It is one of the few French Schools offering Master degrees entirely in English and has 76 student and faculty exchange partnerships spread over the five continents. The MIB of Bordeaux is also in partnership with the French State University of Bordeaux IV, so those who have successfully completed the MIB program can apply for a Ph.D. program to Bordeaux IV or any other university in the world.

MIB/MACI, the parent program of the MBA-MIB, enjoys an excellent competitive position in France and abroad. It is accredited by the French Ministry of Education at the highest level of recognition, Level 1. It was created in 1986 by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Bordeaux together with the Federation of Business Managers (MEDEF). It has been hosted by BBS since 1997 but enjoys a wide strategic autonomy within the BBS group. Since the year 2000 MIB/MACI has had another successful Joint Master Program with Wu Han University of Technology in China and more are under negotiation, particularly with the Philippines and North-East China.

On November 5, 2004, at an inaugural ceremony in the NDU Auditorium Hall, Dr. Elie Yashoui, Dean of the FBA&E, delivered the following speech in the presence of members of the French Embassy in Beirut, namely Mr. Jean-Noël Boléo, Attaché de Coopération, Mrs. Catherine Dumarché, Attaché Commercial, and Mrs. Anne Ricordel, Attaché Culturel: Your Excellencies, dear colleagues, dear friends, It is good news to see France, the arena of the French language, launching a very successful international program in English, since it is applied in China and in other parts of the world. I am not surprised at it, given that France is also the arena of humanities and openness. NDU is a very dynamic

university, always in search for excellence and international exposure and does not hesitate to adopt this program and to teach it entirely in Lebanon, in view of its excellent competitive position in the world. This program is also based on open-minded, practical and realistic attitudes, with free discussion, within a global and strategic perspective of current business and economic issues. The program specializes in international business, with a strong focus on the geopolitical and cultural environment.

Because the program can be a springboard for students who want to pursue a Ph.D., I now ask the Bordeaux team to offer the necessary assistance to allow them to reach this goal.

I am committed to making the general conditions of the functioning of this program more than satisfactory and hope that this program, attended with success, will be the starting point of a new and rewarding career for our students. Thank you.

NDU Students were UN Delegates in Turkey

More than 100 students from all over the world were selected from different universities to participate in the international Model United Nations (MUN) that took place in Turkey on the 19th, 20th, and 21st of November. Four Lebanese students (referred to as honorable delegates) participated in this MUN and they assumed the role of a nation's representative and simulated the actions of UN. Three of them were from NDU selected by the FPSAD and one from LAU.

The students were Hasan Younes (Palestinian delegate), Sally Moussa (Rwanda), Mony Trad (Lebanon) and Mahdi Berjaoui (Brazil). We were surprised by the very professional organization and regulation of the Turkish students and their extra ordinary efforts to make this conference successful. The three main issues that we discussed and found resolutions for were capital punishment, civil war intervention and membership of Turkey in the EU. We were forced to verbally react to circumstances as they arose and to reinterpret our position in the light of new facts, which meant that we rarely had the opportunity to make a prewritten speech on any topic. The most interesting thing was that we played politics, trying to find signatories to our resolutions and to stay in character. The Lebanese delegate (Mony) made the Israeli delegate's life very hard in the committee of civil war intervention, together with Sally who very much distinguished herself. Hasan for Palestine was vexed for not having the right to vote and having difficulty in passing his resolution.

Apart from the conference, we had a night boat tour in the Bosphorus, where we discovered the Turkish night life and beauty. However, the most remarkable "adventure" was the snow storm, which stuck us in a traffic jam for more than four hours, so we missed our flight. This misfortune kept us in Istanbul for two more days for shopping and fun.

This experience widened our knowledge about the UN system as a whole and gave us the opportunity to meet students and professors from the most prestigious universities. Interestingly enough we weren't representing ourselves but other countries whose roles we were supposed to assume with all the rights and responsibilities entailed.

BACK TO THE ROOTS 2004

By Edgar Merheb-Harb

Notre Dame University and the Maronite League have initiated a Diaspora Program Back to the Roots starting with the year 2001, intended to bring our immigrants and their families in contact with their ancestors and roots, targeting their homeland cultural and sightseeing tourist attractions.

This year's program opened in July with 52 persons (males and females) with age groups ranging from 18 to 30, arriving from abroad mostly from Latin America. Some of them stayed at NDU dormitories, others at St. Michael's Convent in Sehayle.

Mr. Edgar Harb, the PR at NDU-NLC, was appointed to coordinate and monitor the prospective program and accompany the guests. He stayed close by them for control and assurance of safety.

A dual-purpose schedule, Monday through Thursday, was drawn up by both NDU and the Maronite League. It featured culture and information as well as sightseeing and entertainment. The cultural aspect included seminars held by prominent figures at Friends Hall, Main Campus, on Lebanese history, geography, economy, and politics. These were given in the mornings and lasted till a little after noon (13:00). Those attending were given certificates for their participation.

Landmark visits to the Maronite eparchies, Kadi-sha Valley and other interesting sites were made in the afternoons. The long weekends were left for visiting the historical and archeological attractions such as Baalbeck, the Cedars, Byblos (Jbeil), Anjar, Sidon (Saida), Tyre (Sour), the Bekaa Valley and the mountains. During their visit to Ehden the participants were given a dinner party by the Ehden community and its municipality and were invited to spend two nights in some local homes, all of which they very much enjoyed. They also visited Saydet El

BACK TO THE ROOTS 2004

(continued)

Hosn, with Maronite League members acting as their leaders throughout their stay.

Back to the Roots is a long-term program that strives for prosperity and longevity, a continual process for the purpose of attracting more immigrants to return to their homeland or at least of inspiring them for more visits and contacts with their origins.

NDU and the Maronite League believe that, under their auspices, this "Diaspora" scheme has been initiated as a duty and an obligation towards the country, and our future generations, and as a mission that will always be worthwhile doing.



Eid placed us in contact with Father Kamil Ephrem, who helped us to uncover a great and distinguished heritage left behind by the late Frank and Laure Skeels. "Father Kamil Ephrem gave a synopsis of the life of Frank Skeels and his wife Laure and talked about their passion for stones and ruins, especially those found in the East and Europe. Dr. Najji Karam hoped that this museum would be first and foremost an educational one, such that the visitor would come out of it enriched with knowledge about prehistoric Man and about civilization in Lebanon. He also thanked the team that had assisted him in classifying and categorizing the collections and what was exhibited from them.

Then, Minister Boustani addressed the audience saying, "Among the most important factors for the development of humanity is dependence on past experiences to move forward with them to the future, because these experiences are the unwritten memory in the books of time and history. This memory is known as the immaterial cultural memory..."

Finally, Minister Boustani cut the ribbon, toured the museum and toasted its success at the cocktail that followed.

The Museum of Stones at NDU-Lebanon

Under the auspices of the Minister of Culture, Mr. Najji Al Boustani, in a ceremony organized by NDU, the Museum of Stones was inaugurated on March 9, 2005, at the Pierre Abou Khater Building on NDU's main campus in Zouk Mosbeh in the presence of the Secretary General of the Lebanese Committee at the UNESCO Dr. Maroun Yazbek, the President of NDU, Father Boutros Tarabay, the First Advisor to the Minister of Culture, Mr. Said Al Boustani, a number of social and cultural figures and interested parties.

For his part, Father Tarabay pointed to the fact that the University had decided, in spite of all circumstances, challenges and difficulties, to continue its journey. He also stressed the necessity of consolidating our cultural heritage and making it known. He added, "During the past two years, Mrs. Jacqueline



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