

Mr. Mounir Hamza and Ms. Mona Mohamad Ali on a personal visit to LERC

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Reported by Elie Nabhan

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center at NDU was delighted to receive on a personal level, Mr. Mounir Hamza, World Bank Consultant for Africa, and member of the board of trustees of the Lebanese-Nigerian Friendship Association. Mr. Hamza was accompanied to the Center by Ms. Mona Mohamed Ali, Manageress of the LENIFRA Beirut Office.

To start with, both guests were taken on a tour of the Lebanon Migration Museum at NDU where they saw first-hand all the original material in LERC's collections. This was followed by a meeting with LERC's Director Ms. Guita Hourani.



Mr. M. Hamza stands with the Lebanese emigrant statue at the Lebanon Migration Museum at NDU (Nov. 2010).

Ms. Hourani informed the visitors about LERC's academic initiatives, its ambition of becoming the leading center concerning Lebanese migration in all facets, its affiliated researchers and its open door policy regarding scholars and visitors from around the world. She also told them about the current research projects undertaken by her and by researchers associated with the Center, including the project on the Iraqi refugees' intentions towards migration, the history of

citizenship laws in Lebanon, and the impact of naturalization and the socioeconomic mobility of the Kurds in Lebanon. Mr. Hamza stated he was interested in receiving a copy of the completed study on the naturalization of the Kurds in Lebanon. Ms. Hourani and the two guests discussed the importance of supporting LERC's work and infrastructure.

The two guests were then given a presentation of LERC's electronic archives and database to view all the materials collected. Mr. Hamza said he was pleasantly surprised by the scope of the work done by LERC, especially in such a short time, and wished all the best for its future projects. He emphasized the importance of this initiative taken by NDU and LERC from which all Lebanese of present and future generations may benefit. Both Mr. Hamza and Ms. Mona were impressed by the Center's accomplishments.



Ms. G. Hourani (center) presents Mr. M. Hamza with its latest publication, *Our People*, an illustrated history of Lebanese emigration, before presenting him with a copy of NDU's most recent Palma Journal special issue on Lebanese migration as Ms. M. Mohamad Ali looks on (Nov 2010).