

***LERC attends the 201st anniversary celebrations of Mexico's independence***

Thursday 15th September 2011, Zouk Mikael

Reported by Liliane Haddad

At the invitation of H.E Mr. Jorge Alvarez, Ambassador of Mexico, the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at Notre Dame University attended the 201st Anniversary celebrations of Mexico's Independence, which took place at the Roman Theater in Zouk Mikael.

Lebanese personalities at the ceremony included Minister of State H.E. Panos Manjian, who represented the President of the Lebanese Republic H.E. Michel Sleiman, the Prime Minister of Lebanon H.E. Nagib Mikati and the Lebanese Speaker of Parliament H.E. Nabih Berri.



LERC's Mrs. L. Haddad (left) stands by H.E. G. Alvarez, his wife Mrs. Alvarez, and members of the Mexican Embassy in Beirut (Sept 2011).

The event was attended by various diplomats and dignitaries including the Danish Ambassador to Lebanon; ambassadors of several Latin American countries and Mr. Nohad Nawfal, President of the Municipality of Zouk Mikael, as well as a large number of members of the Mexican community in Lebanon, and Lebanese-Mexicans attending with their families.

Honoring the presence of the Mexican community in Lebanon, Lebanese-Mexicans and the Ambassador's guests, the Lebanese Internal Security Forces' Orchestra played the National Anthems of both Lebanon and Mexico.



The National Anthems played by the Lebanese Internal Security Forces' Orchestra (Sept. 2011).

In his welcoming speech, H.E. Alvarez expressed his gratitude to all Lebanese-Mexicans who endeavored to build up the relationship between the two countries and especially the Lebanese emigrants who successfully integrated into Mexico's economic and social life.

H.E. Alvarez then dealt with the meanings and implications behind Mexico's arduous fight for sovereignty and independence. He talked about the visit of President Michel Suleiman to Mexico in 2010 and the efforts as expressed in various signed agreements to maintain and strengthen the relations between Lebanon and Mexico.



Mexican Mariachis entertaining the audience (Sept 2011).

The Ambassador's speech was followed by a cultural performance by Mexican Mariachis playing Mexican music and song. .

Towards the end of the event H.E. Alvarez waved the Mexican flag, proclaiming "el Grito" over and over with the crowd replying "Mexicanos, Viva Mexico!" each time.

All the guests were treated to Mexican tequila and beer as well as traditional Mexican tortillas.

LERC was represented at the event by Mrs. Liliane Haddad, Chief Indexer and Archivist.