

Officials from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, International Organizations Visit the LERC at NDU

Jasmin Lilian Diab, LERC

April 7, 2014

Officials from the General Directorate of Emigrants at the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and representatives of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), Austria, visited on Monday, April 7, 2014, the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaizé (NDU).

The purpose of the visit was to see first-hand the research infrastructure at the Center with the aim of emulating the LERC model for studies on migration and diaspora linkages.

The General Directorate of Emigrants at the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, represented by the Heads of the Department of Media Services and Culture Mr. Husni Abdel Sater and Mr. Elie Khachan brought the delegation to LERC as part of their official visit to Lebanon.



The Delegation During Its Visit to the Lebanon and Migration Museum at NDU/LERC (April 2014)

Senior Assistant Director of Diaspora and Consular Affairs Mr. Stephen Mworsho Lorete and Head of ICT Mr. Stephen Karanja represented the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

The ICMPD Austria was represented by Ms. Rebecca Adeline, Chargée de Projet of the Dialogue on Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM), and Mr. Mohamad el-Tannir, Project Assistant for the MTM, as well as Ms. Tana Anglana, Project Manager at the International Organization of Migration (IOM) in Italy.

The meeting was attended by Professor Maan Bou Saber, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Political Science (FLPS), Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the LERC, Ms. Liliane Haddad, LERC's Chief Indexer and Archivist, Mr. Elie Nabhan, former LERC employee, and Ms. Jasmin Lialian Diab, LERC Assistant.

After Dr. Guita Hourani welcomed the guests, Ms. Haddad gave the delegation a detailed tour of LERC's research activities, programs, database, facilities, services, and areas of concern. A Q & A session concluded the presentation, allowing the visitors to comment on what they had seen and heard, and to have their questions answered.



(From left) Mr. Khachan, Ms. Haddad, Mr. El-Tannir, Ms. Adeline, Mr. Nabhan, Mr. Karanja, Mr. Abdel Sater, Ms. Anglana, Dr. Hourani, Mr. Lorete, and Ms. Diab at the LERC/NDU Museum (April 7, 2014).

A tour of the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum was the final stop. The guests admired the exhibition of various items, including documents, printed material, paintings, sculptures, photos, and material cultures. The guests then enjoyed a coffee break where they were able to continue the discussion about their respective work and to share their impressions of the LERC's work. Before leaving, each member of the delegation immortalized the visit by signing LERC's *Golden Book*.

Mr. Karanja and Mr. Lorete of the Kenyan Ministry described the Center as a "wonderful idea" and went on to praise it for its ability to "maintain connections despite distance and time." Ms. Anglana of the IOM described her experience as "enriching, emotional, and inspiring;" while Mr. El-Tannir of the ICMPDF praised LERC's "amazing team." His colleague, Ms. Adeline, described her experience as enriching, and went on to inscribe that "every country with a history of migration should pass by LERC..."