

Dr. Hourani and Associate Researcher Menhem Deliver Presentation in Tokyo on Entrepreneurship among Lebanese Returnees

***By LERC Staff
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Dr. Guita Hourani, Assistant Professor at the Notre Dame University-Louaize's Faculty of Law and Political Science and Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at NDU, and Dr. Suzanne Menhem, Associate Professor at the Institute of Social Sciences- Branch II at the Lebanese University (LU) and Research Associate at the LERC, NDU, presented on October 24, 2016, the preliminary results of their combined study on entrepreneurialship among Lebanese returnees at the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA) of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (TUFS) in Tokyo, Japan.



Dr. Hourani and Dr. Menhem at the Research Institute for Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa, Tokyo, Japan

The event was part of a project titled, “*Extensive Networks of Lebanese and Syrian Migrants: Multifaceted Self and Spatial Imagination,*” which is coordinated by Professor Hidemitsu Kuroki and sponsored by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

The workshop held at the TUFs was titled, “*The Future of Lebanese and Syrian Migration Studies*,” and gave the opportunity to discuss the most recent developments on Lebanese and Syrian migration studies. Participants in the workshop included Professor Ghassan Hage (University of Melbourne); Professor Jeffrey Lesser (Emory University); Dr. Camila Pastor (Center for Research and Teaching of Economics-Mexico); Dr. Akimitsu Ikeda (ILCAA); and Hidemitsu Kuroki (ILCAA). Dr. Satoshi Udo (Kagoshima University) moderated this workshop, which was attended by, among others, Professor Hisae Nakanishi (Doshisha University); Dr. Midori Iijima (Rikkyo University); Dr. Junko Toriyama (Ochanomizu University); and Dr. Kohei Hashimoto, who has now become a Shinto priest, and whose Ph.D. at Oxford University was on Lebanese migration.

Drs. Hourani and Menhem detailed the preliminary results of their study on entrepreneurialship among Lebanese returnees. They discussed the various factors that affect migration and return, and the establishment of businesses in the homeland; factors that motivate Lebanese to return to their homeland; opportunities and challenges of the return migrants in their business establishment and engagement; and public policies incentives and constraints and retention and repulsion factors that affect the sustainability of the return and of the business in Lebanon.