

***LERC Director Guita Hourani selected to attend international training in Turin on return migration.***

16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009, Turin, Italy

Reported by LERC staff

The Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Centre at Notre Dame University Ms. Guita Hourani was selected from several applicants to participate in an international training on return migration in Turin, Italy.

The training titled *Fostering the social and professional reintegration of return migrants in their country of origin* was organized by The International Training Center of the International Labor Organization (ITC-ILO) and co-financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Over five days the expert attendees drawn were trained to “address the social and professional reintegration of migrants and its impact on development... and to raise awareness of the need to develop adequate mechanisms sustaining the reintegration of returnees....”

The sessions were designed so as to involve these international experts in thinking of “a favorable framework aimed at understanding the preconditions for sustaining the social and professional reintegration of returnees.”

Attendees were drawn from Switzerland, Uganda, Sri Lanka, Azerbaijan, Togo, Mauritius, Pakistan, Armenia, Georgia, Lebanon, and the USA.

Director Hourani discussed common research interest with the designer and main instructor of this course Dr. Jean-Pierre Cassarino, as well as with the experts from Armenia and Sri Lanka. Tentative plans to cooperate with Dr. Cassarino on a comparative research project on migration and return with Armenia, Sri Lanka, Lebanon and Azerbaijan were scheduled for 2011.

Fostering the social and professional reintegration  
of return migrants in their countries of origin



Co-financed by the  
Italian Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs



International Training Centre



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Souvenir photo: LERC Director, Ms. Guita Hourani (Back row third left) poses with other trainees at Turin (Nov. 2009).