

***LERC participates in the workshop on “Labor Market and Social Rights in Lebanon and in the Near East”***

14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> April 2011, USJ, Beirut

Reported by LERC staff

Ms. Suzanne Menhem, Research Affiliate with LERC, represented the Center on 14-15 April 2011 at the workshop on Labor Market and Social Rights in Lebanon and in the Near East and spoke in French on The New Migrants in Lebanon: Living conditions and Works (Les Nouveaux migrants au Liban: Conditions de vie et de travail).

This workshop was organized by IFPO (Institut Français du Proche Orient) and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung at the USJ (Université Saint-Joseph) in Beirut.

The opening of the workshop started with a welcoming speech by Elisabeth Longuenesse (Director at IFPO) and Samir Farah (Director of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung).

The first workshop centered on jobs and socioeconomic mutations, qualifications and sector, and employment of women and children. Kamal Hamdane, economist, spoke about the labor market in Lebanon, while Nabil Marzouk, economist, spoke on the labor market in Syria. The discussant was Adib Neemeh, sociologist.

The second session dealt with emigrants, immigrants, foreign labor and the migrants in the regional labor market. Jad Chaaban, economist, presented a paper on the Palestinian in the Lebanese labor market. Choghig Kasparian spoke about the young graduates, the labor market in Lebanon and the Lebanese migration. Suzanne Menhem spoke on the new immigrants in Lebanon. The discussant for this session was Marwan Abi Samra, sociologist.

The third session dealt with work and youth and women facing employment and work. Sociologist Hassan Hamdan spoke of the precarious work of the youth and was followed by Arda Garabedjian, sociologist, who addressed the situation of women workers in the special industrial zones in Jordan. Sawsan Zakzak, sociologist, enlarged on the work of women in the non-regulated sector in Syria and was followed by Ms. Mohana Ishak, *Kafa*, who addressed the issue of the traffick in domestic workers in Lebanon. Jalal Hussein, IFPO, was the discussant in this session.

The fourth and last session was centered around employment and social rights, when Mohamed Karaki, Director of Social Security in Beirut, spoke of the issues of social protection in the case of Lebanon and was followed by Adib bou Habib of the Centre Libanais de Formation Syndicale, who discussed the reforms taking place in the legislation of employment in Lebanon. Sari Hanafi, sociologist, spoke of Palestinian employment rights in Lebanon and Mansour Omeira, UN-HCHR, discussed the law project concerning domestic workers in Lebanon. The discussant was Mr. Samir Farah.

The conference ended with a roundtable discussion regarding future endeavors.