

## **Ambassador of Lebanon to Argentina Visits LERC**

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Reported by Maritta Sislian, LERC Staff

Following a series of visits by several notable figures from various diplomatic corps to the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), representatives of the LERC welcomed His Excellency Dr. Hicham Hamdan, Ambassador of Lebanon to Argentina on September 4, 2012.

After a warm welcome, Ms. Guita Hourani, director of the LERC, escorted Dr. Hamdan to the Lebanon Migration Nucleus Museum and gave him a prioritized guided tour of the collection, explaining the origins and significance of each piece on display. Dr. Hamdan praised the Museum's unique concept and the valuable data it contained, and applauded the LERC's efforts and achievements; he was all smiles and admiration throughout the entire visit.



*From left: Ms Guita Hourani and Dr. Hicham Hamdan at the Lebanon and Migration Nucleus Museum, admiring a painting by Daniela Jozami from Argentina (September 2012)*

Following the guided tour, Dr. Assaad Eid, Vice President for Sponsored Research and Development, welcomed both the Ambassador and Ms. Hourani in his office. Both men discussed the important role played by Lebanese expatriates and affirmed their mutual faith in the limitless potential of these expatriates. Dr. Hamdan talked about the Lebanese community in Argentina, expounding on their active participation in cultural events and pride in their heritage.

He reiterated his pride in the achievements of the LERC, considered the Center a “second home” and a blessing to Lebanese expatriates.



*From left: Ms. Guita Hourani, Dr. Assaad Eid, and Dr. Hicham Hamdan ( September 2012)*

Dr. Hamdan’s final stop of the visit was at the LERC office where Ms. Maritta Sislian presented the LERC and a digitized database. For his part, Dr. Hamdan promised future cooperation in all aspects and promised to send relevant material to the LERC, which he considered a secure and deserving safe haven. He, in turn, presented gifts to the LERC: five of his books on the peace efforts of the U.N. in Lebanon, U.N. policies towards Lebanon, and the U.N in the twenty-first century.