

The Role of Research Centers in Policy Making: An Interview with the Director of LERC

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Ms. Jana Chammaa of The Issam Fares Institute of Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI-PPIA) of the American University of Beirut (AUB) interviewed the Director of LERC Dr. Guita Hourani at Notre Dame University (NDU) regarding LERC's role in policy making as a university-based research institute and the opportunities and challenges that the Center encounters in its policy role. The interview is part of a pilot study that the IFI is conducting on the role of university-based policy research institutes and the scope of their work in Lebanon for the IFI project on "Research, Advocacy and Public Policy-making" (RAPP).

The IFI-PPIA was inaugurated in 2006 to "harness the policy-related research of AUB's internationally respected faculty and other scholars, in order to contribute positively to Arab policy-making and international relations." It aims "to raise the quality of public policy-related debate and decision-making in the Arab World and abroad; enhance the Arab World's input into international affairs; and, enrich the quality of interaction among scholars, officials and civil society actors in the Middle East and abroad."



Ms. Chammaa and Dr. Hourani at LERC (December 2013)

The findings of this exercise, said Ms. Chammaa, will "provide a better understanding of the function of such institutes amid the policy-making context existing in Lebanon today." The results of the study will be the topic of a workshop in January of 2014 in which LERC will participate.