

LERC Attends the “*Lebanese Diaspora Energy*” Conference

Organized by the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign and Emigrants Affairs

Jasmin Lilian Diab, LERC

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The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) was heavily represented at the three-day “*Lebanese Diaspora Energy*” conference organized by the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, which was held from May 30-June 1, 2014, at the Hilton Beirut Grand Habtoor Hotel in Sin el-Fil, Lebanon. The initiative brought together hundreds of Lebanese expats from around the world.

Representing the LERC were Dr. Guita Hourani, LERC Director, Ms. Jasmin Lilian Diab, LERC Research Assistant, Dr. Suzanne Menhem and Dr. Elsa el-Hachem, LERC Associates, and Mr. Roberto Khatlab and Mr. Elvis Alam, LERC Liaison Officers from Latin America.

The conference centered on the issue of “diaspora energy” and more specifically, “diaspora achievement.” The conference constituted a series of testimonies, suggestions, and achievements of some of Lebanon’s finest communities and success stories abroad.



(from left) *Dr. Suzanne Menhem (LERC Associate), Dr. Guita Hourani (LERC Director), Jasmin Lilian Diab (LERC Research Assistant), Hilton Beirut Grand Habtoor Hotel (May 31, 2014).*

Suggestions from emigrants echoed previous suggestions and conclusions similar to those heard since the end of the Lebanese civil war, mainly focusing on the need for peace and security in Lebanon, as well as improving infrastructure, reducing corruption, facilitating one-shop-stop registrations and licensing, improving diplomatic representation, and out-of-country voting, among others.

One of the conference's main highlights was the networking that took place between the attendees.