

Institut de Recherche pour le Développement and AUB Sociologist Dr. Rigas Arvanitis seeks out LERC

Thursday 14th July 2011, LERC, NDU

Reported by LERC staff

Dr. Rigas Arvanitis, a visiting sociologist from the *Institut de recherche pour le développement* (IRD) in France at the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the American University of Beirut (AUB), sought out a meeting with the Ms. Guita Hourani, Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at NDU and LERC's Adjunct Researcher Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous.

Dr. Arvanitis' research at the AUB involves work with Lebanon's National Council for Research regarding the establishment of scientific and technological indicators for the whole country. The research for this project encompasses the top universities in Lebanon, one of which is NDU.

Dr. Arvanitis' interest in visiting LERC was to communicate an idea for a workshop that he hopes will turn into a project at some future point. His idea is to invite several world-renowned researchers working on Columbia and South Africa and Lebanese researchers to discuss how the expatriates who are involved in hard science research network with the world and with their homeland. The other purpose is to connect scientific researchers with one another.

Director Hourani and Dr. Sensenig-Dabbous informed Dr. Arvanitis about LERC's research capabilities and its expertise in collecting data and what it has accomplished in terms of sponsored research, while suggesting that as a Center on migration, LERC might be willing to participate in the workshop and share expertise and ideas to move forward.