

Dr. Salwa Karam participates on behalf of LERC in the First Conference on Arab Expatriates
4th to 6th December 2010, Cairo, Egypt
Reported by Elie Azar, LERC

The Arab Expatriates Department of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (LAS) held the first conference of Arab Expatriates entitled *A Bridge for Communication*, during the period from December 4th to 6th 2010, at the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States headquarters in Cairo, Egypt.

The Conference was attended by Ministers of Arab States in Charge of Migration, Arab immigrant personalities who represent the expatriate Arab communities; representatives of Arab civil society organizations abroad; representatives of Arab, regional, and international organizations; ambassadors of foreign countries having the largest groups of Arab communities, the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Egypt and the President of the Permanent Delegation of the African Union to the League of Arab States, as well as the Secretary General and representatives from relevant departments of the General Secretariat.



Dr. S.Karam at the podium delivers her address at the conference (Dec 2010).

The topics of the conference were divided into three themes: role of the civil society organizations in the advancement of the Arab Communities; role of the Arab expatriates in the development and strengthening of the dialogue of civilizations, cultures and religions; and finding a regulatory and informative framework for Arab expatriates.

Dr. Salwa Karam, who is an Associate Researcher at the Lebanese Emigration Research Center, was selected by Director Guita Hourani to represent the Center at the conference,

Dr. Karam presented a study entitled the *State of the Arab Communities in Asia and Australia*. The paper was received and appreciated by the organizers, so it was publicly recommended to be photocopied and distributed to all the participants for them to benefit from its scholarship.

Furthermore, Dr. Karam was given a book from the Arab Expatriates Department with the following dedication: "To Dr. Karam, for the adequate presentation that helped to enrich the conference and for providing informative statistics about the expatriates." The dedication also stated "There is no doubt that the information and statistics provided by your study will profit the Arab Expatriates Department in its future work."

Given the excellent presentation of Dr. Karam, many participants in the conference were interested to know more about the Lebanese Emigration Research Center and its activities.