

LERC attends the General Directorate of Emigrants Website Launch

Beirut Lebanon, Friday, October 25, 2013

By Liliane Haddad

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC), represented by Ms. Liliane Haddad, recently attended an event organized by the General Directorate of Emigrants, and consisting of a panel of all figures concerned, at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Verdun, Beirut, to announce the launch of **gdoe.activeweb.info**, a new web portal in French, English, and Arabic developed in cooperation with the International Center for Migration Police and Development (ICMPD). The pilot project “*Outreaching to the Lebanese Diaspora Through the Development of the Web Portal of the Lebanese General Directorate of Emigrants*” aims at specifically enhancing the capacity of the General Directorate of Emigrants through the Development of a new web portal to promote efficient communication and inter-institutional coordination among institutions, dealing with Migration and Development nexus and to ensure maximum outreach toward the Lebanese Diaspora by using social media tools, forums and regularly providing them with the latest news, contacts, events, and studies published by the Directorate General of Emigrants and any actor involved in the field of Migration and Development.

The portal features categories such as tourism, investment, education, emigrant institutions abroad, administrative procedures including visas, expatriate voting and directories of Lebanese foreign missions overseas, and foreign missions and development agencies in Lebanon.

Many of the pages, however, appeared under construction or rerouted back to the homepage.



General Directorate of Emigrants Website.

H.E Ambassador Abdul Mawla el-Solh, Regional Representative of the ICMPD in the Middle East, gave the opening remarks and was followed by Ms. Monica Zanette, Coordinator of the Dialogue sur la Migration de Transit en Méditerranée (MTM).

In his welcome address at the press conference, Haitham Joumaa, Head of the Directorate, told journalists and dignitaries that the site was a “reality” and a “beginning” to be “developed much further in the future,” promising a comprehensive portal for Lebanese abroad looking to connect with their homeland.

Lebanon’s Foreign Minister Adnan Mansour was also present to offer support for the project, describing the Lebanese Diaspora as an “asset” and a “source of pride.”

Mansour did not fail to thank those who contributed to the launch of the new website.

He also called upon the Lebanese abroad to register their names in their embassies to preserve their right to cast their ballots during the next legislative polls.



H.E. Dr. Adnan Mansour, Minister Of Foreign Affairs

AMEDIP (**African** and Middle Eastern Diaspora Policy through South-South Exchange) aims to enhance the institutional capacities of national authorities charged with migration and development to better harness the contributions of their Diaspora communities. The **AMEDIP** initiative is implemented in 13 countries by the ICMPD and the IOM and is funded by the Governments of France, Italy, and the Netherlands.