

## **Dr. Hourani, Dr. Sensenig-Dabbous Participate in the MAGNET Conference in Kuwait**

By LERC Staff

The International Labor Organization (ILO) invited Dr. Guita Hourani, Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU), and Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences at NDU and an Adjunct Associate Researcher at LERC, to attend the launching conference of the Migration and Governance Network (MAGNET) in Kuwait.

Established by the ILO and financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), MAGNET has recently launched two projects in the Middle East titled respectively *“Improving the Governance and Protection Mechanisms for Labour Migration in the Arab States”* and *“Regional Advocacy Strategy on ILO’s Domestic Workers Convention No. 189 in the Arab States.”*



*Dr. Hourani and Dr. Sensenig-Dabbous with the organizers and attendees at the ILO MAGNET Conference in Kuwait (October 9, 2013).*

The mandate of the research network is to collect data on key labor migration indicators from the countries of the region and conduct analysis to feed into policy formulation. The network would steer activities based on emerging needs of the scientific community, policy makers, as well as Arab institutions and communities. The establishment of the network emphasizes a two-stage approach: During the first 12 months, a network of leading researchers in North Africa and the

Middle East (MENA) will discuss a research agenda, which conforms to the interests of the ILO to improve the governance of labor migration in the region and is linked to a list of questions and instruments to enhance evidence-based policy design. In the second phase, MENA MAGNET will engage policy advisors and other stakeholders in the work of the network, by expanding the research agenda, understanding how to translate analytical findings to practical guidance in amending policies and reforming institutions.

MENA MAGNET will produce approximately two main publications every 12 months, as well as technical notes to link the work of researchers in the region with that of decision makers in national settings.

Dr. Hourani and Dr. Sensenig-Dabbous were asked to serve as members of the research network and both have accepted with enthusiasm.