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President's Message: The Growth of NDU

While entering the Main Campus, the visitor will immediately become aware of the immense size of phase two of the NDU construction plan. This covers the three buildings of the dorms (for male students, female students, and faculty) and the Performing Arts Center, including two theaters (one seating 400, and another 800) that could be used also for international conferences and symposiums, together with the infrastructure of the University that covers all the entrance roads leading to, and surrounding, the main gate. In the sports area, we hope to launch the Tennis courts by the end of this coming spring, after having inaugurated the Basketball grounds last year.

With this good news, it is crucial to highlight the fact that this expansion does not represent the complete the final extension of the university, nor does the regular increase of the student population mean that full capacity will be reached. A significant growth is attained only when a considerable development in academic and human resources has taken place. This endeavor needs a serious revision and reevaluation of our rules and regulations, our curriculum, our research capacities, our publications, and our administrative procedures. In order to do that, we need the combined efforts of every one of us, no matter what our position is. We need a sense of commitment that makes each one of us the first and final evaluator of our individual good performance. We need a certain awareness of the level of productivity that may or may not satisfy us as a young, ambitious university in the service of its surrounding community in Lebanon and its wider community in the Middle East.

I know there are many administrators, faculty and staff members who are all willing to express this sense of commitment in their daily work and responsibilities. But I would like to know also that every individual on campus carries a sincere pledge, and a genuine undertaking that such a commitment shall be expressed in all possible ways and means, and on a daily basis, because our University is our second home, where we spend more hours of production than we spend at home.



Father Walid Moussa

This sense of commitment involves the proper spirit that urges us to seek to perfect our selves exactly as we are seeking to build up our beautiful campus. The vigorous construction of excellent facilities that we are observing every day cannot mean anything complete without a parallel continuous construction of the eminent minds and outstanding intellects that we would like to see growing constantly on campus. This is the spirit that I would like to see prevailing inside and outside our classrooms, offices, and assembly halls. I have started to see it growing, and I am sure I will witness this as a permanent feature of our University.

**Students don't care
how much you know
until they know
how much you care**

If the University Seeks the "Truth"

If it is true that part of the mission of a university today, as yesterday and tomorrow, is to seek the objective and scientific truth of every existing being in this universe, so it must be a crucial and a vital issue to discuss our understanding of the word "truth" as a philosophical expression of what goes beyond reality, genuineness, certainty, accuracy, and precision.

This must be critical and essential endeavor to discuss the different notions of truth not only as interpreted through reason and faith, but as understood by philosophy itself as a means of discovering the power of the mind to open other and additional ways of perceiving and accepting the world around us. It is true that this is the role of knowledge, but it is also correct that this is a major role of philosophy. One does not replace the other, but rather complements it in order to counterbalance the different approaches to the same phenomenon called "truth".

This short note on the issue is not intended to go into the historic background of the philosophical interpretations of the subject, nor to compare definitions of the same term, nor to highlight who said what on this topic. The purpose is to raise this fundamental question through a brief discussion on Heidegger's interpretation of the term "truth".

In his attempt to deal with the subject, Heidegger tried to highlight the sequential and secular nature of the self by examining the most genuine and reliable way by which the self can possibly exist, and conceivably find itself. This is what he calls the "authentic" existence, meaning the point of indisputable being, or perhaps undeniable life form. The question is why Heidegger gives a priority to authenticity? Is it because it is the only possible form of existence? Of course it is not. But because authenticity requires validity, realism, and accuracy, it also includes particularity as a common denominator. Understanding existence, therefore, takes place based on the particular possibility of existing, or the particularity of each and every case of existence. According to Heidegger "the ontological 'truth' of the existential analysis is developed on the ground of the primordial existentiell truth" (Being and Time 'Sein und Zeit', tr. J. Macquarrie and E. Robinson. New York: Harper & Row, 1962, p. 362). This is how the existentiell truth, to Heidegger, becomes the basis of existential truth.



Dr. Ameen Rihani

In other words the truth has to be related to existence first in order to become a free responsible (human) being accountable to his/her own development.

Richard Polt interprets this statement by saying that "a personal transformation is a prerequisite to understanding Being and Time ... since some ways of life are more insightful than others, [and since] philosophers must live as insightfully as possible" (Heidegger, an Introduction, Cornell University Press, New York 1999, p. 94). Polt continues to conclude: "It follows that seekers of truth, such as writers and readers of philosophical texts, must not only construct the right theories, but also live in the right way" (94).

I would slightly modify Polt's conclusion by suggesting that seekers of truth, such as writers, scholars, researchers, and other individuals able to create knowledge, must not only reach a certain truth and construct the right theory or theories about it, but also live up to the human and moral values of their own theories and interpretations on the "discovered" truth.

Maybe it would be a good idea to suggest a research project on what better ways we can follow in order to reach a balance between our theory(ies) about the truth and our ability, and willingness, to develop a certain value system that can cope with those theories, to offset what is existentiell with what becomes existential.

Ameen A. Rihani, Ph.D.
Vice President
Research and Development

Beirut Water Week Conference November 14-17, 2005



President Emile Lahoud during the inauguration of the WEERC premises

The international "Water Week" conference was held in Beirut from November 14-17, 2005, a notable first for the West Asia and Mediterranean region.

The conference was a collaborative initiative of the Lebanese Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW), UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (UNESCWA), GWP-Med, MIO-ECSDE, the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD), The Water Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC), Centre Régional pour l'Eau et l'Environnement at Saint Joseph's University (CREEN/ USJ-ESIB) and the Lebanese NGO AMWAJ for the Environment. It was also supported by the EU, German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR), the German Federal Institute of Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the Government of Greece, UNESCO Regional Office, the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO, the General Secretariat of Catholic Schools in Lebanon and the Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MEdIES).

This group collaborative effort was to build synergy and consolidate all different initiatives.

Dr. Fadi Comair, the General Director of Hydraulic and Electric Resources, was responsible for the conference's scientific organization and the coordination of its various speakers.

Main objectives of the "Water Week" conference were:

1. Informing the importance of sustainable development policies, preservation of water resources and access to drinking water and irrigation.
2. Dialogue on key issues regarding management of public water services with a transparent, tolerant and comprehensive spirit.
3. Comparing the various solutions adopted by different representative countries to assess their advantages and limitations
4. Educating the young on water resources through school curricula and the media, as well as preparing and raising the awareness of teachers.
5. Recommendations to implement action plans that meet the internationally agreed-upon objectives

and targets on integrated water resources and sanitation management as stated in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) of Johannesburg, 2002, of Agenda 21, and in the spirit of the UN International 'Water for Life' Decade as launched by the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

This landmark conference attracted thirty countries from the regions of West Asia, the Mediterranean and Europe and many national and international organizations, senior international and regional policy-makers, experts, international financial bodies, universities, private companies, non-governmental organizations and national consultants who are regionally involved either in water resources management or services related to water, wastewater and irrigation.

I. ACTIVITIES OF THE BEIRUT WATER WEEK

Senior political Lebanese figures contributed to its success and revealed the support given by the Government to this event.

a) Opening of the Conference; 14 November 2005

On Monday, November 14, 2005 the Conference was inaugurated at 10.00 a.m. at the UN House in Beirut and its activities were launched by introducing events and objectives of the week.

b) Seminar on: "Water Governance: Role of Stakeholders": November 14&15, 2005.

ESCWA organized a two day regional seminar on November 14 and 15, 2005 dedicated to issues related to "Water Governance", and to the role of partners and civil society associations in the countries of West Asia.

The objective of the Seminar was to provide a platform for a representative range of water stakeholders in the ESCWA Region (such as water user associations, water utilities, NGOs, academia, water research institutions, ministries of water, agriculture, and

environment, and private sectors) in order to establish a holistic understanding of water governance; its concept, issues and policy implications.

c)The Inauguration of the Water, Energy and Environment Research Center (WEERC1) and Official launching of Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MEdies): November 14, 2005 was held under the auspices of H.E. the President of the Lebanese Republic General Emile Lahoud.

d)Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD) meeting: November 15, 2005

The 4th Meeting of the (COMPSUD) combined with the 4th Mediterranean Regional Dialogue of Parliamentarians, NGOs and other Stakeholders on the protection of the Mediterranean environment and prospects for the Sustainable Development of the region took place at the UN ESCWA Headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon, on 15 November 2005.

e)Seminar on the "Inauguration of the National Dialogue of Lebanon on Water": November 16, 2005, led by the Greek representatives.

The aim of the Country Dialogue process is to identify gaps and deficiencies in current national priorities and implementation processes to achieve the international targets on water, sanitation and Integrated Water Resources Management, to identify bottlenecks in key prerequisites posed by donors, to identify concrete interventions required to meet the set targets as well as to assist the establishment of a permanent platform for cooperation between key involved partners at the national level including donor agencies.

f)Seminar on "Ground Water in Lebanon; Towards an Information System for Sustainable Management Resources": November 17, 2005

The theme of this conference was linked to the conference held the day before with the following statement:

"There can be no management of water without knowledge of the resource itself."

It was unanimously agreed that the Water Week constituted an ideal communication platform to underline the necessity of promoting training means through research.

g)Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MEdIES) Workshop: November 17, 2005

A one-day Training Seminar for the Lebanese educa

tors to stimulate awareness and interest and to practice skills on the ways the educators could integrate the educational material "Water in the Mediterranean" in their teaching work.

These meetings allowed the European Parliamentarians in COMPSUD to engage in fruitful exchange of ideas and discuss modes for future cooperation between the EU and the Lebanese Government.



The conference of the inauguration of the WEERC premises

II. CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The major resolutions of the Beirut Water Week focused on the following points:

1-The Conference recognizes the importance of the Country Dialogue of Lebanon on Water, in the framework of the Mediterranean Component of the European Union's Water Initiative (MED EUWI), and in view of the new financial perspectives for the Region after 2006 expressed in the New European Neighborhood and Partnership

Instrument (ENPI). The Dialogue will assist in the identification of priority actions on the ground and specific projects required to meet the internationally agreed targets on water, sanitation and IWRM, in particular through the conduction of financial assessments of needed and existing expenditure as well as the compilation of financial strategies. The importance of information skills and knowledge exchange with regards to technical, socio-economic, financial, legal and institutional aspects was highlighted.

2-It underlines the necessity of finding points of convergence and complementarity in order to choose actions and programs for sectorial and inter-sectorial development. The "Approach per Project" presents the major risk of having a fragmented series of actions. It might have adverse impact in terms of de-structuring the organization and the functioning of the water sector and its institutions. Consultation to coordinate plans of action and projects is indispensable for the comprehensive understanding of policies,

strategies, technical, operational, financial, institutional, legal, social and educational options. Thus coordination and cooperation among competent authorities and stakeholders were identified as prerequisites to ensure sustainability of policies and actions.

3-It is recognized that Lebanon is effectively engaged in its institutional strengthening of its water authorities for the protection and management of its water resources. It is essential for Lebanon to continue and reinforce its experience regarding the organization of the sector, the implementation of a 10-year strategic plan set by the MEW, and the implementation of Law and Bylaws 221.

and educating people on salient water and environment topics.

6-It stresses the importance of the European Union's new Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) which represents the new financial instruments for the region and for Lebanon in particular, and which after 2006 coincides also with the completion of the MEDA Water Program.

7-It stresses the need for supporting financially the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) that has been developed by Lebanon in the framework of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) of the UNEP/ MAP, possibly in the context of the ENPI.

**the mediocre scholar collects information
the good scholar explains information
the effective scholar analyses information
the superior scholar adds information, creates knowledge**

-Promote an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM).

-Ensure the effective decentralization of means and responsibilities, including financial resources and adequate staffing as well as capacity building.

-Help in the creation of a team to regulate the water sector set by the National Authority.

- Further explore, adapt and apply the concept of public-private partnerships (PPPs), taking into account pricing and cost recovery issues, aiming at a more efficient management of the water authorities for the sake of users.

- Resort to universities and research centers to develop innovative ideas, and to prepare and train the rising generations in the field of water.

4-It stresses the need for Lebanon to reinforce its knowledge and information regarding the situation of its water resources, in particular its groundwater resources. The preservation of its national water resources can only be through the adoption of a real sustainable water resource policy. The condition of these resources is subject to climate changes, pollution and urbanism that should be continuously observed and measured). Investment strategies and programs should be assessed and implemented on the basis of the state's knowledge about the natural milieu, its potential development and major threats that might affect the ecosystem.

5-It acknowledges the importance of the MEDIES initiative and recognizes the need of raising awareness

8-It underlines the importance of the provisions of the UN Convention, 1997 in providing a platform for cooperation among countries with shared water resources.

9-It affirms that the stakeholders' role is to be clearly identified as one cannot over-estimate their decisive contribution to implementing and enforcing issues related to water governance, or to integrated water resources management.

10-It encourages the political will of Governments, first to initiate good governance, and subsequently to empower stakeholders and encourage their participation in the water sector.

11-It establishes linkages between the various water consuming sectors to ensure better coordination and to overcome competing water demands and maximize on the economic and social returns of water use.

12-It urges increasing the visibility of the water events by improving on mass media coverage in order to mobilize public opinion and hence influence the voters' decisions with regards to environment and water related issues.

13-It establishes and consolidates the database for water-related parameters, which incorporate relevant factors including the physical, social and economical aspects. In addition to that, it strengthens the analytical capabilities of the water experts to generate accurate and reliable findings and resultant conclusions.

LERC at the intensive Thematic Session on "Integration Policies: The View From Southern And Eastern Mediterranean Countries", Tunisia 12-15 December 2005

Under the auspices of the European Commission, the EuroMed, The Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies and the European University Institute, in cooperation with the Offices des Tunisiens à l'Étranger and the Tunisian Minister of Social Affairs, the Euro-Mediterranean Consortium for Applied Research on International Migration (CARIM) invited 20 high-level professionals and academics from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestinian Territory, Israel, Jordan, Turkey, and Syria to participate in this session. Guita Hourani, Associate Director of LERC was invited as an academic from Lebanon to present a discussion paper on Lebanon's emigrants' integration policy and to participate in this four-day intensive exercise.

This thematic session addressed the need for policy-makers of both sending and receiving countries to evaluate the impact of their policies on the actual integration of migrants in receiving societies. It examined levels and trends of integration among a selection of sub-populations originating from the MENA region in selected European countries and the role played respectively by policies of sending and of receiving countries, as well as the best practices available, and considered suggestions for future policies of integration.

The thematic session was a follow-up to the Barcelona Declaration, which was the basis of a new partnership between the European and Mediterranean countries to transform the Mediterranean region into a peaceful and prosperous area and to progressively establish a Euro-Mediterranean free-market zone. The Barcelona process included three main sub-processes: a dialogue on political and security issues aiming to create stability and to promote democracy and human rights in the region; a dialogue on financial and economic cooperation intended to increase partners' welfare and to create a free-market zone; and a dialogue on social, cultural and human issues, improving mutual understanding and strengthening civil society links. The session opened with a speech by Mr. Fraj Souissi, Director General of the Offices des Tunisiens à l'Étranger, representing the Minister of Social Affairs,

Solidarity and Tunisians Abroad, followed by an address by Mr. Bernard Philippe, Chargé d'Affaires of the Delegation of the European Community, and one by Mr. Philippe Fargues, Director of CARIM. Following the inauguration ceremony, the four days of sessions started. Ms. Hourani presented her paper on Monday in the session dedicated to the MENA policies regarding their expatriates.

Ms. Hourani found that in fact Lebanon does not have an emigrants' integration policy or even discourse on the subject. What Lebanon does have, Ms. Hourani revealed, are policies that:

- a) allow Lebanese migrant outflow (Lebanon does not have any restriction on individual mobility except for young men who have not completed their military service);
- b) encourage and facilitate the inflow of migrants'

**the mediocre teacher tells
the good teacher explains
the effective demonstrates
the superior teacher inspires**

- remittances through formal and informal channels;
- c) admit the free flow of capital and hard currency in and out of the country;
- d) permit dual nationality;
- e) do not permit migrants to contribute to social security and retirement plans;
- f) do not facilitate repatriation of its own citizens; and
- g) do not permit Lebanese migrant citizens to vote in absentia.

With these findings, Ms. Hourani revealed that the Lebanese form some of the most integrated migrant communities in the world and that there were many reasons why Lebanon did not consider having an emigration integration policy, the most important of which is that the Lebanese emigrants, being self-reliant, have succeeded to a large extent in their own integration in the countries of destination without much help from their country of origin. Ms. Hourani uncovered the fact that recent migrants, especially in Australia and Germany, are facing insurmountable challenges in their process of integration and that in-depth studies are indispensable to understand these challenges in order to provide proper interventions. The session ended with recommendations, which will be presented to the European Commission. The pre

sentations, including that of Ms. Hourani, and the recommendations will be posted on www.carim.org. Ms. Hourani succeeded in putting LERC, an institution barely two-and-a-half years old, on the international map among bodies that were much older and more funded. Ms. Hourani is capitalizing on the contacts she made to make LERC part of the circle of EU and MENA institutions on migration studies.



Ms. Guita Hourani during the conference.

Absentee Voting: Considering the international context of the overseas voting debate in Lebanon

Authors: Dr. Khalid Fakhri, Ms. Guita Hourani, Dr. George Labaki, and Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous

Electoral reform in the Middle East is now on the agenda both in the region and in the international community as a whole. Both the European Union and the United States now see transparency and accountability in the areas of voter education, participation and media coverage to be key goals in the current decade.

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) is concerned in this process. During the fall of last year, LERC surveyed the major Lebanese stakeholders to discover their position on expanding the right to vote to citizens living abroad, the so called "diaspora electorate". The focus of this study was not only on finding out whether political leaders, major domestic NGOs and the Lebanese community abroad supported the demand for absentee voting, but also on clarifying their position on which legal approach to this complex issue they preferred.

In order to place the absentee voting debate in an international perspective, LERC studied a wide spectrum of literature on the topic, with attention to the various approaches taken by countries throughout the world, ranging from the Middle East and North Africa to East Asia, West Africa, Eastern and Western Europe, Latin America and of course the international "good practice" role model, the United States.

The various issues considered included whether or not voting should be limited to Lebanese citizens who paid taxes to the Republic; whether the elections should be carried out in the embassies and consulates or expanded to include postal balloting or even e-voting; whether there should be additional seats in Parliament to ensure better representation of the diaspora; whether voting from abroad should be limited to national elections or include local elections as well; and how the votes should be distributed within the country's electoral districts, which have yet to be determined.

The LERC White Paper was submitted to the Fouad Boutros Commission on Electoral Reform at the beginning of December of last year. The Boutros Commission is expected to present a comprehensive report on electoral reform in Lebanon in early 2006. Based on the Electoral Reform Commission's recommendations, LERC will then develop a selection of proposals reflecting the spectrum of legal options open to the country in the area of absentee voting. At issue here are controversial items such as the size of the electoral districts, the distribution of seats in Parliament and the introduction of proportional representation. A fully sourced academic survey will be published by LERC in cooperation with the NDU Press in 2006.

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center considers the gathering and dissemination of information on diaspora-related issues to be one of its key mandates. LERC calls on all Lebanese abroad to participate in this reform process. Comments and suggestions on absentee voting can be sent to Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous at: sdabbous@ndu.edu.lb. The initial White Paper is available in digital format and can be ordered from LERC: lerc@ndu.edu.lb. Details on the comprehensive published edition will be announced by NDU Press.

Lebanese Migrants in Brazil: Exhibition and an Annotated Bibliography

In celebration of Migrant's Day, December 18, 2005, the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at NDU, Lebanon, inaugurated an Exhibition on Lebanese Migrants in Brazil, under the auspices of Prime Minister Fuad Siniora, represented by Minister of State Michel Pharaoun, in conjunction with the signing of Roberto Khatlab's book *Lebanese Migrants in Brazil: An Annotated Bibliography*.

The opening brought together a number of prominent Brazilian and Lebanese figures, who included H.E. Minister Pharaoun, Fr. Walid Moussa, V.P. of Sponsored Research and Development Dr. Ameen A. Rihani, the chargé d'affaires of the Brazilian Embassy in Lebanon Minister Fernando Said Salloum, the former Lebanese Ambassador to Brazil Mr. Said Hobeika, the Director General of IDAL Mr. Nabil Itani and the Director of LERC Ms. Guita Hourani.

The event started with the national anthem, Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous, researcher, spoke on behalf of LERC and welcomed the audience and indicated that LERC contains the most important and updated data bank on Lebanese migration and is endeavoring through this exhibition to encourage the Lebanese, residents and emigrants, to donate e-copies of their possessions, letters, photos, newspapers and art (paintings, recording, and religious, social and cultural rituals) related to their emigration or to that of their parents.

In his turn, Father Moussa thanked P.M. Siniora for his patronage and laid stress on the objectives and goals of LERC. Father Moussa also highlighted the researches undertaken by the Center, its data bank and its electronic archiving project, which allows the digitization of documents and their preservation on the computer in order to provide easy access to scholars and researchers. He also talked about the different activities of LERC and encouraged its staff, all the while reiterating NDU's support and commitment to achieving the aspired goals.

Minister Pharaoun addressed the audience praising, NDU's initiative and pointing out that NDU "has become throughout the years an academic and national monument that brings forth the men of the future and the assets of the country. It has also become a center for academic research that nourishes both the public and private sectors in the country and has adopted important national causes that deal with

different aspects of our lives as Lebanese." Minister Pharaoun also applauded the book initiative of Mr. Roberto Khatlab and considered that it contributes to consolidating the relations between residents and migrants in Brazil.

He also indicated that one cannot utter the word 'emigration' without thinking of Brazil, which has become a second country for the Lebanese throughout the ages. This same country has welcomed thousands of Lebanese families from different walks of life.



Minister Michael Pharaoun in the Brazilian Exhibition

Minister Pharaoun said, "the new phase which Lebanon is witnessing is a phase for the building of sovereignty, independence, freedom and democracy; and we are called upon to communicate with the Lebanese in Brazil, who showed great enthusiasm and support for Lebanon and its people, so that we may be able to overcome all difficulties and fortify our journey for independence. This phase will pave the way for us to set up the future role of Lebanon in the region and in the world as a center for dialogue between religions and cultures." He also stressed the need for adopting an effective migration policy and the establishment of foundations that will enable Lebanon to benefit from the resources found in the countries of emigration. Minister Pharaoun added, "The great conspiracy which began with the extension of the presidency of Emile Lahoud did not end after the assassination of P.M. Rafiq Hariri. It remains looming over the country with the aim of overthrowing the will of the people, the Taef Agreement and national unity to weaken our stability and harm our new independence. Today, with the assassination of the martyr of the free and bold press, Mr. Gebran Tueini, the Lebanese-Syrian security system is escalating its attack on Lebanon; this incites us to promote internal and international dialogue and solidarity between the different forces, in order to protect the fruits of the Intifada of March 14."

Minister Pharaoun also ensured that in spite all difficulties, Lebanon has never abandoned and will never abandon its quest for sovereignty and for the truth

about all the assassinations that have assailed its children, starting with the assassination of P.M. Rafiq Hariri, up to the assassination of Mr. Gebran Tueini. He considered that "the results of the investigation might lead to an increased attack on Lebanon, which urges us to be more aware of the dangers of the upcoming phase and to agree on a solution for the issue of the presidency." He concluded by saying, "the journey of sovereignty and independence is a continuous one that requires the participation of all the parties concerned in Lebanon, starting with the young and those in the countries of migration. That is why our meeting today at NDU, the home of a free youth, on an occasion related to migration, is a station that consolidates our trust in Lebanon, its people and its institutions."

Before opening the exhibit, NDU surprised the author with an Acknowledgment Award, which was presented to him by NDU's President and Minister Pharaoun "for his devotion to the study of Lebanese migration in Brazil and Lebanon".

After the cutting of the ribbon, Minister Pharaoun toured the exhibit and then Mr. Khatlab signed his book *Lebanese Migrants in Brazil: An Annotated Bibliography* published by NDU Press. The book is an information resource for those interested in Lebanese migration or comparative research in migration studies. It brings together work from a variety of disciplines, including history, sociology, ethnology, political science, media, economics, poetry, and literature

The exhibition was opened for public till January 20, 2006, in Pierre Abou Khater Building at NDU's main campus at Zouk Mosbeh. It aims at exhibiting the stages of Lebanese migration to Brazil through pictures, documents and artifacts and it provides a large access to intellectuals, professors, journalists, decision-makers, officials in cultural and social organizations, students, migrants and parents of migrants.

The exhibition includes a large number of photos of Lebanese migrants in Brazil from the collection of Mr. Roberto Khatlab, in addition to copies of a number of letters exchanged between migrants and the Lebanese president. This correspondence flourished during the presidency of President Camil Chamoun, especially that most of them date back to the period that followed President Chamoun's visit to Brazil. The exhibit also displays a collection of the oldest Lebanese newspapers that were published in Brazil, in addition to the possessions of some Lebanese migrants in Brazil, such as a coffee grinder, a brass narguileh, books, passports, etc. For more information, please contact Ms. G. Hourani at: ghourani@ndu.edu.lb



Mr. Roberto Khatlab being awarded by Minister M. Pharaoun and Fr. W. Moussa.

PLEA 2005 NDU - Lebanon

Prepared by Mr. Habib Melki,
Chairman PLEA 2005

Under the patronage of His Excellency Mr Yaacoub Sarraf - Minister of Environment, represented by Mr. Girgis Berbari, the Faculty of Architecture, Art and Design (FAAD), at Notre Dame University (NDU), Zouk Mosbeh - Lebanon, in collaboration with PLEA International (www.plea-arch.org), hosted the International Conference PLEA 2005 (Passive and Low Energy Architecture), from the 13th -17th of November 2005 at Le Royal Hotel, Dbayeh. The Conference attracted a diverse assembly of professionals, academicians and students from all over the world. Dr. Assaad Eid, Dean FAAD - Dean of FAAD, opened the conference by stressing the importance of PLEA 2005 as being an international outreach from NDU exploring a sustainable future with the exchange of expertise with forty foreign countries on the subject of Passive Low Energy Architecture. He added that Lebanon is at the crossroads in its history and faces future challenges in finding alternative means of sustaining its environment and social needs. He commended the past and present NDU administrations and all who supported this event. Mr. Habib Melki



– Chairman PLEA 2005, followed by focusing on the current global concern for the preservation of the environment. He continued by emphasizing that NDU as well as the existing conflicts on the global scale. He included that Lebanon also has its share in responsibilities towards the creation of energy efficient and sustainable future. In his conclusion he cited the various projects currently being developed in Lebanon. A series of three parallel sessions covered a wide range of subjects under the theme: “Environmental Sustainability: The Challenge of Awareness in Developing Societies”.

Themes

01. Low Energy Architecture
02. Sustainable Urban Design and Planning
03. Comfort in Outdoor Urban Spaces
04. Innovative Low Energy Technologies
05. Materials and building techniques
06. Recycled Architecture: Reuse, Upgrading and Rehabilitation of Buildings
07. Computer Simulation Tools
08. Vernacular Architecture: Sustainability Lessons from the Past
09. Case Studies
10. Education and Technology Transfer
11. Decision Making and Strategies for Action
12. Reflections on Sustainability

Planning for this event started in Toulouse, France while attending PLEA 2002 (Aram Yeretziyan and Habib Melki) and materialized in March 2004 with the official announcement that NDU will host the 22nd PLEA Conference in 2005 after being selected from among other major universities in Lebanon. Becoming a reality was possible only with the continuous help and support of former and present NDU administration, faculty, staff and students of the FAAD and the guidance of the Directors of PLEA International.

Organizing Committee

Habib Melki Chairman, PLEA 2005, NDU, Architecture, FAAD

Dana Raydan, PLEA Board Representative in Lebanon

Jean Pierre Asmar NDU, Architecture, FAAD

Andre Bechara, NDU, Design, FAAD

Chadi Bteich, NDU, FAAD

Linda Selwood Choueiri, NDU, Design, FAAD

Graziella Daghfal, NDU, Design, FAAD

Nicolas Gabriel, NDU, Architecture, FAAD

Robert Haddad, NDU, Design, FAAD

Jocelyne Issa, NDU, Public Relations Coordinator

John Kortbawi, NDU, Design, FAAD
Nadim Matta, NDU, Design, FAAD
Diane Mikhael, NDU, Design, FAAD
Jessica Saba, Secretariat, PLEA 2005
Robert Saliba, NDU, Architecture, FAAD
PLEA 2005 Organizing Committee
Aram Yeretziyan, Prime Design - Order of Engineers & Architects
Danielle Zaccour, NDU, Fine Arts, FAAD

“Awareness” in this conference was a two-fold objective: first on the national and regional scale targeting architects, urban planners, civil and mechanical engineers, health specialists, economists, legislators and other governmental agencies, in an effort to elaborate strategies and policies leading to relevant objectives and desired goals. And second, on the international scale so participants may grasp the true image of Lebanon in all its potentials by presenting an informative and diverse program.

The hosting of PLEA at NDU – Lebanon, should not stop here but serve as an incentive for further development of the academic as well as the practical implementation of Passive Low Energy Architecture. A combination of environmental awareness and resource availability are the only means to produce a modern and energy-efficient ecosystem.

Finally, it is our hope that NDU will be instrumental in generating a sharper awareness of the importance of this topic. If all this is achieved, NDU could aspire to new horizons as a leader in developing concepts and methods for sustainable architecture. Architecture graduates from this university would be exposed to the most recent trends in design similar to programs they could acquire in leading universities worldwide. It could become a regional center that offers consultation and provides workshops in energy efficient architecture. It could become a resource center, which organizes international conferences and seminars to disseminate information. It would also attract international scholars interested in further investigation of this subject. Hopefully NDU will maintain a determination to pursue this mission.

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