



“The Educational Sector in Lebanon - Problems and Solutions”

Saturday 9 October 2021

Venue: International Center for Human Sciences –
UNESCO

Program

08:00 – 09:00 | Arrival of participants - Registration and reception of attendees

09:00 – 09:30 | Opening Session

- National anthem
- **Speech by Dr. Darina Saliba Abi Chedid**, Director of the International Center for Human Sciences, UNESCO – Byblos.
- **Speech of Mr. Toni Nissi** President Near East of the International Christian Union
- **Speech of Dr. Georges Ghanem**
- Screening of a short film on the educational situation in Lebanon

First Axis: Speech by His Excellency Youssef Soueif, *Archbishop of the Maronite Archdiocese of Tripoli, Member of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development - Vatican and Chairman of the AD HOC Committee emanating from the Council of Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops in Lebanon- APECL*

09:30 - 11:30 First session | Challenges of the initiation of the academic year in Lebanon - the school as an example.

- Shortage of energy (electricity, petrol, fuel...), stationery, internet connection ... and how to compensate for the deficit and find budget solutions...
- Problems of teachers, administrators and staff in schools: salaries and wages, transportation cost, operational cost in light of the deterioration and devaluation of the Lebanese Pound against the USD.
- Parents' problems: high tuition fees, huge transportation costs, expensive textbooks, stationery and food.
- Migration of competencies, and the problems of educational curricula that have not been modified since 1997, and its reflection on the educational level.
- The problem of the COVID epidemic: the necessary precautions and preventive measures (securing sterilization and cleaning machines and materials, thermometers, and the issue of cleaning workers...)
- The health and social status of the educational body and its reflection on mental health (administration, educational staff and students).

Moderators: Mr. Raymond Feghali

Participants:

- ❖ **Sister Basima El Khoury**, *Head of the Educational Office of the Antonine Sisters Schools*
- ❖ **Mrs. Hala Mereb**, *Semi-Free Schools Expert*
- ❖ **Mr Antoine Medawar**, *Member of the Teachers Syndicate*
- ❖ **Mr. Shawkat Hawala**
- ❖ **Dr. Fadi Haddad**
- ❖ **Dr. Karen Elia**, *Psychologist.*

11:30 - 11:45 | Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:15 Session Two | Universities in Lebanon - Challenges

- The future generation, between the anvil of rising premiums and the hammer of the emigration of educational competencies
- The private university: the challenges of the stage, the possibility of steadfastness and how to maintain the level
- The Lebanese University: the way forward of the National University in the light of the crises and the state of confusion
- The massive student migration and its impact on the future of the Lebanese Nation.

Moderators: Dr. Rania Bassil – Ms. Vanessa Sfeir

Participants :

- ❖ **Dr. Elie Badr**, *Lebanese American University.*
- ❖ **Dr. Zaki Ghorayeb**, *Head of Campus Social Responsibility at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik*
- ❖ **Sister Micheline Frem**, *Vice-president for administrative affairs of the Holy Family University*
- ❖ **Dr. Bechara Hanna**, *Lebanese University*
- ❖ **Mr. Muhammad Shams El-Din**, *Information International*

13:15 - 14:00 | Lunch Break

The second axis: *The speech of Father Youssef Nasr, Secretary General of Catholic Schools in Lebanon*

14:00 – 16:00 Session Three | The role of donors in the salvation of the academic year

- The Total Amount Needed.
- The Nature and amount of aid secured so far
- The mechanism of action of international institutions and the type of assistance they provide
- The role of local institutions and how they interact with the crisis
- The Lebanese Diaspora, the Aorta of Lebanon's Continuity: It's Role in Aiding Education
- The role of civil society, and how to communicate with the donors.
- Media and advertising and their impact on getting aid.

Moderators: Ms. Nour Bou Malhab - Dr. Rabih Maalouf

Participants :

- ❖ **Father Michel Abboud**, *President of Caritas Lebanon*
- ❖ **Mr. Michel Constantine**, *Regional Director for Lebanon, Syria and Egypt Pontifical Mission-CNEWA*

- ❖ **Dr. Zaki Ghorayeb**, *Head of Campus Social Responsibility at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik*
- ❖ **Mr. Roger Saad**, *Lebanese Diaspora.*
- ❖ **Eli Khoury**, *Quantum House*

16:00 - 16:15 | Coffee Break

16:15 - 17:30 Session Four | Suggestions and solutions

- Alternative energy: a solution or a dream?
- Coordination mechanism with and among donors
- Do we need a data bank (DATA)? How and Why?
- Twinning project with the Diaspora.
- Food Solution for kids.

Moderators: Micheline Boukhatir – Dr. Elie Chammas

Participants :

- ❖ **Dr. Rashid Rahmeh**, *President ICLIC*
- ❖ **Dr. Nicolas Chikhani**, *Former CEO Arab Bank-Switzerland*
- ❖ **Dr. Robert Farha**, *Renewable energy Consultant*
- ❖ **Mr. Paul Tawk**, *CEO of Neumann Corp.*
- ❖ **Mr. Ghassan Feghali**, *Consultant- CEO of Liban Village*

17:30: Closing session | Recommendations.