

الجمهورية اللبنانية  
وزارة الخارجية والمغتربين



# LEBANESE DIASPORA ENERGY CONFERENCE

**MAY 21 - 23, 2015**

الطاقة الاغترابية اللبنانية  
LEBANESE DIASPORA ENERGY

2015



# WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Lebanese,

I would like to welcome you and thank you for taking part in our Second Lebanese Diaspora Energy Conference, hoping that your impressions and new insights would help us, here, at the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, to develop a new emigrant-centered policy starting from each Lebanese citizen to the top of the decision-making pyramid.



For the second time in a row, we gather to meet this year at yet another emotionally charged and achievement-oriented conference.

Your authentic passion for Lebanon, is the key to our success in this yearly summit that gathers hundreds of Lebanese Diaspora personalities and community leaders in numerous sectors from all over the world.

Once again, I would like to extend my boundless gratitude for each of you, aspiring to meet and share ideas serving our higher national aim: the continuous blossom of our dear Lebanon.

Yours Truly,

**GEBRAN BASSIL**  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EMIGRANTS

# LDE 2015 OVERVIEW

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## LDE 2015 OVERVIEW

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For the second consecutive year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants is organizing the “Lebanese Diaspora Energy 2015” (LDE 2015), a unique event aiming to further strengthen the bonds between Lebanese residents and emigrants worldwide, while praising their successes in all fields. Held under the High Patronage of H.E. Minister Gebran Bassil, the event will take place from May 21 till 23, 2015.

## WHY LDE?

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The Lebanese Diaspora Energy represents a one-of-a-kind opportunity for Lebanese emigrants and residents, allowing them to:

- Meet thousands of leading Lebanese key players from the Diaspora.
- Network with peers in similar sectors worldwide.
- Get insight into overall investment opportunities in Lebanon and abroad.
- Build lobbying initiatives.
- Take part in the foreign policy-making regarding the Diaspora.
- Share ideas with decision-makers for a better management of Lebanon’s assets.
- Return to their roots and develop a valuable cultural and social connection with their homeland.

## LDE 2014 EDITION

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In its first edition held from May 30 till June 1, 2014, LDE attracted more than 500 attendees from around the globe. The acclaimed event featured a conference including several success stories and testimonials of Lebanese residents and expatriates, an official Gala Dinner, workshops, as well as the awarding of prizes to “Lebanon Connect” contest winners. An award ceremony also took place where more than 20 successful Lebanese from various sectors were honored for their great achievements. The event also included the inauguration of the Lebanese Diaspora Forest in Chatine, as well as the Lebanese Diaspora House in Batroun, followed by a lunch.

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## EVENT'S OBJECTIVES

The event seeks to showcase the successes of Lebanese expats and to encourage them to stay connected, while celebrating the Lebanese heritage and promoting a positive image of Lebanon around the world. The conference will revolve around the Lebanese Diaspora and effective means to maintain a close connection to their homeland. The event is also intended as a business-to-business opportunity that constitutes a tie of interest alongside its emotional aspect. It is a chance to share experiences, enhance relations, and explore new possibilities, by establishing business and/or social connections.

Highly anticipated by local and foreign entities, the event also seeks to revitalize diplomatic efforts to enhance Lebanon's economic diplomacy. The conference allows for establishing a network of successful people of Lebanese origins worldwide, in order to spread and diversify their domains of action on the national and international levels. There is indeed a great capacity within the Lebanese diplomatic entities to market Lebanese products abroad, to promote the image of Lebanon, and to encourage investments, especially by Lebanese expats who are eminent in their adopted countries. Together, they can restore the trust of the world in the economy and stability of our dear Lebanon.

For more information: [www.lde-leb.com](http://www.lde-leb.com)

# LDE 2015 - PROGRAM

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## THURSDAY, MAY 21

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08:00 – 09:00      **Registration**

09:00 – 10:30      **Opening Ceremony**

*Master of Ceremony:* George KORDAHI

*Opening Speech:* H.E. Mr. Gebran BASSIL –  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
and Emigrants

*Keynote Speakers:* Mr. Thomas J. BARRACK Jr.  
H.E. Mrs. Leila Abdul Hamid SHARAF  
Dr. Nassim Nicholas TALEB  
H.E. Mr. Michael LOUIS  
Honorable Ricardo IZAR  
Dr. Philip A. SALEM  
H.E. Mrs. Ivonne BAKI  
Honorable Mac HARB

10:30 – 11:00      Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:00      **First Session: Success stories of Lebanese abroad**

*Moderator:* Walid ABBOUD | Broadcasted on MTV

*Panelists:* Mr. Harry NADJARIAN  
Dr. Randa AKOURI  
Mr. Ziad SANKARI  
Mr. Samer S. KHOURY  
H.E. Mrs. Claudia Alejandra Ledesma Zamora  
ABDALAH  
Mr. Victor SAAD  
Mr. William SAWAYA  
Mr. Ralph R. DEBBAS  
Honorable Rodica NASSAR

12:15 – 13:30

**Second Session: Diaspora Projects by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Moderator: Chaza OMAR | Broadcasted on Télé Liban

Panelists:

GC Kabalan FRANJIEH –  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and  
Emigrants

*Lebanon Connect*

Mr. Rawad RIZK – Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs and Emigrants

*Invest to Stay*

Mr. Philippe ZIADE

Mr. Sakr A. SAKR

*The Lebanese School*

Mr. Elie NAIM – Ministry of Higher  
Education

Mr. Ahmed CHEIKHA

*Lebanese Diaspora House*

Mr. Marcellino HARK

*From the Heart of Lebanon / Buy  
Lebanese*

Mr. Marc GHAOUI

Mr. Joe SAKER

*Diaspora Cedar*

Ms. Abir MRAD

*Energy for Lebanon*

13:30 – 14:30

Lunch – Emirates Hall

14:30 – 15:30

**Third Session: Diaspora – The facts (studies and information - opportunities and possibilities)**

Moderator: Imad MARMAL | Broadcasted on El Manar TV

Panelists:

Dr. Roberto KHATLAB

Mr. Antonio TRABOULSE KAIM

Dr. Mohammad TAAN

Dr. Choghig Minassian KASPARIAN

Lic. Alicia DAHER

Dr. Guita G. HOURANI

Dr. Mohamed Hussein EL ZOGHBI

15:45 – 17:00

**Fourth Session: Diaspora diplomacy – The restoration of the Lebanese nationality and registration**

Moderator: Jean AZIZ | Broadcasted on OTV

Panelists: H.E. Mr. Hassan YACOUB (Former MP)  
H.E. Mr. Neemtallah ABI NASR (MP)  
Commissioner Tonia KHOURY  
Father Hannoun ANDRAOS  
Mr. Radwan KHAZEM  
Dr. Mounzer FATFAT

17:15 – 18:30

**Fifth Session: Economic diplomacy – Expatriates and the economy**

Moderator: Georges SALIBY | Broadcasted on NTV

Panelists: Vice Chancellor Eduardo ZOUENI  
Dr. Salim SFEIR  
Dr. Joseph KHOURI  
Judge Vivian Margarete SOLOMON  
Mr. Salim El ZYR  
Mr. Ghaleb Wadih FARHA  
Mr. Mohamed JEBAL



## FRIDAY, MAY 22

**09:00 – 13:30**

The conference is divided into 12 sectorial meetings

**09:00 – 10:30** Socializing and networking opportunity

**10:30 – 10:45** Coffee Break

**10:45 – 12:00** Discussions about projects inside Lebanon

**12:15 – 13:30** Discussions about projects outside Lebanon

SECTOR	ROOM	LOCATION
Healthcare	Beirut	Convention Center
Banking, Finance and Insurance	Hamra	Convention Center
Engineering, Contracting, Construction and Real Estate	Hall A	Emirates Hall
Agricultural Products and Lebanese Cuisine	Rabieh	Convention Center
Media, Advertising, Music and Cinema	Royal Suite No. 2529	25 <sup>th</sup> Floor
Arts, Jewellery, and Fashion Design	Jamhour	Convention Center
Education, Publishing, Science and Culture	Royal Suite No. 2524	25 <sup>th</sup> Floor
Industry, Trade, and Franchise	Main Room	Emirates Hall
Oil and Gas	Cedar	Metropolitan Hotel
Information and Communications Technology	Sindiyan	Metropolitan Hotel
Tourism, Hotels, Transport and Services	Noura	Metropolitan Hotel
Politics, International Organizations, NGOs and Diaspora Institutions	Hall B	Emirates Hall

**13:30 – 15:00** Lunch

**15:30 – 18:00**

**Closing Ceremony:**

Declaration of sectors' recommendations and conclusions

*Keynote Speakers:* Honorable Steve BRACKS  
Honorable Fernando CAPEZ

*Closing Speech:* H.E. Mr. Gebran BASSIL –  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
and Emigrants

Honors and Awards

## **SATURDAY, MAY 23**

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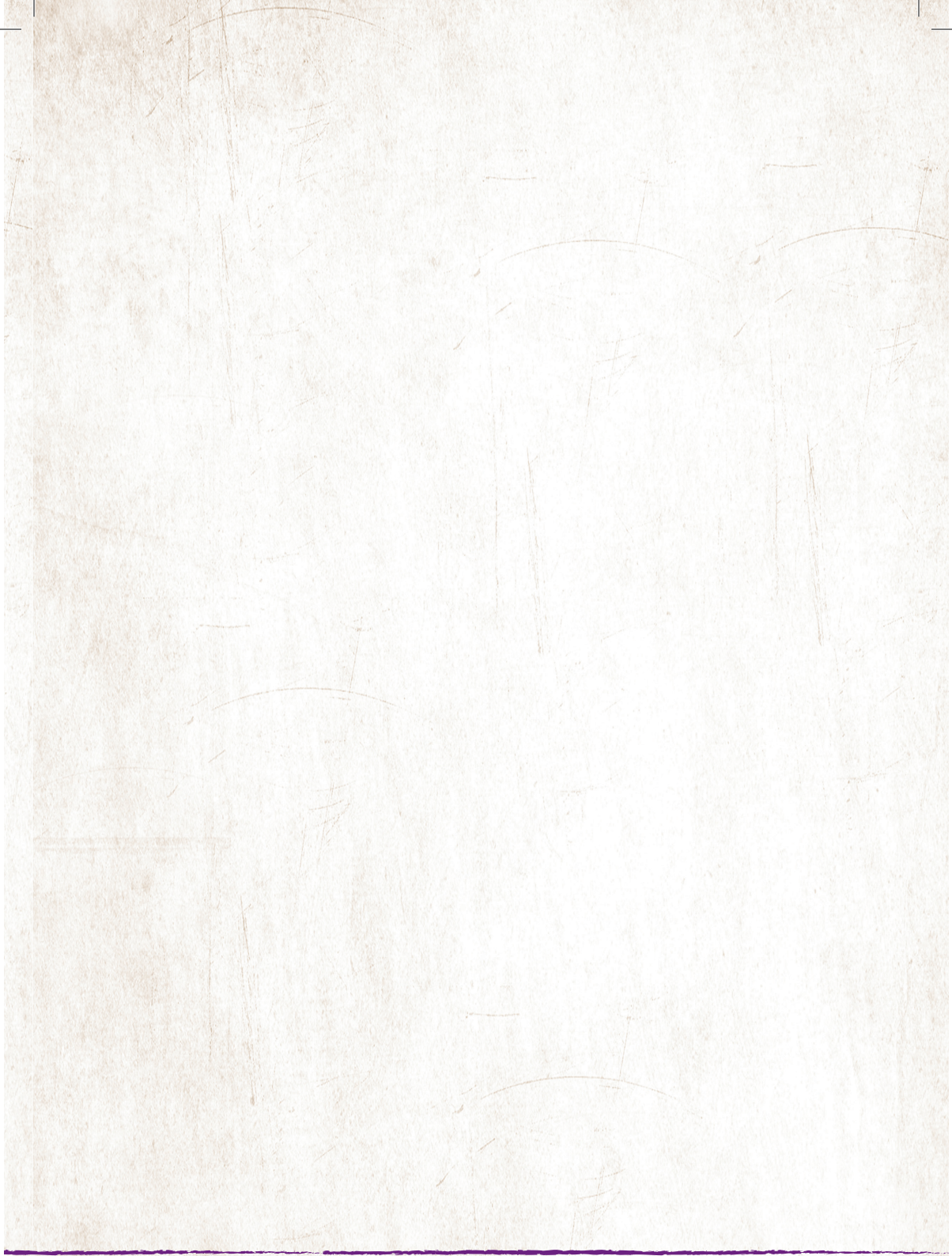
**09:30** Departure from Hilton Habtoor Hotel by bus

**11:00** Arrival to Batroun

**11:00 – 13:00** Launching of Diaspora House  
Launching of Diaspora Museum  
Walk in the old Souk of Batroun

**13:30** Traditional Lebanese Lunch – Batrouniyat, Batroun  
Discover amazing traditional Lebanese food in a  
captivating typical Lebanese setting

**16:00** Departure to Hilton Habtoor Hotel by bus



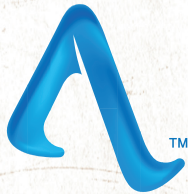
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# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS – OPENING CEREMONY

## MR. THOMAS J. BARRACK JR.



Thomas Barrack is Executive Chairman of Colony Capital Inc., a New York stock exchange REIT Company headquartered in Los Angeles, California. As Executive Chairman, Barrack has invested approximately 60 billion in assets around the globe.

Today, Barrack oversees a global organization located in 14 cities and 10 countries. Mr. Barrack is also the Chairman of Miramax Films. Recently, he also served in the Reagan administration as Deputy Undersecretary of the Department of the Interior.

Additionally, French President Nicolas Sarkozy awarded him France's Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur.

## H.E. MRS. LAILA ABDUL HAMID SHARAF



Spouse of H.E. Abdul Hamid Sharaf Laila Sharaf, late Jordanian Prime Minister, H.E. Mrs. Laila Sharaf is a member of the Jordanian House Senate. She held numerous reputable governmental posts, and was the first Minister of Information in Jordan.

Her top priority revolves around Democracy and Human Rights, notably in the Arab world. She is Member of the Board of Directors of the Arab Institute for Human Rights (Tunisia), a former Member

of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Organization for Human Rights (Cairo), and a Founding Member and former Vice-President of this organization in Jordan. She is also a women's rights activist.

## DR. NASSIM NICHOLAS TALEB



Dr. Taleb has spent 20 years as a derivatives trader/risk taker before becoming a researcher in practical, mathematical, and philosophical problems in probability.

He is currently Distinguished Professor of Risk Engineering at NYU's School of Engineering currently focusing on the properties of systems that can handle disorder ("antifragile") as well as the development of statistical techniques with fat-tailed processes.

Taleb is the author of a multivolume philosophical essay, which has been translated into 36 languages. Taleb has also published close to 40 scholarly papers in statistical physics, statistics, philosophy, ethics, economics, international affairs, and quantitative finance, all around the notion of risk and probability.

## H.E. MR. MICHAEL LOUIS



At the start of the "Mandela Era" in 1994, Michael Louis entered Politics and became a Member of Parliament in the Western Cape Parliament and a Cabinet position in Government with the Portfolios of Public Works and Development Planning.

He assisted in drafting the National and Provincial Constitutions. His company Louis Group International, a third generational family business was established by his Grandfather, now celebrating 100 years. Michael was awarded with an honoree

Doctorate in New York with Steve Forbes of Forbes Magazine recognizing his contribution to social change in South Africa.

## HON. RICARDO IZAR



Ricardo Izar was elected Federal Deputy by the State of São Paulo in 2010 and became known by the reason of his ethical ways of working in politics and the pursuit of sustainable development for Brazil.

In Congress, his main topics aimed at the consumer protection, a balanced environment, better conditions of living for all and the ethic in public affairs. Izar is member of Transport Committee, Parliamentary Front of Urban Development, President of Consumer

Defense and President of the Front in Defense of Animals.

## DR. PHILIP A. SALEM



Dr. Philip A. Salem, physician, researcher, educator and international statesman in cancer medicine, serves as Director Emeritus of Cancer Research at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center in Houston and is the President of Salem Oncology Centre.

In addition to being a physician, Salem is a renaissance intellectual and writer he is the author of many editorials on Lebanon and he has published extensively on Arab affairs. Five books have been published about him and his vision.



## H.E. MRS. IVONNE BAKI



A graduate of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Ivonne Baki is a former Ambassador to the United States and Trade and former Industry minister of Ecuador. In 2007, Baki was elected President of the Andean Parliament (for 2 years mandate) following the unanimous vote of the five member countries: Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

Mrs. Baki is currently working on the Yasuni project aiming to safeguard the Yasuni Biosphere Reserve and National Park, which is located at the intersection of the Amazon, the Andes and Ecuador.

## HON. MAC HARB



Born in Lebanon, Mac Harb moved to Canada in 1973, where he studied Engineering, served as a Deputy Mayor in 1985, as a Member of Parliament from 1988 to 2003, and as a Senator from 2003, until retired in 2013. Presently, Harb is working as a Parliamentary Expert in capacity building, trade, and investment. He is experienced in local, national, and international democratic systems and capacity building, notably in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Mac is fluent in English, French, and Arabic.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS — CLOSING CEREMONY

## HON. STEVE BRACKS



Steve Bracks was one of Victoria's longest serving Premiers. Born in Ballarat in 1954, he was educated at St Patrick's College, Ballarat, and Ballarat University where he obtained both a Diploma of Business Studies (Accounting) and Graduate Diploma of Education (Economics).

After starting as a Secondary Commerce Teacher, Steve Bracks went on to manage a National Community Education Centre, the Victorian Printing Industry Training Board, and as State-wide Manager, the Victorian

Government's Employment Policy and Program Division.

Bracks also acted as a Senior Adviser to two former Victorian Premiers and the Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Communications.

## HON. FERNANDO CAPEZ



Fernando Capez has a PhD in Law from PUC and was a Justice Attorney in the Prosecutor's Office. He is the author of several books in Criminal Law and of the collection "Simplified Law".

In 2006 and 2010, he was elected Deputy of the State of São Paulo, and in 2014 was re-elected as the most voted Deputy in São Paulo and President of São Paulo Parliament since March 15, 2015.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER – DINNER

## H.E. MRS. EMILY JONGH-ELHAGE



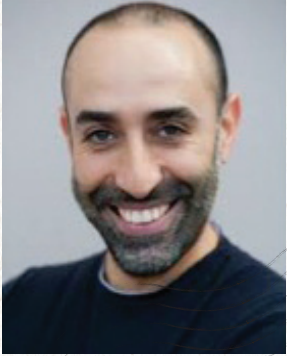
Emily Saïdy de Jongh-Elhage (born in 1946) was the last Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles from March 26, 2006 until their dissolution on October 10, 2010.

She was also leader of the Party for the Restructured Antilles and member of the Estates of Curaçao. De Jongh-Elhage is a member of the Council of Women World Leaders, an International network of current and former women presidents and prime ministers whose mission is to mobilize the highest-level women leaders globally for

collective action on issues of critical importance to women and equitable development.

# SUCCESS STORIES - DINNER

## MR. RABIH KAYROUZ



By 1995, Rabih Kayrouz had trained for several months in the workshops of design houses Dior and Chanel. In 2008, he opened his own design house at 38, Boulevard Raspail. Since 2009, Kayrouz has been a guest designer for the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture, with his seasonal collections included in the bi-annual Parishaute-couture fashion shows.

In 2011, the prominent French “ELLE” Magazine selected Kayrouz as one of the “Emerging New Talents”. In 2012, he abandoned the appellation “couture” to

focus on ready-to-wear. In the same year, he created a capsule collection for La Redoute (French mail order brand).

## MR. ANTHONY SALAMEH



Salameh toured the world to wide acclaim, sold out shows at international comedy festivals and at all of Australia’s top comedy venues.

Besides sharing the stage with comedians including US legends, Anthony’s unique edginess and hip-hop flair have taken him into the musical arena as comic support for LL Cool J, De LA Soul, and Bobby Brown. Salameh’s touring has taken him to far-flung destinations as Canada, the UK, Lebanon, Singapore, Holland and New Zealand, proving his casual style and fresh take on

urban living to be universally funny. Today, he headlines Anthony & Frankie show every morning on Virgin Radio Lebanon.

## MISS RIMA FAKIH



After winning the Miss Michigan title in 2009, Rima Fakih won the Miss USA pageant on May 16, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Representing the state of Michigan, she beat out 50 other contestants from 49 states and the District of Columbia to be named Miss USA 2010.

Fakih was born in Lebanon and immigrated to the USA in 1993, when she was about 7 years old. She graduated from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, where she earned her B.A. in Economics.

## MR. FOUAD SARKIS



At the age of 12, Fouad began designing for various Lebanese fashion houses. At 16, he launched his first collection and dressed up many local celebrities and was featured as a judge in the “Miss Lebanon” official pageant.

His unique, creative, and inspiring creations flew around the Middle East. Sarkis was featured in many international publications such as the Italian “Book Moda” and his first ready-to-wear collection was launched in 2001, marking a massive worldwide

spread. Fouad Sarkis Couture today is a worldwide brand of high-end couture gowns.

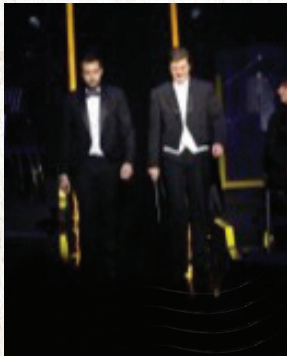
## MASSARI



Born Sari Abboud, Massari is a Lebanese Canadian R&B/pop singer. His music combines Middle Eastern melodies with western culture.

Massari started his musical career in 2001-2002, and has released two albums, Massari in 2005 and Forever Massari in 2009. He has had a number of hit singles in Canada, Europe, the Middle East, and internationally.

## MR. ELIO KALLASSI



Elio Kallassi is a classical pianist. He is a Mechanical Engineering graduate and holder of an online master's degree from Berkley College of Music, Boston.

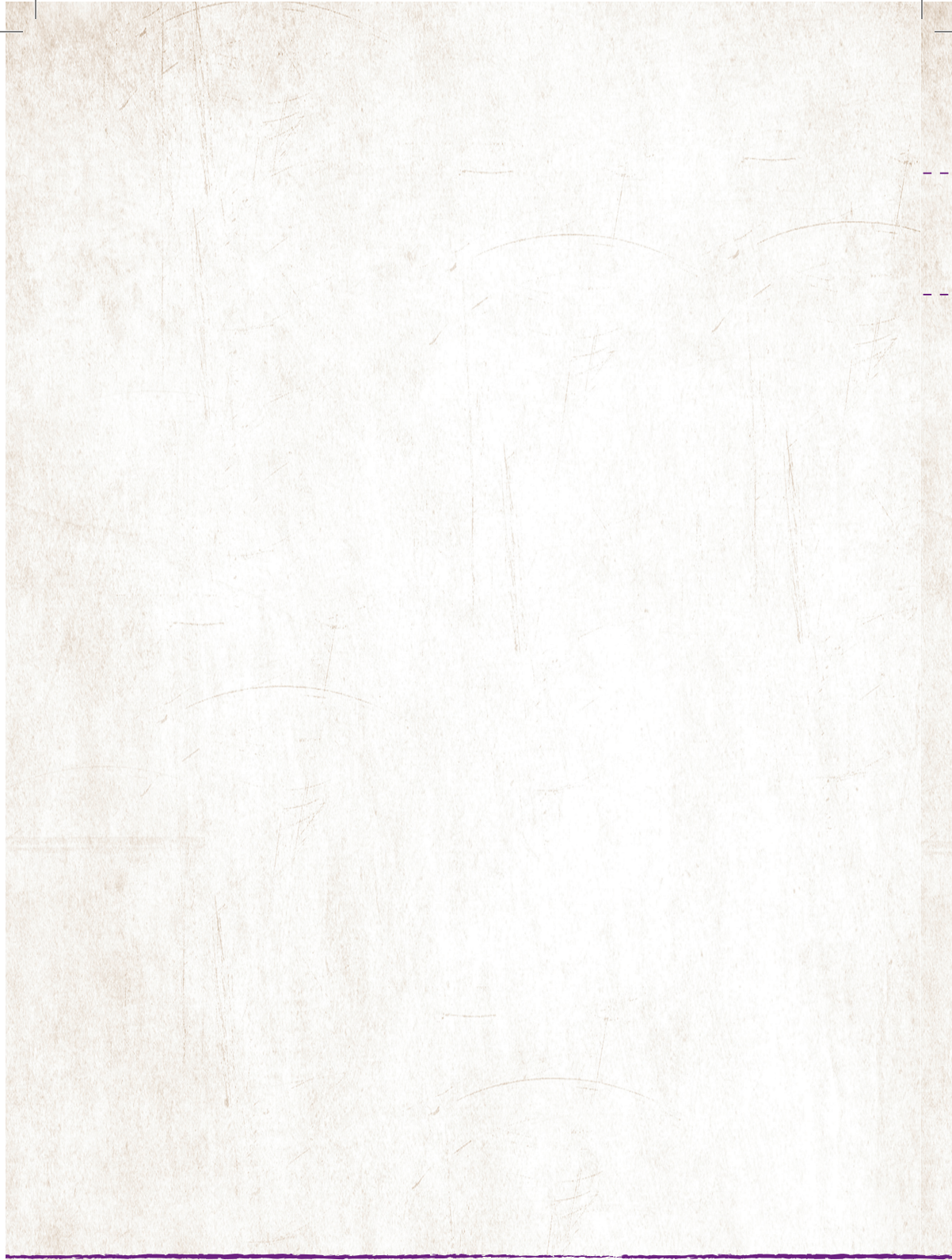
Kallassi has performed many concerts in Lebanon with several ensembles as well as other orchestras and choirs. He released his first album ECLECTIC with the Tenor Edgard, Aoun, which presents his new compositions and classical songs.

## MR. MOHAMMED JAMMAL



Mohammed Jammal, aka White Nigerian, was born in 1987 in Nigeria. Whilst majoring in Global Management in London, he joined the Nigerian entertainment industry, having numerous became big hits.

In 2013, Jammal made history as the first “White” to take part in the National Youth Service Corps. He has won multiple awards including AEA Pride of Abuja Award 2015, Fastest Rising Artist of the Year 2013, and Upcoming Artist of The Year 2012.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS



# DAY 1 - PANELISTS

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## FIRST SESSION: SUCCESS STORIES OF LEBANESE ABROAD

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### MR. HARRY NADJARIAN

Harry Nadjarian is the Founder and Chairman of Industrial Motor Power Corporation, as well as a Controlling Shareholder of its subsidiaries: IMP Latin America, Rental Power Solutions, Industry Trader Corporation and IMP Energy Solutions. He is also a Managing Partner of ARCH Property. Since emigrating from Lebanon in 1976, he has been a major philanthropic force behind several charitable organizations in the USA.

### DR. RANDA AKOURI

Randa Akouri is a Lebanese-Swedish Medical Doctor in Obstetrics and Gynecology. A PhD holder and a pioneer in Medical Research, she is one of the main participants in the breakthrough of uterus transplantation associated with Prof. Mats Brännström in Sweden for over a decade. She is the first to succeed in uterine transplantation on animals, which led later on to the foundation of the global accomplishment of successful human uterine transplantation, where the world's first live birth was reported in 2014.

### MR. ZIAD SANKARI

Ziad is the founder of Cardio Diagnostics, a pioneer medical technology company specialized in cardiac care solutions. CardioDiagnostics is one of Berytech Fund I portfolio company, which brings the best cardiac monitoring innovative technologies to the health sector. Following the rise of Lebanese talented entrepreneurs and startups, Berytech Fund II was recently launched to invest in innovative businesses. In 2008, Ziad attended Ohio State University on a U.S. Fulbright scholarship. He was recently personally recognized by President Barack Obama for his achievements.

## **MR. SAMER S. KHOURY**

Samer Khoury is the Executive Vice President Operations of the Group responsible for the marketing and execution of Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC). However prior to that, from 1987 through 1990, Samer was responsible for the total operations of CCC in Kuwait, with an average turnover of 50\$M/year and more than 1,000 permanent staff. Khoury received his BS in Civil Engineering from the California State University and went on to obtain an MBA in 1984 from the University of Southern California.

## **H.E. MRS. CLAUDIA ALEJANDRA LEDESMA ZAMORA ABDALAH**

Born in Santiago del Estero, Argentina in 1974, from Lebanese origins, H.E. Mrs. Abdalah was appointed as Governor of Santiago del Estero in December 2013. Politician, public notary and lawyer, she graduated in 2003 and then continued her postgraduate studies. She also served as Legal Defender of her native town La Banda, as well as Judge of municipal offenses and then as Head of the Registry of Motor Vehicles of the same town.

## **MR. VICTOR SAAD**

Victor Saad is a Board Member and Vice President of SABIS®, a global education network that operates in 16 countries on four continents and educates close to 65,000 students. Since 1996, Mr. Saad has played a pivotal role in the global expansion of the network and in the transition of a family-run business to a dynamic, multinational organization. Mr. Saad holds a BSc in Mathematics from University College of London (UCL) and a B.Eng. in Electrical Engineering from McGill University in Canada.

## MR. WILLIAM SAWAYA

William Sawaya is a Lebanese architect, interior designer, and product designer, currently living in Milano, Italy. Together with Paolo Moroni, he established an architectural practice "Sawaya & Moroni Studio", centering on buildings, yachts, company's headquarters, private and art collector's residences in Europe, Russia, Japan, USA, and the Middle East. In 1984, he established "Sawaya & Moroni Contemporary Furniture", a design production company focusing on the edition of exceptional contemporary designs by leading world architects. He has designed five world trophies and World Cups for FIFA.

## MR. RALPH R. DEBBAS

With a background in economics, Ralph Debbas pursued a degree in Design at the Lebanese American University and majored in Automotive Design at the Coventry University School of Art and Design - England. Sponsored by the European Union in 2008, Ralph worked on several award-winning concepts across Europe. He received various awards such as the New Designer of Excellence 2009 (London) and Trophée de L'Argus 2009 (Paris). Debbas founded "W Motors SAL" in 2012 in Lebanon, where he is currently CEO and Chairman of the Board.

## HON. RODICA NASSAR

Rodica Nassar is a graduate in Finance-Accounting Department from "Al. I. Cuza" University, Iasi, Romania. She is Member of the PSD, President of the Second District PSD Organization, Member of the Executive Bureau of the Bucharest Municipality PSD Organization, and Member of the PSD National Council. Since 2000, Nassar is Member of the Executive Committee of the Romanian Group of the Interparliamentary Union. She is also President of the Romania-Lebanon Friendship Parliamentary Group.

## SECOND SESSION: DIASPORA PROJECTS BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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### MR. PHILIPPE ZIADE

Ziade is the Founder of Growth Holdings, a conglomerate of Real Estate and software development companies. He was recognized by The Wall Street Journal, Top 1000 real estate professionals in the US, Ranking 13<sup>th</sup> on the list nationally, and #1 in Nevada. He has been featured on primetime on MSNBC, CNBC, CNN, CNN Headlines, Fox Business Network and Discovery Channel.

### MR. SAKR A. SAKR

A Lebanese businessman known for his clear vision and fast initiatives, Sakr A. Sakr developed his family business founded in 1972 into a large trading and industrial group with activities in the Arab Region, Africa, and Europe. The viability of the real estate sector has made him embark on a journey of investment based on a futuristic and avant-garde vision.

### MR. AHMED CHEIKHA

Born in Beirut in 1935, Ahmed Cheikha pursued his studies in Germany. In 1965, he opened his office in Beirut, and in 1968, he opened an architecture office in Qatar, covering all architectural fields. Cheikha is one of the founders of the Lebanese School in Qatar and Member of the Board of Trustees the since 1976. He executed numerous important projects in Qatar, collaborating with international architectures. He won several global awards, and was decorated with the Lebanese National Order of the Cedars and Order of Merit.

## **MR. MARCELLINO HARK**

Macellino Hark studied Business at the University of Minnesota. He managed a construction company for 15 years in the USA, where he also established 4 different companies: Harks Co, Winner Co, By Rite Services, and Main St. Properties. Hark was elected Mayor of the City of Batroun, Lebanon, in 2000, 2004, and 2010. He also acquired the ownership of Stephano Resort – Batroun in 2006.

## **MR. MARC GHAOUI**

Marc Ghaoui is a Lebanese hospitality and food production professional. Passionate about the Lebanese Cuisine and culinary rituals, he dedicated his career towards research and development of authentic Lebanese recipes. Besides his position as Director of Operations at the Sagesse University Faculty of Hospitality Management with the Academic Certification of the “Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne” in Switzerland, Marc Ghaoui has been appointed by multiple Lebanese restaurants, NGOs, and institutions such as the Lebanese Maronite Order.

## **MR. JOE SAKER**

Born in Lebanon in 1968, Marc Saker lives in Chile, South America. In 1999, he started Comercial Saab LTD, a Lebanese bakery shop, one of the first of its kind in Chile. The company produces and promotes Lebanese pita bread and imports of Lebanese goods, and all its machines and products are made in Lebanon.

## **MS. ABIR MRAD**

Abir Mrad holds a Diploma in Agricultural Engineer. She is an expert on plant protection and conservation. Mrad is a member and Head of the Agricultural Committee in Chatine Municipality.

## THIRD SESSION: DIASPORA - THE FACTS (STUDIES AND INFORMATION - OPPORTUNITIES AND POSSIBILITIES)

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### DR. ROBERTO KHATLAB

Roberto Khatlab is a Researcher and Writer born in Brazil. He has authored many books in Portuguese, French, Arabic, and Spanish, including: "Les Libanais dans le monde", "Lebanese Migrants in Brazil", "Lebanon: A Tourist and Cultural Guide", and "Brazil – Lebanon, a Friendship that Challenges the Distance". He writes articles dedicated to the Lebanese History of Migration at the French Newspaper L'Orient-Le Jour in Lebanon. Khatlab is the director of the Latin American Studies and Cultures Center of the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), Lebanon. Dr. Khatlab is recipient of the Said Akl Award – Lebanon.

### MR. ANTONIO TRABOULSE KAIM

Antonio Traboulse Kaim has served as Director of the Lebanese Folk Ballet for 30 years and Director of "Lebanon's Time" radio show for 20 years. Since 1960, he has been the Director of Lebanese Culture at the Lebanese Center in Mexico, and has been serving as General Director of the Lebanese Mexican Cultural Institute since 1987. He is author of the theater play "The Flight", on Lebanese emigration, has written books, and created the children's learning game 'LibanTOURama'. He received the Cross of St. George Orthodox and the Cross of Jerusalem (Melkite). He won the Global World Foundation of New York (twice) and is a Member of the National League of Honor (Mexico).

### DR. MOHAMED TAAN

Mohamed Taan was born in Tyre, Lebanon in 1948, to a family belonging to the Lebanese Diaspora in Western Africa. He was educated in Abidjan, Beirut, and France, where he completed his medical studies in 1978. He has worked as a public health surgeon in Lebanon, Morocco, and Nigeria, where he now lives. As a Lebanese writer of French expression, Taan has published 6 novels in France. Taan's books have been shortlisted for the prix Méditerranée, the prix Al Quds, and the prix France Liban. "Khawaja" won the Grand Prix de MEDEC.

## **DR. CHOGHIG MINASSIAN KASPARIAN**

Graduated in Statistics in Paris, Choghig Minassian Kasparian is a Statistics Professor at Université Saint-Joseph (USJ) – Beirut since 1977, and Director of OURSE (Observatoire Universitaire de la Réalité Socio-Économique) at USJ from 2000 to 2014. She is a member of several European networks, notably CARIM, Femise, and IPEMED, and has published multiple articles in specialized magazines.

## **LIC. ALICIA DAHER**

Alicia Daher is the President of the Ninawa Daher Foundation. She is responsible in Argentina of the USEK Project “Digitalization of the Lebanese Cultural Heritage”. Daher is a Psychoanalyst, Businesswoman, Professor, and Researcher in Institutional Strengthening and Human Resources of the IDB. She is co-author of the Mental Health Law and trainer in Social Challenges “How to Face Drugs, Alcohol, Violence and Child Abuse” of the Ministry of Health of Argentina. She also acted as Consultant at the United Nations and has social responsibility in the media.

## **DR. GUITA G. HOURANI**

Dr. Guita G. Hourani is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law and Political Science and the Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at Notre Dame University of Louaizé (NDU) – Lebanon. She is the International Campaign Director of “Lebanon Land of Dialogue” (LDI) and the Country of Origin Information Expert on Lebanon for the Fahamu Refugee Programme, Oxford, England.

## **DR. MOHAMED HUSSEIN EL ZOGHBI**

Married and born in Brazil of Lebanese/Brazilian nationality, Mohamed Hussein El Zoghbi graduated in Law, and became President of the Federation of Muslims Associations of Brazil - FAMBRAS, the biggest halal certifying body in South America.

## FOURTH SESSION: DIASPORA DIPLOMACY – THE RESTORATION OF THE LEBANESE NATIONALITY AND REGISTRATION

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### **H.E. MR. HASSAN YACOUB**

Born in 1968, Hassan Yacoub is the son of Cheikh Mohammad Yacoub, one of the two collaborators of Imam Moussa Sader. He appeared on the political Lebanese scene in 2005 when he stepped forward to the parliamentary elections. He was elected Shiite MP for his district and became member of the Change and Reform Block.

### **H.E. MR. NEEMTALLAH ABI NASR (MP)**

Born in Chananir, Keserwan, Lebanon, in 1936, Neemtallah Abi Nasr graduated in French Law and Lebanese Law from Université St. Joseph (USJ) in 1974 and was the Secretary General of the Lebanese Maronite League from 1994 to 1997. He was then elected as Maronite MP for Keserwan-Jbeil in Mount Lebanon. Abi Nasr was also appointed as Rapporteur of the Committee on Agriculture and Tourism (Lebanon), Member of the Committee on Administration and Justice (Lebanon), Member of the Change and Reform Block, chaired by President General Michel Aoun, and President of the Christian Democratic Party.

### **CMMR. TONIA KHOURY**

Tonia Khoury and her husband own Green T Services, a home services company with 6 separate divisions. Originally a one-man and one-truck company, today they serve over 22,000 households in Chicago land area. Tonia is currently a DuPage County Commissioner and is also a candidate for the US Congress. On the County Board, Tonia serves as Chairwoman of Economic Development, Vice-Chairwoman of Public Transit, as well as serving on the Finance Committee, Legislative, Judicial, and Public Safety, and Health and Human Services Committee.



## **FR. HANNOUN ANDRAOS**

Father Andraos is a Maronite missionary and rector of the Our Lady of Lebanon Shrine in Harissa. In 1982, Father Andraos sought permission from Lebanese government officials to launch a radio station, and was denied. At that time, many radio stations were operating illegally in Lebanon. He defied the rules and began one anyway called "Sawt Al Mahabba".

## **MR. RADWAN KHAZEM**

Born in Sierra Leone, West Africa in 1970, Radwan Khazem is originally from South Lebanon. At age 12, he moved to Beirut for education at Kfarshima, and in 1984, he left for Brazzaville, Congo because of the Lebanese war. There, he received his Bachelor, and became owner of a company specialized in the manufacture, distribution, and exportation of electrical materials in South Africa and Hong Kong.

## **DR. MOUNZER FATFAT**

Mounzer Fatfat has earned an Associate of Science PhD from the University of Pittsburgh. He is Senior Advisor to the US Department of State currently working on the Middle East Peace Initiative. He has served as Senior Advisor to the Coalition Provisional Authority, before being appointed as Chief Liaison with the Iraqi Ministry of Youth and Sports and the National Olympic Committee of Iraq. His efforts also laid the foundation for the Iraqi soccer team that won the Asian Cup in July 2007. He has held several posts in the United Nations, sparing no effort in bigger social causes, namely related to children.

## FIFTH SESSION: ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY - EXPATRIATES AND THE ECONOMY

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### **VICE CHANCELLOR EDUARDO ZOUËIN**

Born in Argentina in 1962 from a Lebanese father, he was appointed as Secretary of Foreign Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship in 2011. His Diplomatic positions included: being a Member of the Argentina-Italy Bilateral Technical Committee, working for the Cabinet of the Undersecretaries of Foreign Policy, being a Diplomatic Member for Argentina on the UNASUR, and working for the General Directorate of Human Rights and for the Embassy of Argentina in Italy as responsible for the Political Section and as substitute consul.

### **DR. SALIM SFEIR**

Dr. Salim G. Sfeir is the Chairman and CEO of Bank of Beirut Group since 1993, which comprises Bank of Beirut SAL (Lebanon), Bank of Beirut (UK) Ltd, (England), and Bank of Sydney (Australia). He is Executive Chairman-General Manager of a number of financial sector investment companies, including International Century Corporation SAL, Grand Duché de Luxembourg (Belgium), International Century Corporation (Lebanon), BOB Invest, BOB Finance, and Beirut Life (Lebanon).

### **DR. JOSEPH KHOURI**

Born in Lebanon, Joseph Khoury majored in Medicine in Ivory Coast, where he taught at the Faculty of Medicine, before establishing his own clinics. He is Founding Member of the Association of Surgeons of Eastern Africa, President of the only Lebanese Consular Chamber in Africa, and has been appointed by the President of the Ivory Coast as his Economic and Social Adviser.

## JUDGE VIVIAN MARGARETTE SOLOMON

Vivian Solomon received her LLM degree in Public International Law from the University of Cambridge, England in 1987. In 2010, she was appointed justice of the Court of Appeal of the Republic of Sierra Leone, before being promoted to the roster of judges for the Residual Special Court in 2013. By December 2014, she was appointed Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Sierra Leone.

## MR. SALIM EL ZYR

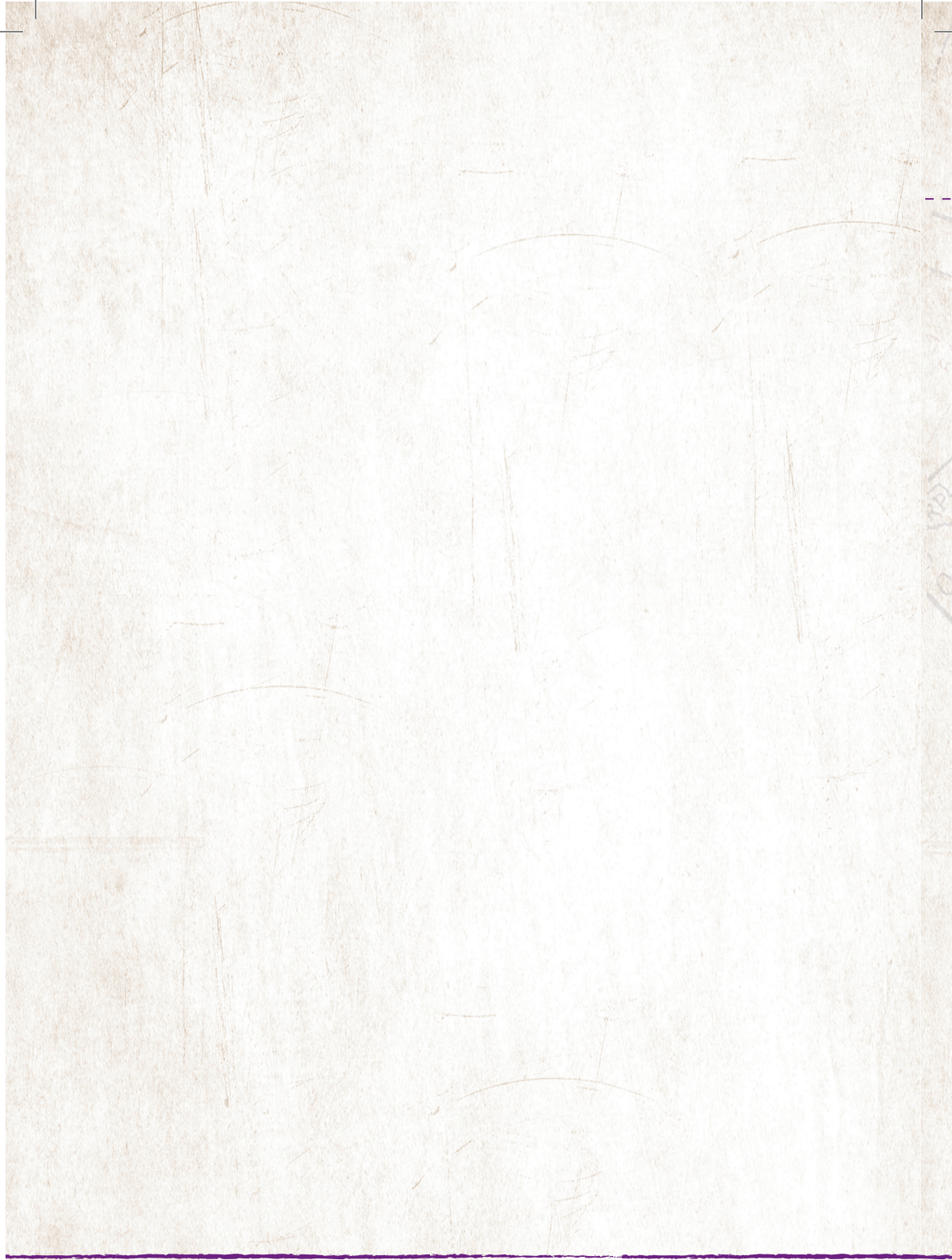
After spending 12 years with Hilton International, establishing a regional fast food chain in Lebanon and working as Vice President for Abu Dhabi National Hotels, El Zyr has forged a hugely successful and ever-expanding hotel empire in just less than 15 years, and is leading the charge at the helm of one of the fastest growing companies in the Middle East. He is the co-founder, President and CEO of Rotana, which currently operates over 40 hotels across the Gulf region, and still plans to increase that figure to 100 across the MENA region over the next 2 to 3 years.

## MR. GHALEB WADIH FARHA

Mr. Ghaleb Farha is Regional Goodwill Ambassador of UNDP "Live Lebanon" initiative in the Gulf region. He is also Finance Chair of the World Presidents Organization (WPO) in UAE, and President of the Rotary Club of Jumeirah, Dubai. A prominent businessman, Farha has been involved in various lines of businesses, such as hotels, clinics, fit-outs, etc. He is Chairman of Cloisall Co. Farha is also Vice Chairman of Building Material Group organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dubai.

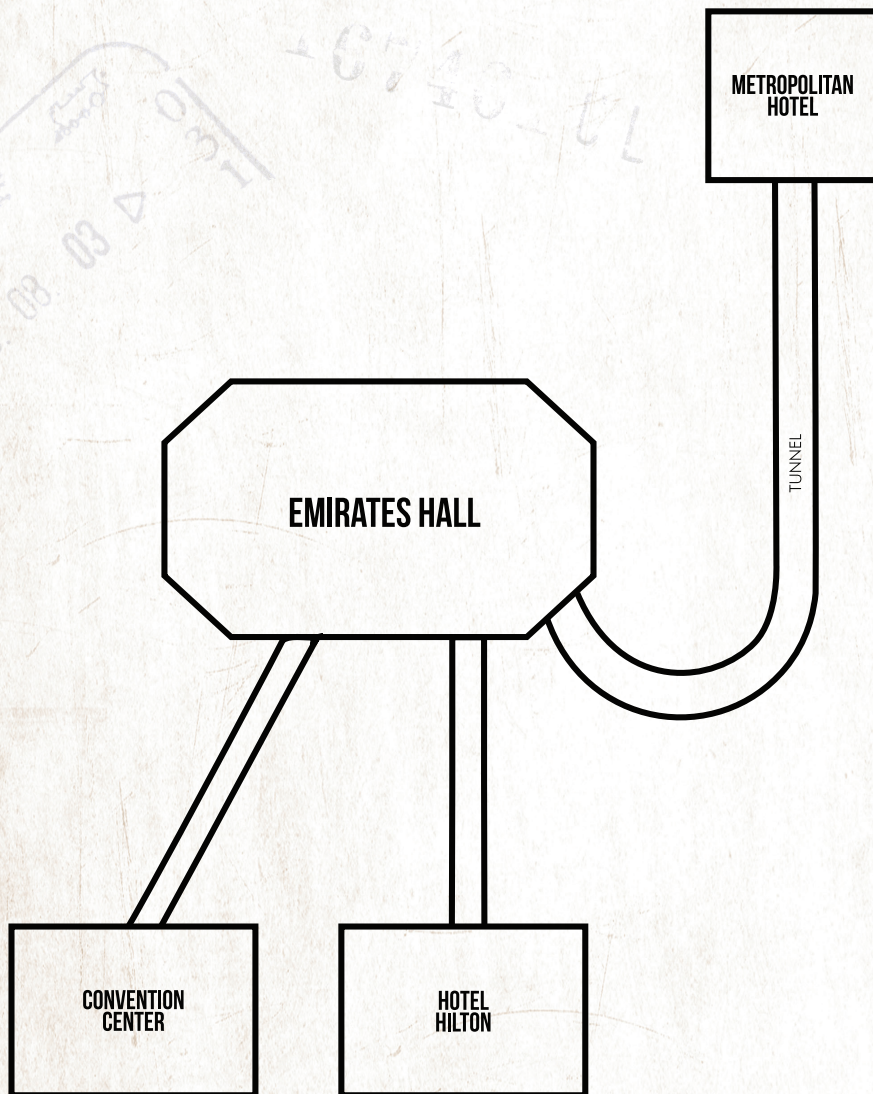
## MR. MOHAMED JEBAI

Mohamed Jebai moved from Lebanon to Paraguay in the 1960s. He managed to turn the city of Ciudad del Este into the ultimate business destination, and he founded the first Chamber of Commerce in the city in 1970. He is the founding Chairman and CEO of Jebai Group, an international real estate developer and investor, which handles large-scale projects in Lebanon, Paraguay, the USA, and others. Jebai was decorated with the Lebanese National Order of the Cedars in recognition of his Lebanese diaspora-related initiatives.



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# AREA MAP



# USEFUL NUMBERS

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<b>CIVIL DEFENSE</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>FIRE DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>PHONE FAULTS &amp; COMPLAINTS</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>RED CROSS - LEBANON</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>GENERAL SECURITY</b>	<b>1717</b>
<b>INTERNATIONAL CALLS SERVICES</b>	<b>100</b>
<b><u>LDE HOTLINE</u></b>	<b>76 17 25 89</b>
<b><u>LOGISTICS: IMAD CHACRA</u></b>	<b>70 62 62 76</b>
<b><u>ORGANIZER: NOISE</u> SARL</b>	<b>81 27 88 09</b>
<b><u>MEDIA: NANA FAISAL</u></b>	<b>71 63 66 28</b>

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Buses will be provided from Hilton Habtoor Hotel to Casino du Liban on May 21, from Hilton Habtoor Hotel to MusicHall on May 22, and from Hilton Habtoor Hotel to Batroun on May 23.



