

*Lebanese Diaspora Energy 2016*



CONFERENCE BOOKLET



## LDE 2016 Mobile Application



In an effort to ensure that all our Guests, can make the most of their time at the event, we have recently launched the LDE 2016 mobile app for both iOS and Android platforms. Uniquely designed to improve your experience, the app boasts a number of features keeping you informed in real-time with all the latest news and updates.

To Download LDE 2016 Mobile Application for iOS, please scan this QR Code



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Internet is provided for the guests in the Hotel for free, kindly use the following password: Internet code: **LDE2016**

Internet access is available for the media at the Business Center. Ask for the code from the desk at the Business Center.



Dear Friends of Lebanon  
Dear Descendants of Lebanese Emigrants, Dear Lebanese  
Dear Participants in the Third Lebanese Diaspora Energy Conference

I extend a hearty welcome to you all in this celebration of Lebanon, the identity of our nation and the successes of our people. Since its first edition, LDE has become a yearly gathering that offers us a unique bonding moment, building on our heritage and looking forward towards the bright future of our Lebanese community.

LDE is designed to bring to the forefront the twinkling stars of our country and to shed the light on their achievements all over the planet. It is with pride that we bring together eminent Lebanese having left their imprint wherever they landed while never losing the culture, the heritage and the roots.

LDE is also structured to serve as a platform that reunites Lebanese entrepreneurial minds within a global vision aiming at reinforcing Lebanon's role internationally. This year's conference will focus on specific countries with substantial development potentials. It is for us an opportunity to merge our efforts with a view to access emerging markets.

LDE is furthermore a rallying moment under the banner of our Lebanity. It is the time where we share our message, where we carry our hopes and where we set our common objectives.

I believe that your energy is essential to Lebanon.

I believe that Lebanon is our source of energy.

I believe that both Lebanon and your energy are key assets for the future.

**GEBRAN BASSIL**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
and Emigrants

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gebran Bassil'.

## LDE 2016 Program

### THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2016

**09:30 – 11:00** Opening Ceremony

**Presented by: Ricardo Karam,**  
Founder & CEO of TAKREEM, Lebanon

**National Anthem** and **Opening Song “Tallou Hbabna”**  
by Al Fayha’ Choir

**Opening Speech:**  
**Gebran Bassil,** Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, Lebanon

#### **Keynote Speakers:**

**Michael Asot,** Minister of Tourism, Economic Development  
Investment and Energy, St John’s, Antigua & Barbuda

**Carlos Maroun,** Federal Deputy of Republic of Brazil, Brazil

**Joumana Kairouz,** Founder and Owner of Michigan Center for  
Personal Injury and Law Offices of Joumana Kayrouz, PLLC, USA

**Faysal El Khoury,** Federal Member of Parliament in the House of  
Commons, Canada

## LDE 2016 Program

**Special Support Intervention:**  
**Selim Sfeir,** Chairman and CEO, Group Bank of Beirut, Lebanon

**11:00 – 11:30** Coffee Break

**11:30 – 13:00**  
**Lebanity: Identity and Restoration of Nationality**

**Moderated by:**  
**Jean Aziz,** Writer and Journalist, Lebanon  
*This session will be broadcasted live on TV*

*Introductory Remarks*  
**Gebran Bassil -** Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, Lebanon

**Antonio Hachem,** President of the Beirut Bar Association, Lebanon  
*The Importance of Lebanese Nationality in Restituting Rights of  
Diaspora and the Role that the Beirut Bar Association could play  
in this regard*

**Suzan Khoury,** Director General of the General Directorate of  
Personal Status, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, Lebanon  
*The role of the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities in implementing  
the new Law*

## LDE 2016 Program

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**Haytham Jomaa**, Director General of the General Directorate of Emigrants, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, Lebanon

*The role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants in implementing the new Law and in encouraging the Lebanese Emigrants to reclaim their Lebanese Nationality*

**Sayyed Nabil Abbas**, Representative of the High Shiite Council in Canada, Canada

*The Role of Religious and Spiritual Institutions in Encouraging Diaspora to Restore Nationality*

**Hiam Boustany**, CEO of the Maronite Foundation in the World, Lebanon

*The role of the Civil Society and NGOs in assisting the Government to implement the New Nationality Law*

**Father Hannoun Andraos**, Maronite Missionary Congregation, Paraguay

*Linking Descendants of Lebanese Origins around the World*

**Paul Tabar**, Professor at the Lebanese American University, Lebanon  
*Lebanity and the Importance of the Lebanese Identity to the Lebanese Emigrants*

**Laurent Aoun**, President of the Lebanese Migration Center, Lebanon  
*How to Stimulate the Emigrants to take Benefits from the Nationality Law*

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*Key Interventions:*

• **Gina Succar, Argentina**

*A Case Study*

• **Issa Lahham via Proxy Georges Doueihy, USA**

*A Case Study*

• **James Kassouf, USA**

*A Case Study*

**13:00 – 14:30** Buffet Lunch- Dubai Hall, Metropolitan Hotel

**14:30 – 18:15**

**Projects of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants**

**14:30 – 15:10**

**Buy Lebanese**

**Moderated by:**

**Christian Ferneine**, Managing Partner- Ulysses Management & Consulting- UMC

*Introductory Remarks*

**Dona Turk** - Ambassador Director of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, Lebanon

**Kamal Mouzawak**, Founder of Souk El Tayeb, Lebanon

*Recovering Identity through Food*

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**Georges Frenn**, Senior Economic Growth Specialist, USAID, Lebanon

*Upgrading Competitive Value Chain of Lebanese Products*

**Christina Chehade**, Director at Endeavor, Lebanon

*Opportunities for Investments*

**Walid Sfeir**, Managing Partner at Valquest Partners sal, Africa

*Exporting and Investing in Lebanese Brands around the World*

**Georges Ghorayeb**, Head of the Financial and Legal Departments at ADONIS Inc., Canada

*Keys for Local and International Markets: Conquering the Consumer*

**Maroun Chedid**, Entrepreneur, Chef, Lebanon

*Role of Chefs in Promoting Lebanese Mediterranean Gastronomy*

**15:10 – 15:40**

**Lebanon Connect (LC)**

**Moderated by:**

**Georges Salibi**, Journalist and TV Anchor, NTV

*This session will be broadcasted live on TV*

**Mario Hachem**, CEO & Co-Founder of TEDMOB

*Features of Lebanon Connect*

## LDE 2016 Program

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**Fadi Joseph**, CEO of Cloud Computing, Canada

*Lebanon Connect: Bridging Innovation*

**Michelle Tager**, Executive Director of LebNet, USA

*Exploring Potential Benefits of Lebanon Connect for Non-Profit Organizations, the LebNet case*

**Ibrahim Debbas**, CEO CrowdT.com and Start-ups.co

*Lebanon Connect, The New Way of Doing Business*

**Roula Jouny**, Founder and CEO of Meeting Point, Germany

*Lebanon Connect, A change of Mindset to Position Lebanon among worldwide comparable touristic destinations to attract industry professionals*

**15:40 – 16:10**

**Lebanese Diaspora Houses (LDH)**

**Moderated by:**

**Georges Salibi**, Journalist and TV Anchor, NTV

*This session will be broadcasted live on TV*

**Christian Assaf**, Member of Parliament, France

*The Importance of Diaspora Houses*

**Sarkis Khoury**, Director General of Antiquities, Ministry of Culture

*A Cultural Perspective on Diaspora Houses*



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**Cosette El Hachem**, Senior Architect LOH, Lebanon  
*General Overview and Features of Diaspora Houses*

**Samir Kanaan**, Managing Partner, Kanaan Advocates & Legal Consultants, UAE  
*Lebanese- UAE Diaspora House*

**Norman Nahas**, President of the Lebanese Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
*The Ongoing Lebanese-Canadian Diaspora House*

**Akram Khater**, Director of Moise A.Khayrallah Center for Diaspora Studies, NC State University, USA  
*Diaspora Museum: A Case Study within the Vision for the Khayrallah Center and its Role in Preserving the History of the Lebanese Diaspora*

**16:10 – 16:40**  
**Lebanese Diaspora Fund (LDF)**

**Moderated by:**  
**Jean Riachi**, CEO & Chairman of FFA Private Banking, Lebanon

**Jay Mariyappan**, Managing Director of Syndicatum  
*Features of the Lebanese Diaspora Fund*

## LDE 2016 Program

**Mohamed Alem**, Senior Partner, Alem Associates, Lebanon  
*Legal Structure of the Lebanese Diaspora Fund*

**Pierre Khoury**, Director of Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation at Ministry of Energy and Water LCEC, Lebanon  
*The Role of National Policies in Attracting Foreign Investments*

**Philippe Roy**, Mayor of Mount-Royal, Canada  
*Case Study: Financing Energy Projects in Mount-Royal*

**16:40 – 17:10**  
**Lebanese Diaspora School (LDS)**

**Moderated by:**  
**Elie Moujaess**, Executive Editor in Chief, Al Akhbar Newspaper, Canada

*Introductory Remarks*  
**Elie Naim** - Advisor to the Minister of Education for International Projects Development, Lebanon

**Topic I: Existing Lebanese Schools Abroad- Their Importance and Impacts on the Diaspora**

**Abdel Amir Halawe**, Director of Arab Cultural Complex- **المجمع الثقافي العربي**, Kinshasa



## LDE 2016 Program

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**Wajih Saad**, General Manager of the Lebanese School in Qatar, Qatar

### **Topic 2: Establishment of New Lebanese School Abroad**

**Hassan Awada**, Owner of the project- Lebanese School in Michigan, USA

**Fadi Farah**, Owner of the project- Lebanese School in Baghdad, Iraq

### **Topic 3: Adoption of the concept of Lebanese School by Existing Schools owned by Lebanese**

**John Abi Habib**, CEO of MSI Net & mCloudServ, Co-Founder of Khalil Gibran International Academy, NY, USA

**17:10 – 17:40**

#### **Invest to Stay**

**This session will feature the launching the Hollywood Film “My Lebanese Mother’s Day”**

#### **Moderated by:**

**Karen Boustany**, Writer, TV Host

**Philippe Ziade**, CEO and Founder of Growth Holdings, Nevada, USA (Invest To Stay- Founder)

*Invest to Stay and Overview of Potentials*

## LDE 2016 Program

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**Khalil Badawi**, CEO Cross Continental, (Invest to Stay – Member)  
*Invest to Stay: Partnerships and Projects*

**Ron Senkowski**, CEO Symply Entertainment, USA  
*Hollywood meets the Lebanese Diaspora*

**17:40 – 18:15**

### **Women Pioneers: Paving the Way, Raising the Flag**

#### **Moderated by:**

**Ziad Baroud**, Former Minister of Interior and Municipalities, Lebanon

#### *Introductory Remarks*

**Mira Daher Violides** - Chief of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, Lebanon

**Eva Nassif**, Federal Member of Parliament in the House of Commons, Canada

**Anna Ouroumian**, CEO and Founder of ISMAE Group and Re-founder, President & CEO, Academy of Business Leadership, CA, USA

**Simone Mattar**, Gastro Performer, Brazil

**Mona Nemr**, Professor, Vice-President of Ottawa University, Canada

# LDE 2016 Program

**Rouaida Hobeika**, President of Strategic Business Solutions and Consulting ShaRa, Turkey

**20:30**

**Official Gala Dinner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants featuring “Lebanese Wineries”- Biel, Pavilion Royal**

**Keynote Speakers:**

**Henry Gebrayel**, French Deputy , President of the “Groupe D’Amitié France- Liban”, General French Assembly, France

**Amyr Klink**, Rower, Pilot, Economist and Author, Brazil

**Blanka Matraji**, Matraji Design S.R.O, Czech Republic

**Christine Maalouf Abi Najem**, Artist, Owner of Lebanese Taverna, USA

**Location:** Biel, Pavilion Royal

**Time:** 20h30

**Theme:** Lebanese Wineries featuring The Road of Wines

**Dress Code:** Formal Dress

**Program:** To be Communicated in Venue

# LDE 2016 Program

Seating Arrangement by Zones (each colored zone will include a scheme of Lebanese Wineries):



## LDE 2016 Program

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**FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016**

**09:00 – 10:30 TWO SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS**

**Session A - Russian-Lebanese Cooperation:  
Windows of Opportunities**

EMIRATES HALL, located in HILTON HABTOOR GRAND HOTEL

**Moderated by:**

**Yaacoub Sarraf**, Former Minister of Defense and Former Minister of Environment, Lebanon

**This session will feature the participation also of other Russian Officials to discuss Russian-Lebanese Cooperation and International Business.**

*Introductory Remarks*

**Amal Abou Zeid**, Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants for Lebanese Russian relations, Lebanon

**Alexander Zasytkin**, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Lebanon

*Welcome Speech*

**Vitaly V. Naumkin**, President of the Institute for Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, professor

## LDE 2016 Program

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**Alexander Gogolev**, Chairman of Russian-Lebanese Business Council, Senior Vice-President of JSC VTB Bank, Russia  
*The Russian-Lebanese Business Council and Banking and Financial Opportunities*

**Kostantin Demin**, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Uralvagonzavod Global Resources and Industries S.a.r.l, Russia  
*Civil Machinery and Railway Equipment and Waste Elimination Equipment Delivery and Installment*

**Natalia Ivanova**, Chairman of the Board, JSC Rosavtotrans, Russia  
*Transportation Corridors between Russia and Foreign Countries*

**Sultan Hamzaev**, Russia-Arab Investment Agency, Russia  
*Investment Opportunities between Russia and Arab Countries*

**Igor Kudrin**, JSC Inecoteh, Russia  
*Gas, Oil and Fossil Fuel Research*

**Jacques Sarraf**, President of Lebanese Russian Business Council, Lebanon  
*Lebanon, Platform for Regional Investment*

## LDE 2016 Program

### **Session B - Latin America: Land of Opportunities**

DUBAI HALL, located in METROPOLITAN HOTEL

#### **Moderated by:**

**H.E Fakhri Saghieh**, Former Ambassador of Lebanon

*Introductory Remarks,  
Boosting Investments in Cuba - Possibilities and Challenges*

**Adnan Kassar**, Chairman and CEO of Fransabank Group, President of the Council of the Lebanese Economic Organizations, Lebanon

**Deborah Rivas Saavedra**, Director General, Foreign Investment Division- Ministry of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment, Cuba  
*Investing in Cuba – Challenges and Horizons*

**Mirtha Cristina Rippes Aller**, Head of the Investment Promotion Group at the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Cuba, Cuba  
*The Role of Chambers of Commerce in Heightening Foreign Investment*

**Gustavo Vanerio**, Representing the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, Ambassador of Uruguay to the World Trade Organization  
*Acceding to the WTO: Economic Benefits for Lebanon*

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**Martha Pizanelli**, Ambassador of the Republic of Uruguay to Lebanon

*An Update on the Cooperation Process between Lebanon and the MERCOSUR*

**Patricio Ghaleb**, President of Chilean-Lebanese Chamber of Commerce, Chile

*Chile - Worldwide Important Actor in the Food Industry*

**Toufic Sleiman**, Doctor, Federal University of Sao Paulo, On behalf of the International Lebanese Medical Association-Brazil Chapter

*The Medical Sector in Latin America & the Role of the International Lebanese Medical Association*

**Alfredo Cotait**, Ex-Senator and President of Brazilian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce, Brazil

*Free Trade Agreement, Lebanese Diaspora Energy in Latin America*

## LDE 2016 Program

### *Key Intervention/Remarks*

**Ivonne A-Baki**, Former Minister of Foreign Trade, Industry, Regional Integration, Fisheries and Competitiveness of Ecuador, Ecuador

*A tribute to the Victims of the Earthquake that Recently Hit Ecuador and to the International Community's Solidarity with and Support to the Country*

**Jorge Geraldo Kadri**, Ambassador of Brazil to Lebanon  
*Announcement*

### **10:45 – 12:15 TWO SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS**

#### **Session A - Exploring Iran from a Lebanese Perspective**

EMIRATES HALL, located in HILTON HABTOOR GRAND HOTEL

#### **Moderated by:**

**Imad Khayat**, Chief Editor, Mayadeen

### *Introductory Remarks*

**Alain Hakim**, Minister of Economy and Trade, Lebanon

**Mojtaba Khosrotaj**, Deputy Minister and Deputy Economic Affairs and Trade, Iran

## LDE 2016 Program

**Hossein Razaghi**, Deputy of the Cultural Heritage, Hand-Crafts and Tourism Organization and Director General of Foreign Investment Office, Iran

**Afroz Bahrami**, Director of Foreign Investment/ Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, Iran

**Morteza Zekavat**, Director of Planning and Method Improvements, Saderat Development Bank, Iran

**Mahdi Saman Al Hosseini**, Director of Planning and Development of Iran Central Insurance Company, Iran

**Mahdi Dalvand**, Deputy General Manager of Foreign Investment Office of the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance, Iran

**Firas Saffiedine**, Executive Board Member of Capital Markets Authority, Lebanon  
*Exchange of Financial Services*

**Abbas Fawaz**, President of Iranian Lebanese Businessmen Association  
*Emigrant's Role as International Mediator in Promoting Investment in Iran*

**Patrick Gemayel**, Partner KPM & Zarand Agro-food Industries, Iran  
*Family Success Story*

## LDE 2016 Program

**Mehdi Firouzan**, Businessman in Oil and Gas sector, Iran  
*Enhancing Ties and Encouraging Investors*

### Session B - Embracing Potentials in Australia

DUBAI HALL, located in METROPOLITAN HOTEL

**This session will feature the launching of the International Chamber House and the signing of the Declaration of Intent.**

#### Moderated by:

**John Defterios**, CNN Money's Emerging Markets Editor

**Glenn Miles**, Ambassador of Australia to Lebanon  
*Australia-Lebanon: Building on Communities and Identifying Opportunities*

**Joseph Assaf**, Founder and Chairman of the Ethnic Business Awards, Australia  
*Lebanon – Source of Global Energy*

**Hadia Haikal-Mukhtar**, Head of the Auburn Clinical School, Australia  
*Making a Difference, Being a Significant One*

**Nelia Hyndman-Rizk**, Lecturer, School of Business, UNSW Canberra  
*The Lebanese Emigration to Australia: Challenges and Opportunities*

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**Fadia Bou Dagher Ghossayn**, President of the Australian Lebanese Foundation  
*Achievements of Lebanese Women in Australia*

**Michael Rizk**, Head of Trade Relations, Australian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce  
*Lebanon's Role in the Emerging Regional Markets*

**Faddy Zouky**, President of Australia Lebanon Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
*The Migration Experience, Launching of the International Chamber House*

**Alain Hakim**, Minister of Economy and Trade, Lebanon  
*Concluding Remarks*

### 12:30 – 14:00 TWO SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS

#### Session A - Promising Horizons in Africa

EMIRATES HALL, located in HILTON HABTOOR GRAND HOTEL

#### Moderated by:

**Antoine Costantine**, Writer & Political Analyst

**This session will feature African Foreign Ministers and African Ministers of Economy and Trade as Guests Speakers**

## LDE 2016 Program

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**Colin Rezek**, Managing Partner - Vantage Mezzanine, South Africa

*Investment Opportunities in Africa on micro economic level - the role the African private financial institutions are playing in raising capitals and the sectors that are most attracting Investors.*

**Azar Jammine**, Director and Chief Economist, South Africa

*What economic forecast to expect in South African countries given the decrease of oil and mineral prices and the devaluation of currencies (A macroeconomic picture of the African continent)*

**Joseph Khouri**, President of Lebanese Ivorian Chamber of Commerce, Ivory Coast

*Enhancing Trade exchange between Lebanon and West Africa*

**Ramzi Omeys**, Businessman and Board Member of Lebanese Ivorian Chamber of Commerce, Ivory Coast

*Investment Opportunities in Ivory Coast*

**Elias Saad**, Chairman- Elias Saad Leading Association ESLA, Nigeria

*The Lebanese Role in the Economy of Nigeria and Lebanon*

**Joseph Blell**, Ex-Deputy Minister of Defense, Sierra Leone

*A political and Carrier Journey*

## LDE 2016 Program

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**Abdallah Saad**, Businessman and Chairman of Papers Industries, Senegal

*Lebanese Diaspora in Senegal: Facts, Economic Situations, and Visions*

### **Session B - Lebanese Initiatives and Successes in the Gulf States**

NOURA HALL, located in Metropolitan Hotel

#### **Moderated by:**

**Ricardo Karam**, Founder & CEO of TAKREEM, Lebanon

**This is a special ceremonial session featuring Lebanese success stories from around the Gulf Region with the participation of Arab Gulf Heads of Missions in Lebanon.**

**Hassan Houhou**, Partner & General Manager at Barrak International Center, Kuwait

**George Aoudi**, General Manager, Stakeholder, First United co., Kuwait

**Albert Matta**, UNDP Goodwill Ambassador and Businessman, UAE

**Ali Jaber**, Journalist, Media Consultant, TV personality and the Group TV Director of MBC, UAE

**Mounir Issa**, General Manager of Trags, Qatar

**Nada Frangieh**, Lawyer and Director of Communications at Qatar Foundation, Qatar



## LDE 2016 Program

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**Simon Karam**, Director of Sarooj Construction Company, Oman

**Rodolphe Melki**, CEO at Millennium International, Bahrain

**14:00 – 16:00**

**Buffet Lunch - Dubai Hall, Metropolitan**

**16:00 – 18:00**

**Closing Ceremony**

### **Keynote Speakers:**

**Pedros Toubias**, President of the Ruling Party and Deputy of the State of Sao Paolo, Brazil

**Zorab Istanbulian**, President and CEO of Zohrab Creation, Malaysia

### **Closing Speech**

**Gebran Bassil**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, Lebanon

### **LDE 2016 Conclusions and Recommendations**

**Announcements**

**Honors and Awards**

**20:30 “Celebrating Lebanon around the World” a special performance by Caracalla Dance Theater, Casino Du Liban**

## LDE 2016 Program

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### **SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2016**

**10:00**

Gathering and Departure from Hilton Habtoor Grand Hotel

**12:30**

Official Opening of the Lebanese-Russian Diaspora House  
Launching of other Houses (UAE, USA, Museum etc..)

**13:30**

**“The Art of the Lebanese Gourmet”** Lunch, Batrouniyat  
Hosted by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Gebran Bassil

### **Guest Speakers:**

**Antoine Briedy**, USA

**Georges Elias Fares**, USA

### **Featuring:**

Zajal Performance, a traditional Lebanese Oral Poetry

Fashion Show with Dairoyo, the traditional Lebanese Shirwal Costume

## Topics

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### LEBANITY: IDENTITY AND RESTORATION OF NATIONALITY

*Live TV Episode - Emirates Hall  
May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 11h30 – 13h*

This session will be held to explain the new nationality law number 41, approved by the Lebanese Parliament on the 24th of November 2015.

The new law allows the descendants of Lebanese emigrants, to recover their Lebanese nationality and register their families in Lebanon.

#### **The panelists will detail:**

1- The pivotal role that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants will play in encouraging the Diaspora to benefit from the new law.

2- The measures our missions abroad (Embassies, Consulate Generals and Honorary Consulates) will take in order to promote the new law and the procedure they will implement in order to register the emigrants.

3- The administrative process and the cooperation with the Ministry of Interior in order to process swiftly the applications.

4- The importance of recovering the Lebanese Nationality and its legal effects.

## Topics

### PROJECTS OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EMIGRANTS

#### 1- Buy Lebanese

*Panel Discussion - Emirates Hall*

*May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 14h30 – 15h10*

Lebanon is gifted with great diversity & its territory includes regions with different levels of development & agricultural potential. Food industry for its part has always been a major vehicle of the Lebanese traditions & customs throughout time, but the relative success of our cuisine in exporting our identity still faces major challenges. One of these challenges is that our Food industry didn't evolve into a real Gastronomy like the French cuisine for instance & is still facing the challenging task of going beyond the local product and market to a quality level that is exportable worldwide. Therefore many of our dishes were stolen and registered as rooted in other cultures, especially the Israelis.

Despite all that, Lebanon managed to develop its culinary heritage like never before and the terroir cuisine evolved in the last few years thanks to the efforts of traditional but talented cooks, thus transforming this sector into a key part of our country brand which in return strengthened the culinary value chain.

The collaboration between public and private sectors will actively increase the productivity of the national culinary sector, encouraging

## Topics

new entrepreneurs and investments, which, in return, will reinforce the comprehensive promotion of the traditional cuisine in the country and abroad.

The main purpose of this panel is to expose, through precise examples:

- What is being done/ must be done - to overcome the present challenges, open new horizons to the products of our villages and our traditional Cuisine to help them adapt & re - connect with the World. The panel will show that there is a real dormant economic potential that is still unexplored in our villages that could, if well channeled, change the face of our rural areas as a whole and Lebanon by consequence by creating jobs & wealth.
- The efforts put in place to adapt our ethnic and agricultural products to the needs of globalized markets while preserving their identity emphasizing on quality rather the quantity.
- The APOLITIC nature of the panel, it's all about adapting our traditional know how in matters of cuisine and ethnic products in the time of globalization.
- Prove that we can successfully "marketize" our products locally, regionally and internationally through specific successful examples.
- How did some Lebanese Chefs transform & adapt the Lebanese Cuisine to come up with a budded Lebanese Gastronomy that would be of a sui generis nature, a pioneering example that could be followed.

## Topics

### **2- Lebanon Connect**

*Panel Discussion - Emirates Hall*

*May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 15h10 – 15h40*

Lebanese abroad welcome the idea of having a platform tailor-made to their culture, habits, and needs. Lebanon Connect (LC) was launched during LDE 2014 and a social media/business platform was built to connect Lebanese people from all around the world.

It is available on the web and on smartphones aiming to bring all Lebanese together, while promoting Lebanese businesses and produce

This panel will show how LC allow Lebanese to connect with each other, promote their businesses, find jobs and recruit people, find Lebanese products, read news about Lebanon and, most importantly, browse content that they relate to and which is shared by users along with content provided by LC.

## Topics

### **3- Lebanese Diaspora Houses (LDH)**

*Panel Discussion - Emirates Hall*

*May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 15h40 - 16h10*

Diaspora House is a project aiming at creating a HUB for the Lebanese Diaspora in their homeland in order to create and support a cohesive and dynamic community that is well linked and that can reflect its members culturally, socially, educationally and economically. It will be a point of reference for any information, translation services, and research on the respective Diaspora.

This project was launched during LDE 2014 and there exist so far 4 Diaspora Houses that have been accomplished while others are on track. The Moughtareb Museum is also part of this project and is dedicated to sharing the art and stories of Lebanese the Lebanese heritage with audiences from around the world.

This panel will discuss the role of the Diaspora Houses and how diaspora can gather in their respective Houses to share experiences, hold events, lectures, and mostly keep the link between each other, their homeland, and their country of residency. It will also feature the positioning of the Moughtareb museum as one of the few museums in the world focused exclusively on Lebanese Diaspora culture and on presenting the rich cultural heritage of the people of Lebanon and of the cultures of Lebanese descendant across the globe.

## Topics

### **4- Lebanese Diaspora Fund (LDF)**

*Panel Discussion - Emirates Hall*

*May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 16h10 - 16h40*

This panel will discuss the establishment of a PRIVATE EQUITY FUND in order to provide the Lebanese Diaspora with a platform to contribute in economic development and to create growth opportunities through investing in businesses.

#### **It will address the following questions:**

- What's the aim and objective of the Fund?
- What's the Fund strategy?
- What's its corporate Governance?
- What are the target Sectors?

A unique investment platform DIASPORA ONE will be launched during this panel offering 5 different risk/return Investment tranches for Renewable energy projects in Lebanon.

## Topics

### **5- Lebanese Diaspora School (LDS)**

*Panel Discussion - Emirates Hall*

*May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 16h40 – 17h10*

This panel will discuss the Lebanese Diaspora School concept launched by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants in partnership with the Ministry of Education.

#### **This panel will address the following:**

- History of the Lebanese Diaspora school and the need for the project
- Concept and Objectives of the project
- Possible Cases/Scenarios and Procedures to adopt
- Overview of existing schools and their impacts on local communities abroad
- Progress of the project

## Topics

### 6- INVEST TO STAY

*Panel Discussion - Emirates Hall  
May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 17h10 – 17h40*

The Invest to Stay program is an initiative launched during LDE 2014. The program is designed to provide substantial benefits to the Lebanese economy and the people of Lebanon. With its newly added two-pronged approach, the goal of the Invest to Stay initiative is:

- 1) To help stimulate the Lebanese Economy by providing meaningful opportunities for Lebanese workers and utilizing their talents and full human resource capabilities, and in particular targeting educated youth without hope for a better future. As a result of this initiative, Lebanese workers and youth will find staying in Lebanon as a viable option where they can prosper and help Lebanon thrive.
- 2) To provide opportunities to successful Lebanese immigrants and investors who have always wanted to contribute to now be able to give back to Lebanon while personally receiving returns on their investments.

## Topics

How will this program work?

A- Aspiring Lebanese entrepreneurs seeking investments would present projects to a board of prominent Lebanese financial experts to be reviewed. A website is being developed where ideas can be submitted and vetted. Once a project is approved, it will be presented to qualified investors of Lebanese descent from around the world with the help of Lebanese Embassies and Consulates. As a prerequisite, the entrepreneurs/developers of projects will have to commit to hiring Lebanese workers in Lebanon and/or abroad or persons of Lebanese descent to the extent possible on projects; to import products or materials for projects from Lebanon to the extent possible; and to commit to reinvesting 20% of the profits from their projects in Lebanon.

B- Lebanese youth will be trained in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, transformational leadership, and capital raising, and will also have an opportunity through accelerators to come up with innovations, inventions, and big ideas that investors of Lebanese origin from Lebanon and from around the world can partake in with the commitment to reinvest 20% of the profits from successful start-ups in Lebanon.

## Topics

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### **7- Women Pioneers**

*Success Stories - Emirates Hall*

*May 5th, 2016, 17h40 – 18h15*

The aim of this panel is to bring together Lebanese women or women of Lebanese descent, who have gained recognition for their outstanding contributions and achievements, each in her field of expertise, thus enhancing Lebanon's image overseas. Lebanese women have participated in the development of societies they live in. It is in order to highlight the variety of these achievements that we have opted for an eclectic panel gathering prominent feminine figures active in the fields of Medicine, Arts, Economy and Politics.

## Topics

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### **Lebanese-Russian Cooperation: Windows of Opportunities**

*Panel Discussion - Emirates Hall*

*May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 9h – 10h30*

The panel will be mainly hosting high-level personalities from the Russian Federation to listen to their perspectives on the large possibilities of investment in the Russian economy, on the incentives given by the Russian Government and on the main investment possibilities obtainable in major sectors.

The panelists will expose the Russian Federation economic openness and incentives, from the politicians' point of view, as well as the businessmen vision.

Russia is looking forward to expand the breadth of its economic relations, while the successful Lebanese emigrants living on all continents can be the best partner on a win-win basis. Long time knowledge and openness to local markets would be at the service of Russian products and goods in a sense of expansive and comprehensive business partnership.

Representatives of the Russian economic sectors are part of the panel and of the exhibition happening on the margin of the LDE conference, and will be open to direct exchange with Lebanese



## Topics

investors living in Lebanon or abroad in the objective of developing our bilateral economic relations by all available means.

### The panel will focus on the following questions:

- Development of Lebanese-Russian economic relations from a political macro-view.
  - Dimensions of cooperation between Russia on the one hand; and Lebanese businessmen and investors living abroad or in Lebanon on the other hand:
- **Sectors:**
    - Gas
    - Banking
    - Tourism
    - Other opportunities...
  - **Synallagmatic interest and guarantees:**
    - Credibility and investment protection
    - Mutual profitability
    - Wide range of possibilities abroad through the knowledge and experience of the Lebanese Emigrants

## Topics

### Latin America: Land of Opportunities

Panel Discussion - Dubai Hall

*May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 9h – 10h30*

No land has attracted and embraced the Lebanese quest for success as much as Latin America. For decades, generations of Lebanese emigrants have sunk into, and become an integral component of the social and economic fabrics of Latin American countries.

This panel envisions shedding light on the wide array of economic opportunities entrenched in Latin America. It features countries in Central and South America.

**i. Cuba:** The historic gateway of the old world to the Latin-speaking new one. Recent positive developments promise to bring about a new era of engagement, entailing wide avenues for investment and economic activity

**ii. Uruguay:** Assuming the presidency of MERCOSUR for the next six months, it is playing an important role in steering this colossal economic grouping on the route to growth and development.

**iii. Brazil:** An emerging giant in the global economy, it is an unmatched treasure of potential for the Lebanese Diaspora.

## Topics

**iv. Chile:** One of the most robust and flourishing economies in South America, Chile is proving to be an attractive terminus for foreign investment.

**The panel will focus on the following issues:**

- Rising economic opportunities in Latin American countries; featuring: Brazil, Chile, Cuba, and Uruguay.
- The panel will aim at addressing key related questions: How would such economic opportunities be garnered, and how would Lebanon, Latin American states and the Lebanese diaspora add to and benefit from these growing momenta in the two countries?
- Panel will also include a briefing by the incumbent presidency of the MERCOSUR group on the role this economic regional arrangement plays in boosting economic potential in Latin America.
- It will also feature bright sectoral examples from Brazil (medical sector).

*N.B. A special tribute will be paid by the panel to the victims of the earthquake that struck Ecuador, and to the international community's solidarity with Ecuador.*

## Topics

### **Exploring Iran from a Lebanese Perspective**

#### **Panel Discussion - Emirates Hall**

*May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 10h45 – 12h15*

The lift of the Economic sanctions on the Trade and Business with the Islamic Republic of Iran created an immense opportunity for the Lebanese Economy, as a base of free market in the region, to make Lebanon one of the business gateways, to help the Iranian economy in its surge and to attract foreign as well as Lebanese investors and businessmen.

This panel also targets how to benefit from the advanced knowledge and expertise existing in the Lebanese market especially in the Banking sector, Finance, Insurance, International Trade etc.... Furthermore to focus on the great potential of Lebanese emigrants, around the world, in boosting ties and building partnerships in all fields worldwide.

**The panel will address the following issues:**

- Lebanese Iranian relations in Finance, Banking, Insurance, and Services sector.
- Cooperation in trade, Investment and Business opportunities.
- Overview of technology, ICT Development Oil and Gas.

## Topics

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- Enhancing tourism and Hospitality sectors as well as Lebanese cuisine and Lebanese agro food industries
- Enhancing the expertise of media multipurpose fields and the Lebanese pioneering role in the region.

## Topics

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### **Embracing Potentials in Australia**

*Panel Discussion - Dubai Hall*

*May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 10h45 – 12h15*

The Lebanese presence in Australia dates back to mid-19th Century with the arrival of the first immigrant. Over the years, the Lebanese community has grown and flourished to become an essential component of the Australian multi-cultural fabric, and has had visible contributions to the country's development and bright successes in many fields.

Despite the strong people-to-people ties and the friendly political relations between Lebanon and Australia, their economic relations still score only humble figures.

This panel will try to explore, among other things, how the trade and investment relations between the two countries can be advanced, and the vital part that the Lebanese-Australian community can play therein. Also, other dimensions of the bilateral relations and various venues of interaction will be examined. In this context, it will be important to emphasize that with the widespread presence of Lebanese communities worldwide, it is possible to take the bilateral relations to a broader scope of cooperation at the regional and international levels.

## Topics

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### **The panel will address the following issues:**

- Relations between Lebanon and Australia, and opportunities that Australia offers
- Trade and investment links between the two countries, and ways to develop them
- Cooperation between the two countries in various non-business fields and sectors
- Migration from Lebanon to Australia and achievements of the Lebanese community

## Topics

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### **Promising Horizons in Africa**

*Panel Discussion - Emirates Hall*

*May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 12h30 – 14h*

In the past 15 years, Africa has begun to be conceptualized as the Last Frontier in the Global economy.

The presence of the Lebanese communities in Africa goes back to more than 100 years, and they know the great potential of this Continent. But today Africa has changed and became demanding: Expertise and Professionalism are vital and crucial to succeed in Africa in developing businesses. But despite the great potential and attraction of the continent, the challenges and the risks remain high (Terrorism, lack of security, Government policies, coup d'états, lack of laws protecting investments and capitals, corruption etc...). These are subjects to be taken into high consideration.

As the fruits of Economic globalization have come to this Continent, the panelists will debate and expose the great potential of this prosperous emerging market as a new territory for rising business opportunities.

This session will feature the presence of several Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Trade and Economy from the African Continent who will be guest speakers so a broad and official perspective can be added to the insights.

## Topics

### **The panel will focus on the following issues:**

- Rising New opportunities and Challenges in Southern African countries:

A: Angola- the effect of Oil prices on its Economy, the devaluation of its currency.

B: Zambia - the Mining industry specially Copper and the effect of its price on the Zambian economy

C: Mozambique- the Gas sector and Mining, Political Pressure, Investment Climate and Laws

- Is South Africa still attractive for investment, being the second largest economy in Africa? An overlook at the Mining sector (platinum, gold, diamond and coal), the value of the Rand (the 7th most traded currency in the world) and an overlook of South African companies expanding in the continent.

- Western African Region: Enhancing trade exchange, Existing markets (Agro-alimentary, Construction etc...) and the role of the Diaspora.

- Central and Eastern African Region: New Emerging Markets.

## Topics

### **Lebanese Initiatives and Successes in the Gulf**

*Panel Discussion - Noura Hall*

*May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 12h30 – 14h*

This session is a special ceremonial session with the aim to focus on the Lebanese successes in the Gulf countries and to honor their achievements.

This session involves Lebanese figures who made their own success stories and contributed to the development and renaissance of countries in which they are living and it reflects on personal experience and journeys of success as well as it takes advantage of opportunities through the various experiences and the possibilities thereof.

Marches of Success will be awarded with the Diaspora Awards in the presence of Arab Gulf Heads of Missions and their beloved ones.

## Keynote Speakers - Opening Ceremony

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**Michael Asot** is the Member of the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda elected from Saint Peter Constituency. He is also the Minister of Tourism, Economic Development Investment and Energy under Prime Minister Hon. Gaston Browne. He is a member of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party.



**Carlos Maroun** is a Federal Deputy from Lebanese origin. Graduated in Civil Engineering and Law School, he was Municipal Secretary of Land Affairs of the Municipality of Campo Grande, CEO of the Municipal Company of Housing in Campo Grande, President of the Association of COHAB, Municipal Councilor, State Deputy for two mandates and State Secretary of Housing in Mato Grosso do Sul. He is the first most voted Federal Deputy in the Coalition “MS Cada Vez Melhor” and second in the last election. His trademark is his struggle to change the citizens’ life quality.

## Keynote Speakers - Opening Ceremony

**Joumana Kairouz** is the founder and owner of the Michigan Center for Personal Injury and the Law Offices of Joumana Kayrouz PLLC. Kayrouz' firm is now recognized as one of the most respected and largest personal injury law firms in Michigan. In 2013, Kayrouz received the Humanitarian of the Year Award from Life for Relief and Development at their 20th Anniversary dinner. In 2014, was featured on the cover of Metro Times with 1.4 million copies printed, and was also named the "American Dreamer" by the prestigious Crain's Detroit Business.



**Faysal El Khoury** is a Canadian Liberal politician, who was elected to represent the riding of Laval—Les Îles in the House of Commons of Canada in the 2015 federal election. He holds an engineering degree from Concordia University. El-Khoury immigrated to Canada from Lebanon in 1976.

## Keynote Speakers – Dinner



**Henry Gebrayel** is a French politician with Lebanese and Assyrian roots. His father was an Assyrian survivor of the Assyrian genocide, that took place in present-day Turkey, who had taken refuge with his parents in a Beirut slum. He joined the Free French Forces after De Gaulle's Appeal of 18 June. After the war, the family got the French naturalisation and was hosted by its new fatherland in a slum near Marseille. After being a trade-unionist at the Poste, he becomes conseiller général for the Socialist Party in a Marseille canton and maire-adjoint in a Marseille secteur in 2001, then he is elected member of the National Assembly of France on June 17, 2007 with 57.41% of votes (25.85% at the first round), so becoming one out of three metropolitan deputies with non-European family roots.



**Amyr Klink** is an explorer and sailor. One of his projects, "Antarctica 360", was circumnavigating the Antarctic continent on his own, in 79 days in 1998. Klink has written seven books about his voyages, including *Between Two Poles* about his trip from Antarctica to the Arctic Pole, starting in 1989 and taking 642 days. Klink helped in the construction of the polar vessel used in this trip, named *Paratii* after the town of Paraty in the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Amyr Klink was the first person to row across the South Atlantic, leaving from Lüderitz, Namibia on 10 June 1984 and arriving 100 days later in Salvador, Brazil on 18 September 1984.



## Keynote Speakers – Dinner



**Blanka Matraji** was born into family of a glass cutters. It was no surprise she had followed her father's story and first studied at a Secondary School of Glass Cutting in her hometown for three years and then continued her studies at the Secondary School of Applied Arts for Glassmaking in Zelezny Brod, which gave her more room for creative expression. After graduating in 1974, on the advice of Professor Stanislav Libensky, she filed an application to the Zdenka Bauer's studio of arts in clothing at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design Prague (AAAD). In the fierce competition Blanka managed to succeed and get accepted to the AAAD. That's how her successful career of a fashion designer began.



**Christine Maalouf Abi Najem's** main focus and passion is writing music, singing and performing in Arabic and English! She started writing since the age of 10 and studied BA in advertising & marketing at NDU and got a Master degree in journalism. She wrote in Al Jaras magazine for 2 years and worked as a freelance writer in Al Mouhajer online newspaper. She is also the author of the book "Araji7" and president of WLCU Virginia Chapter.

## Keynote Speakers - Closing Ceremony



**Pedros Toubias** is the president of the ruling party of the State of Sao Paulo (PSDB), Deputy Pedro Tobias, Gynecologist and State Representative, was born in Lebanon, where he lived until the age of 16. He studied medicine in France and earned a PhD from the University (UNESP) in Botucatu. He was one of the founders of the Movement "Doctors Without Borders", and has saved many lives, especially in the Vietnam War, and is known for treating poor people for free.

Tobias was a member of the Municipality Council for two mandates in Bauru. He was elected state deputy for the first time. In his fifth consecutive term state representative, he was re-elected in 2014 with about 167,000 votes.



**Zorab Istanbulian**, has been "giving external form to creative ideas" since they first started designing jewelry together over 35 years ago. Today, their children, Henri, Liza and Hooman also have important roles in the company, getting involved in the management, marketing, and, of course, with those strikingly beautiful and wildly unconventional designs. When asked how the company keeps coming up with such unique and original designs, Zohrab passionately responds saying: "We must be both CREATIVE and ORIGINAL": "Creativity is the need to express feelings to surprise and awaken emotions in others." "Originality is the further development of creativity, by combining freshness of aspect, independent thought, constructive imagination & fantasy with hard work."

## Day 3 Guest Speakers

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### 3. Lebanese Diaspora Houses (LDH)



**Antoine Briedy**, *Bright and ambitious, they all leave their beloved country in search of a better future. And Return in their old age carrying their aches, and their fatigue. This is Lebanon Immigration.*



**Georges Elias Farés** *is a Senior Business Development with TATA who manages and drives growth in global relationship within Financial Services. With more than 30 years of sales leadership spanning the entire spectrum of the capital markets domain. His client roster includes some of the most prestigious names in financial services, including MetLife, TD Securities, Bank of America, Citi, Aegon, Morgan Stanley, JPMorgan Chase and New York Life. His vast experience includes working across virtual global teams spanning across various continents.*

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Abdallah Saad** went to Senegal to help his uncle in trade. He is the general manager of PAPEX SARL since 1988. In 1993, he established SIPREX SARL a printing press. In 1998, He created STRABURO SARL, his third company, which is a representative of RICOH brand for office stationery. He is the number one importer of office furniture, copiers and computer equipment in the Senegal.

**Abdel Amir Halawe** is the General Manager of Complex Arabic School – Kinshasa. In 1994, Abdel Amir graduated from Sacred Heart School. In 1998, he finished his Masters in Natural Science at the Lebanese University. In 2001, Abdel-Amir went into deep studies in Education at St. Joseph University, and in 2014 he obtained a PhD in Science from National Pedagogical University. Currently, he is managing and expanding the Complex Arabic School in Kinshasa.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Adnan Kassar** is a Lebanese lawyer, businessman and politician, who served at different cabinet posts. In addition to being a lawyer, Kassar is a businessman, dealing finance investments. He has founded and owns various companies concerning trade, shipping and travel, and industry. He is also shareholder with Walid Jumblatt in a cement manufacturing firm. Kassar served as the president of the Beirut Chamber of Commerce and Industry for nearly thirty years; to which he was elected in January 1972. In June 1997, he became the president of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in Lebanon. From 1999 to 2000, he headed the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) based in Paris. On 1 January 2001, Richard McCormick, who served as his deputy at the ICC, succeeded Kassar as head of the ICC.

**Alain Hakim** is the current Minister of Economy and Trade in Lebanon. Dr. Alain Hakim is a Lebanese politician and banker, currently serving as the Minister of Economy and Trade in Lebanon. Dr. Hakim is member of Political Bureau of Kataeb Party where he served as President of Business Council from 2011 till 2014. Dr. Hakim's career in the banking sector started 1986. He is currently Member of Management Committee at Credit Libanais Group. He is also CEO and board member in several affiliated companies within the same group. He has kept a close relationship with the academic world since 1989 where he is currently a Chairperson at Faculty of Management as well as a Lecturer at the Superior Institute of Banking Studies (Institut Supérieur d'Etudes Bancaires) at Saint Joseph University.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Alexander Gogolev** graduated in 1976 from the Institute for Foreign Languages and in 1990 graduated with honors from the Academy for Foreign Trade named by People's Friendship Award. From 1982 till 1995 he worked in the State Committee for Foreign Economic relations and further in the Ministry for Foreign Economic relations. From 2002 till 2007 in JSC VTB Bank in a position of Senior vice-president he was in charge of the development and activities of filial network of the Bank in the regions of the Russian Federation. Starting from 2007 till now in a position of Senior vice-president of JSC VTB Bank.

**Alfredo Cotait** is a civil engineer with a master's degree in Business Administration. He is a former Senator for the State of São Paulo (2010); City Secretary for Planning (1998), then for International Relations (2007-12) and President of the Brazil-Lebanon Chamber of Commerce since 2001.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Anna Ouroumian** left for the US alone with \$160 to pursue the American dream and studied Economics at UCLA, after spending her childhood in orphanages in Lebanon during the war. She created the current Academy of Business Leadership, where she has impacted the lives of 122,000 youth through innovative curricula in entrepreneurship, financial literacy, transformational leadership, and capital raising training. Anna has served as the youngest member on the Harvard Kennedy School Women's Leadership Board; was featured in Forbes, and honored by Tyra Banks on her show.

**Antonio Hachem** was born in Hasbaya Baabda. His grandfather lived 30 years in Colombia and returned to Lebanon and he couldn't leave him. For the first time in the history of the Bar Association to establish a Committee of lawyers who work for the rights of the emigrants. He was recorded in Beirut Bar Association in 1983. He is engaged in Union work since its affiliation through assigned several committees. He was elected a member of the Council of the bar in four sessions, and was elected president in 2015 to Beirut.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Azar Jammine** is a well-recognised and respected economist – with over forty years of experience, Azar has established himself as one of the foremost economists in the country. He is Chief Economist at Econometrix and a regular commentator on economic events in the media. Dr Jammine has presented papers on the South African Economy at conferences in Washington, New York, London, Warsaw, Frankfurt, Paris, Phuket, Bahrain, The Hague, Mauritius and Dubai.

**Christian Assaf** is a French politician and member of the Socialist Party. He became a Deputy of the 8th circonscription of l'Hérault in 2012. In 2004, Christian Assaf led the leftist list campaign headed by Georges Frêche in the regional elections. After the victory he became head of the cabinet of Georges Frêche in Languedoc-Roussillon region, before he resigned in 2007 due to divergence in political opinions with the leader of the region. In 2009, he joined the cabinet of Hélène Mandroux, Mayor of Montpellier. In 2010, he co-led Hélène Mandroux campaign for regional elections. In 2012, he ran for the elections of the 8e circonscription of l'Hérault.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Christina Chehadé** has more than 12 years of experience in financial advisory and venture capital. She is currently a Director at Endeavor Lebanon, leading the Partnerships, Mentor and Investor Networks. Prior to Endeavor, she was a Venture Partner for MEVP, a Beirut-based venture capital fund. Before her return to Lebanon, Christina was an M&A Associate Director at Nomura Code Securities in London, and an M&A Associate covering healthcare, consumer goods and retail at HSBC Investment Banking in London and Paris. She holds an MBA from ESSEC Business School in France as well as an MS and BS in Biology from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon.

**Colin M. Rezek** is the Managing Partner, Director, and Divisional Director of Private Equity and Risk Capital at Vantage Capital Group. He is also a Founder of the business. Mr. Rezek serves as a Director of Vantage Capital Investments. Mr. Rezek also serves as a Managing Partner and Divisional Director of Vantage Mezzanine (PTY) Ltd. He specializes in mezzanine investments. Mr. Rezek has day-to-day responsibilities for the origination and assessment of the balance sheet investments. He is also involved in proprietary investments. He has a wealth of experience in financial management and in investment banking, particularly in structured finance and private equity fund management. Mr. Rezek's most recent prior experience was at Real Africa Durolink Investment Bank Limited (RAD).

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Déborah Rivas Saavedra** is Vice Consul of Cuba in the Consular section in Mexico, D.F. and Director of Promotion and Evaluation of Joint Business at Ministry of the Foreign Trade. She occupied the position of Commercial Counselor of Cuba in Peru and is the President of Panamericana, Inc. She worked as Director of Foreign Investment Division in the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Economic Relations, International Relations Institute, Havana.

**Elias Saad**, Board Member, of dual nationality, Lebanese by birth and Nigerian by naturalization. Over the past 40 years, he has acquired shrewd experience within the fields of engineering, highway construction, building technology, industrial engineering as well as international business networking. Elias Saad is currently the Executive Chairman of the following companies in Nigeria: "ELSEJI" a Telecom company, "Eko Pearl NIG LTD" a developer/real estate company, "Yasnas NIG LTD" a piling company, "Ocean Land Carrier's" a transport company, and "Bon-Bois NIG LTD" a furniture company. Mr. Saad is also the Executive Chairman of "ESLA", a Development/ Contracting company in Lebanon.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Eva Nassif** was born in Lebanon, studied nursing and worked in the American University Hospital in Beirut, before leaving to Canada, where she obtained a BA and a MA degree in translation studies from Concordia University. An Activist for women's rights, social and youth affairs, Nassif was involved in numerous organizations, and has worked since 2009 in an NGO dedicated to the education of Canadian youth. The year 2011 marked her debut in Canadian Federal politics, and in October 2015 she was elected for the Liberal Party of Canada as a member of the Canadian Parliament.

**Faddy Zouky** is an Australian-Lebanese who has set out to make a difference in the world around him, making it his personal mission to make the world a better place for members of the community. He is the Founding President of the Australia Lebanon Chamber of Commerce & Industry, The Executive Director of the Zouki Group, and Managing Director of Zouki for Lebanon S.A.L. He is also an Australian lawyer and commercial pilot; and is on number of boards and affiliations. He received several honors and awards, including the "Order of Australia Medal" which confers the highest recognition for outstanding achievement and service.



## Panelists' Biographies

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**Fadi Farah** is the General Manager at Al Salem Co – Lebanon. In 1995, he finished his Bachelor's Degree in Electro-Mechanical Engineering from the Lebanese University, Faculty of Engineering (ULFG2). In 2005, Fadi accomplished his Master's in Business Administration from Université PARIS 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, Université PARIS Dauphine and Université Saint Joseph Beirut. He has been working in Iraq and Arab Countries since 1997, and is currently developing social and educational projects in many cities.

**Fadi Joseph** is CEO of Cloud Computing based in Canada. His strong expertise in solution and innovation made him a highly sought-after guest speaker on Cloud and Big Data. He has been in the business of information technologies and communication for more than 25 years in NA & Europe. Fadi earned a high advance study in computer engineering and an MBA in management of information from the Lyon3 France. He is lecturer at the University of Sherbrooke. He leads the Lebanese Canadian tech hub, and serves onboard of several organizations.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Fadia BouDagher Ghossayn** was Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at The Lebanese University. In 2001, she established the Australian Lebanese Foundation at The University of Sydney. She has been actively engaged in academic, cultural and social events, and in projects linking the community to Lebanon through scholarships, visits, and registration of civil status affairs. She was granted several awards, including the Arab Dental Federation Award in 1999 for best scientific research; and most recently the Woman of the Year 2016 Award, by the New South Wales Government in Australia.

**Georges Frenn** manages programs on private enterprise and productive sectors, including agriculture, industry, tourism, and value chain development. He previously worked on European, World Bank and other donors development programs in Lebanon. Earlier, he worked as financial services director at the National bank of Canada in Montreal and consulted for private organizations. Georges holds an Agricultural Engineering Degree from St Joseph University, Master's Degree in Geography from the Lebanese University, Master's Degree in Agro- economics from the Mediterranean Agricultural Institute of Montpellier- France, and a Management Degree from McGill University, Canada.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Georges Ghrayeb** along with his friends Mr. Jamil and Elie Cheaib, and in the aim of promoting and nourishing the Lebanese culture in Quebec, they established Adonis a small enterprise that soon turned into a group which became synonymous with the Lebanese culinary art in Ontario. Mr. Ghrayeb plays a major role in expansion Adonis has witnessed after signing an agreement in 2011 with "Métro", a giant Canadian food distribution company.

**Glenn Miles**, prior to his posting to Lebanon, served as Acting High Commissioner of Australia in Fiji from January 2012 to November 2014. Prior to that, he served as Ambassador to Kuwait from January 2008 to November 2011. Mr. Miles also served as Australia's Representative in Ramallah, had postings to Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and was member of the Peace Monitoring Group in Bougainville in 2000. In Canberra, he worked in the Europe, Middle East and International Security Divisions. He is a graduate from Deakin University and speaks Arabic.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Gustavo Vanerio** is currently the Ambassador of Uruguay to World Trade Organization in Geneva. He was the Former Ambassador of Uruguay to Ecuador between 2005 and 2010; Director General for MERCOSUR and Integration National Coordinator for MERCOSUR between 2003 and 2005; Director of Trade Department in the Embassy of Uruguay in Brazil between 2000 and 2003; and Director of MERCOSUR and Uruguay representative at the Comisión de Comercio del MERCOSUR between 1998 and 2000. He occupied the position of the Director of the International Economic Organizations and Director of the bilateral economic relations.

**Hadia Haikal-Mukhtar** is a Graduate in Science, Medicine and Law from Melbourne University and Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. She has extensive experience in medical practice, medical education, medical regulation and tribunal work. She is currently Head of Auburn Clinical School, University of Notre Dame; Deputy Director of Professional Services Review - a Commonwealth Statutory Entity; and member of Board of Directors, Western Sydney Local Health District. She was member of the former Medical Practitioners Board of Victoria and of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, Australia.



## Panelists' Biographies

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**Father Hannoun Andraos** is part of the Maronite Missionary Congregation and a graduate of the Pontifical Gregorian University as well as the National Conservatory in Switzerland. He was responsible of Our Lady of Lebanon Shrine in Harissa from 2001 till 2004. He worked with the missions affiliated with his organization in South Africa, Argentina and Paraguay. He wrote an extensive study about Lebanese families abroad in an attempt to help them reconnect with their relatives back home.

**Hassan Awada** is the owner and manager of the Lebanese Brothers School in Hadath and of the Ahliye School in Berj Al-Barajina. Hassan started as a teacher of mathematics and then moved to the development of schools. Through communication with the Lebanese Community in the State of Michigan, he noticed a significant lack of Arabic teaching schools serving the Lebanese immigrants living in the State. Therefore, he decided to open a Lebanese school in Michigan that teaches children based on the Lebanese curriculum allowing them to submit official national exams and get the chance to have the Lebanese Baccalaureate.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Hassan Houhou** is Head of "Dar il Fatwa" of the republic of Lebanon in Kuwait, he is also Peace and Goodwill ambassador in Middle East at SPMUDA related to United Nations. He worked as the CEO of HMG group for projects management as well as General Manager and partner in two companies "in commerce and services." He is Member of Lebanese council of investment, Coordinator of the International Committee of Lebanese Businessmen Association in Kuwait in addition to being a Social activist in Kuwait and Arab Countries.

**Hiam Boustany**, the director of the Maronite Foundation in the World sought out the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) at Notre Dame University-Louaize (NDU) to discuss a mutually beneficial project for the two institutions. Ms. Boustani met with Dr. Hourani, Director of the LERC, in the presence of Ms. Liliane Haddad, the LERC's Chief Archivist and Indexer, and Ms. Jasmin Lilian Diab, the LERC's new Assistant. At the onset of the meeting, Ms. Boustani gave a brief overview of the Foundation's accomplishments since its inception and its plans for the future, concerning of the rights of Lebanese descendants to acquire citizenship, and explained how archival material is an integral part of this effort.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Ibrahim Debbas** graduated from Georgetown University with a Masters in School of Foreign Service and an MBA in Finance. He has taught more than 2000 students at AUST and NDU in Lebanon. He has co-authored two books on Marketing. He owns an award-winning blog for start-ups with over 6 million followers. He owns the 3rd largest crowd-funding platform in the US, using T-shirts to raise funds and his company has just been valued at just under \$10 million 18 months after its establishment.

**Igor Sergeyevich Ivanov** is a Russian state figure and diplomat. He is a former Foreign Minister and one-time Secretary of the Russian Security Council. Ivanov retired from politics in the middle of 2007 to commit himself fulltime to commerce, science and teaching. He is the Chairman of the Investment Strategy Committee at Russia's largest oil producer, Lukoil. He is also a member of several non-governmental organizations and clubs, such as the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation and the Supervisory Council of the International Luxembourg Forum on Preventing Nuclear Catastrophe. In addition, Ivanov holds a Grand PhD (the Russian equivalent of a Doctorate) in history and an honorary PhD in philosophy and philology.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Ivonne-A-Baki** is a politician, artist and UN Goodwill Ambassador, painter, diplomat, peace negotiator, humanist, and politician, is a multifaceted woman who has always been driven by her ideals. She was Ecuador's Minister of Foreign Trade, Industry, Regional Integration, Fisheries, and Competitiveness. She was also elected as the President of the Andean Parliament with the unanimous vote of the 5 member countries: Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. As Chief Negotiator for the Yasuni ITT initiative, she aims to preserve the Yasuni National Park in Ecuador, the most bio-diverse place on the planet.

**Dr. Jay Mariyappan** has a Ph.D. in Decentralized Energy Systems from Imperial College, London, a Masters (with Distinction) in Environmental Management from the University of Nottingham, and an Executive Masters in Business Administration (EMBA) from Kellogg School of Management (Northwestern University, USA) and Hong Kong Business School (HKUST, Hong Kong). In 2008, he joined Sindicatum and is a Managing Director. Jay has 15 years of financial, technical, and managerial experience in energy investments, operations, and emissions trading. Previously he was a Vice President at the brokerage house Cantor Fitzgerald in London.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**John Abi Habib** is the Chief Executive Officer of MSI Net & mCloudServ. John holds a Master's Degree in Management of Information Systems and Computer Science; with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and minors in Accounting & Finance. John was an adjunct lecturer in CUNY Universities, Brooklyn College and St John's University for over 10 years. He is the Co-Founder of Khalil Gibran International Academy, NY; former President of the Salaam Club Of New York; Founder and 1st President of the World Lebanese Cultural Union; and Chairman and Founder of Lebanese Heritage Day in NYC.

**Jorge Gerlado Kadri** was born in Aparecida, São Paulo, in 1956. Jorge Kadri is of Lebanese descent from Zahle. He began his diplomatic career in 1983 when joined the Brazilian diplomatic academy (Instituto Rio Branco). Since then, he performed numerous functions in the Ministry of External Relations (Ministério das Relações Exteriores) and in the Brazilian Embassies in Madrid (Spain), Canberra (Australia), Asuncion (Paraguay) and in the Permanent Delegation of Brazil to International Organizations in Geneva (Switzerland). He was the head of the Division for the Promotion of the Portuguese Language and the deputy director of the Cultural Department in Brasília before being appointed Ambassador in Guinea-Bissau (2008-2012) and Poland (2012-2015).

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Joseph Assaf** is a typical migrant of the sixties; he migrated to Australia from Lebanon "in someone else's shoes". Joseph pioneered multicultural communication in Australia, where he founded the Ethnic Business Awards.

He has served as an advisor to several organizations nationally and internationally.

Joseph has received many recognitions and awards over the years such as The Order of Australia (AM), and most recently the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Joseph's life experience has led him to write his bestseller book *In Someone Else's Shoes*.

**Joseph Khouri** has more than 30 publications published in prestigious national and international magazines in the Ivory Coast. He is the founder of the Polyclinique Avicennes-RCI, the CEO of the Medical Group of the Plateau, and head of the Administrative Council of Polyclinique Internationale de l'Indénié-RCI. Between 1988 and 1990 he headed the medical department of the World Lebanese Cultural Union. In 2010, he became head of the Lebanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, while in 2014, he became a member of the Economic and Social Council of the Ivory Coast.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**H.E. Joseph Blell** is the Deputy Minister of Defense in the Republic of Sierra Leone.

*He is responsible for the day-day running of the Ministry and reporting to the President of Sierra Leone. He oversees management of the entire Ministry. He also coordinated the International Advisory Military Training Team (IMATT). He is member of the Defense Council and Chairman of the Highest Board within the Ministry of Defense. He tracks, measures, and monitors the progress of the Ministry activities, outputs, outcomes, and key milestones. Mr. Bell liaises with the President and other Government of Sierra Leone Ministries.*

**Kamal Mouzawak**, a farmer's son, founded Souk el Tayeb, Lebanon's first farmers market, in early 2004. Since its launching, Souk el Tayeb has evolved into an institution with the mission of celebrating food traditions that unite communities, promote small-scale farmers, and advance the culture of sustainable agriculture. The Souk el Tayeb institution includes the Tawlet Farmers' Kitchens, Beit Guesthouses, and Capacity Building programs for underserved communities, and various cultural events hosted around Lebanon.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Khalil Badawi** is the owner and founder of Cross Continental, consultancy firm focused on large-scale sustainable and renewable energy projects across Spain, USA, South Africa, and the Middle East. He advises investment funds and private investors to get into environmental projects with high IRR and help large companies become green while reducing their OPEX. Mr. Badawi holds an international MBA from IE (Instituto de Empresa).

**Laurent Aoun** is the President of the Lebanese Migration Center. He has had a long history in the Lebanese migration field. He is the ex-advisor for the UNDP and for IDAL. He held key positions in the Maronite League and the Maronite Foundation in the World where he co-established successful migration initiatives.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Makram Abboud** spent almost 20 years working in senior roles in investment banking, covering both the Middle East and Emerging Markets. Previously, Makram both developed and led the Emerging Markets and Middle East capital market sales franchise at UBS and then Merrill Lynch. Before that, Makram managed on behalf of the Ukrainian government, the Mass Privatization Program, which resulted in the privatization of 8000 medium and large enterprises in Ukraine from 1994 to 1999. Makram is a graduate of Finance and Accounting from McGill University in Montreal.

**Mario Hachem** is CEO & Co-founder of TEDMOB (Technology, Entertainment and Development for Mobile) a Mobile, digital and App Agency. Mario Hachem received his Masters in Computer & Communication Engineering (CCE) in 2002. He started his career as a Research & Development Engineer in MT2 a specialized VAS & Telecom firm working directly with 31 Telco operators in 14 regional countries. 9 years later, he became the group's CTO. In 2011, Mario co-founded apps2you and led a great team which was recognized as the "Best Mobile Application Developers" in the Middle East for 2013-2014.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Maroun Chedid** is dubbed 'The Jeweler of Gastronomy' and plays an active role in developing and spreading Lebanese Mediterranean gastronomy throughout the world. Awarded in 2013 the prestigious title of 'Chef de l'Année à l'International' by the Toques Blanches du Monde, Maroun's cuisine recognizes the authenticity of Lebanese food and its traditions. Maroun is also the founder of Maroun Chedid S.A.L., a company that offers culinary consulting services and specialty catering locally and internationally.

**Marta Inés Pizzanelli** has been the Ambassador of Uruguay to Lebanon and Cyprus, since 2013. She is the Former Regional Director for Asia, Africa and Oceania. She worked as the Director of Integration and Mercosur from 2002 till 2004 and as the Director of bilateral economic relations between 1993 and 1995. She occupied the position of Consulate General of Uruguay in Hong Kong and Macao between 1986 and 1991.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Michael Rizk** is Head of Trade Relations at ALCC and former President. He organized the first Australian product exhibition in Lebanon in 1997, as well as trade events in Lebanon and Sydney. In the 1970s, he took part in trade and tourism activity in Lebanon and the region. In 1983, he established the first Lebanese Arabic Cultural venue "Maktaba" in Sydney. Mr Rizk promoted the role that Lebanon –a small country – can play regardless of tough circumstances. He strongly believes in Lebanon's will to survive and produced a documentary in 1989 titled "Watan La Yamout".

**Michelle Tager** has worked in the international environment, for more than 20 years. She is currently a consultant for USAid, World Bank, and other NGOs. Michelle is the founder and president of Alefb multicultural center, and an active member and Corporate Secretary on the board of the French American Cultural Society (FACS), in San Francisco. Michelle wrote a children's book to raise funds for SEAL (Social and Economic Action for Lebanon), a New York based non-profit organization. Michelle holds a Master degree in Law from Université de Paris II in France, a Mediation diploma from UC Berkeley, and a Leadership certificate in the field of teaching foreign languages.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Mirtha Cristina Rippes Aller** is the Trade Executive Officer for the Caribbean region, Central America and Eastern Europe, and Head of the Investment Promotion Group at the Chamber of Commerce. She graduated from University of Havana with an MBA in Russian Language and Literature. She holds a Diploma in Foreign Trade. She organized and led trade missions to the Caribbean countries. She has also attended international events on investments and presented the projects portfolio and Cuban legal frame for investments.

**Mohamed Alem** is the founder and senior partner of Alem & Associates, a leading Beirut based regional law firm with offices in Riyadh and Dubai. Mohamed is one of the highly reputable lawyers in the Middle East on account of his practice where he focuses on banking and finance, energy, and complex commercial cross-border transactions. Mohamed also works with Governments and regulators on shaping the legal infrastructure necessary to improve the business environment. He is currently acting as Secretary General of the Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies, and is chairing the Lebanese Branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. He holds an LLB, an LLM, as well as an Executive MBA.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Mona Nemer** is vice-President, Research at the University of Ottawa since 2006, Dr. Nemer holds a PHD in bio-organic chemistry from Mc Gill University. She is a prominent academic figure in the fields of medicine, as she focused her research on the molecular mechanisms of heart development and function. Also known for her story commitment towards the education of future generations, and her contributions to community services, her numerous scientific achievements to date have brought her international recognition and a large number of national and international awards, distinctions and honors.

**Dr. Moise Khayrallah** is a serial entrepreneur in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry. In addition to holding executive and R&D positions in diverse pharmaceutical environments, he has founded and exited multiple companies focused on neurology diseases. He holds a Ph.D. degree in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 2014, he endowed the Moise A. Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies at NC State University and is board member for several non-profit organizations in NC and Lebanon.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Sayyed Nabil Abbas** is the representative of AyatuAllah al- Khoei in Montreal Canada. Abbas' family is a descendant of the honorable Sayyed Al- Sadr family. He has a Master's Degree from University Al-Muntazer Pakistan. He specialized in Theology in Lebanon between 1980 and 1988. He holds a Diploma in Theology from University Al-Najaf Iraq and taught at the Lebanese Islamic Centre between 1980 and 1990.

**Nelia Hyndman-Rizk** is a Lecturer in Cross-Cultural Management in the School of Business, Canberra, Australia. She is an Anthropologist by training and her research interests include the economic and social dimensions of Lebanese emigration (skilled/unskilled-voluntary/forced). Other research interests include gender and citizenship in Lebanon, migration, multiculturalism, diversity management in organizations, and comparative ethnic entrepreneurship. Her family first emigrated from Hadchit, North Lebanon to the USA in the 1890s and she migrated with her parents from the USA to Australia in 1972. This is her fourth visit to Lebanon.



## Panelists' Biographies

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**Norman Nahas** is a Professional Engineer in Canada who manages his family owned land development business, as well as their chain of quick service restaurants, King of Donair. He is currently serving his fourth consecutive term as President of the Lebanese Chamber of Commerce in Nova Scotia, which is the voice of the Lebanese business community. After being inspired by the vision of the Diaspora Village at the last LDE, he took on the role of Chairman of the Canadian committee responsible for the development of the Lebanese-Canadian House in Batroun.

**Patricio Ghaleb** has an Agricultural Engineering degree from the University of Chile 1973. With over 40 years of professional practical experience, he worked on implementing the successful Chilean model of development and export of a wide variety of agribusiness products. At Fundacion Chile, Patricio played the lead role in the creation of 12 new companies in the Agroindustry area, the majority of which are now important players in Chile's agribusiness export industry. In 1998 he was the General Manager of his own company "Mada Investment & Consulting Co." in Chile. He is the President of the Chilean Lebanese Chamber of Commerce since 2009.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Paul Tabar** is a professor of sociology/anthropology at LAU Beirut. Acting Chair of Department of Humanities and the Acting Associate Chair of Department of Social Sciences in Beirut Director of LAU's Institute for Migration Studies. Adjunct fellow at the Centre for Culture and Society, University of Western Sydney. Author of "Political Remittances": the case of Lebanese expatriates voting in national elections". He is also a co-author of "Being Lebanese in Australia: Identity, racism and the ethnic field" and "Bin Laden in the Suburbs: Criminilising the Arab Other".

**Philippe Roy** is the mayor of Town of Mount Royal, a municipality that is located on Montreal Island. A lawyer and the holder of a bachelors of law (Université de Montréal) and a degree in public relations management (McGill University), he began his career as a parliamentary assistant at the Parliament of Canada before working in communications and media relations. Since 2008, he has also been the vice-president of Ryan Affaires publiques, a government relations and strategic communications agency that is highly regarded in Quebec.



## Panelists' Biographies

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**Philippe 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 13th on the list nationally, and number one in Nevada. He has been featured on primetime on MSNBC, CNBC, CNN, CNN Headlines, Fox Business Network and Discovery Channel.

**Pierre El Khoury** is the General Director and President of the Board of the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC). He is an Advisor to the Lebanese Minister of Energy and Water on sustainable energy, and advisor to the UN ESCWA. El Khoury is the Co-Secretary of the World Energy Council (WEC) Lebanon Committee. He is also the Board of Trustees member representing Lebanon in the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE). El Khoury holds a Bachelor degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master degree in Engineering Management, both from AUB. He is a member of the Order of Engineers and Architects in Beirut.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Ramzi Omeys** has a Master's Degree in Management from The University of Paris Panthoén (Sorbonne – France). He worked in New York's stock market selling coffee and cocoa. He worked as a management supervisor in GIB and SOTACI both located in the Ivory Coast. He then ascended to the position of president of SOTICI in 1991.

**Raymond "Rony" Arajji** is a Lebanese politician, lawyer and government minister. He received a bachelor's degree in Law from the Saint Joseph University (USJ), Beirut, Lebanon in 1988 and a post graduate studies diploma in private law in 1989 from the same university. In 1990, he joined the Beirut Bar Association as a lawyer, and then continued to practice his legal profession at his private office. He is a founding member of the Marada Movement and previously a consultant to Suleiman Tony Frangieh. He was foreign relations coordinator for the Marada Movement political bureau. On 15 February 2014, he was named as the Minister of Culture in Lebanon in the cabinet of Lebanese Prime Minister Tammam Salam. He is married to Wadad Abdullah and has two daughters.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Ron Senkowski** is visiting Lebanon for the 45th time within the past 4 years. He and Samira Al Kawas have formed Symply Entertainment, with offices in Beirut and Los Angeles. Currently, they are producing the film "Ports of Call" based on the novel by Amin Maalouf. Next up is "Leo the African". Senkowski was also the producer of "Kahlil Gibran's The Prophet". Senkowski has worked for most of the Hollywood Studios and written screenplays for Adam Sandler, Michael Mann, Barry Levinson and Quentin Tarantino, amongst others. Symply Entertainment is currently preparing a film that will tell the stories of Lebanese Families around the world as they celebrate Mother's Day in their own unique ways.

**Rouaida Hobeika** is a Lebanese who also is a Turkish citizen of late. She has completed a Political and Administrative Sciences Degree with a focus on the Sociology of Organizations. Her 27 year professional career started in Los Angeles and continued in Istanbul where she worked with many illustrious international household names such as LVMH-Louis Vuitton, Prada Group, Armani Group, Gucci, Hublot and Loro Piana to name a few in such capacities as Country Manager, COO and CEO. Finally Rouaida founded ShaRa SBS&C to be able to share the vast accumulation of experience, know-how and network with its clients.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Roula Jouny** founded Meeting Point in the year of 2009 and holds the position of the chairperson of the board of directors. Furthermore, Roula Jouny enforces Meeting Point's global expansion as CEO, most recently adding Meeting Point Cuba, Mexico and Dominicana and Cyprus to the portfolio. Prior to founding Meeting Point, Roula Jouny was leading Travco Travel Dubai for more than six years and worked as a Marketing Manager at Sabre in Lebanon and Bahrain.

**Samir Kanaan** founded Kanaan Advocates & Legal Consultants in 1976 which is one of the longest practicing law firms in the UAE. Samir Kanaan is, to this day, actively involved in the firm. Indeed many of our attorneys witnessed the UAE's transformation and are longtime participants in the UAE's changing legal landscape.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Simone Mattar** graduated from FAAP (School of Plastic Arts) with emphasis in Industrial and Graphic Design. Specialized in gastronomy, she began to combine her expertise into trans-disciplinary proposals. She has a background of consultation in the field of food branding by performing projects for important restaurants. In parallel, she devoted herself to research and important projects. Nowadays, she is dedicated exclusively to gastro-performances and works related to this form of expression.

**Toufic Sleiman, MD**, has graduated from UMC in 1980, specialized in ophthalmology. He was a Doctor Auxiliary in the Strabismus Department of Ophthalmology until 2005. Formerly, he was head of the Hospital Matarazzo's ophthalmology clinic, member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, Member of the Ophthalmology Brazilian Council, Medical specialist in Traffic Medicine where he serves as the Director of Culture at ABRAMET (Brazilian Association of Traffic Medicine), and Former President of the Traffic Medicine Scientific Department at APM (Associação Paulista de Medicina). Currently he exclusively works at his private clinic.

## Panelists' Biographies

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**Dr. Wajih Saad** is the Superintendent of the Lebanese School of Qatar, for the last five years and was the Associate Superintendent at the Dearborn Public Schools, Dearborn, Michigan. He started his teaching career at the school of Mashgara until 1973 before leaving to USA. Dr. Wageh Saad holds a Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership and Instruction from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Detroit, MI and Law License from the Lebanese University – College of Law.

**Walid Sfeir** was the Development Director of Fattal Holding in the MENA region, prior to co-founding Valquest. His 20 years of professional experience combines strategic consulting expertise along with a wide senior operational experience. Prior to Fattal Holding, Walid was an Engagement Manager with McKinsey & Company in France and South America. He started his career as head of a manufacturing unit for Valeo in Argentina. Walid is an industrial engineer graduate of the UTC (France) and holds a BA in Business Administration from ESSEC (France) and an MBA from INSEAD.

## About LDE

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As part of its roadmap aspiring to further strengthen the ties between Lebanese residents and emigrants around the globe, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants presents, for the third consecutive year, the “Lebanese Diaspora Energy” in its 2016 edition (LDE 2016).

Held under the High Patronage of H.E. Minister Gebran Bassil, this unique event has become an annual ritual celebrating the success stories of eminent figures of Lebanese origins in all fields. This year’s event will take place from May 5 till 7, 2016.

### Objectives

The Lebanese Diaspora Energy (LDE) seeks to showcase the success stories of select Lebanese residents and expatriates, and motivate them to stay connected, while celebrating the Lebanese heritage and promoting the positive image of Lebanon around the world.

LDE represents a one-of-a-kind occasion for Lebanese emigrants to return to their roots and develop a valuable cultural and social connection with their homeland.

The event also enables influential Lebanese residents to meet thousands of leading Lebanese key players and decision-makers from the Diaspora, and share investment opportunities in Lebanon and abroad, as well as ideas for a better management of Lebanon’s assets.

## About LDE

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Moreover, attendants benefit from a chance to network with peers in similar sectors worldwide, which allows for establishing lobbying initiatives and taking part in the foreign policy-making regarding the Diaspora.

### Mission

#### **Celebrating the Diaspora**

LDE seeks to celebrate the success stories of select Lebanese expatriates, and motivate them to stay connected. The event's conference will tackle issues concerning the Lebanese Diaspora and the establishment of effective means to maintain a close connection to their homeland. It is a gateway to return to their roots, which mostly marked the beginning of their journey to success.

#### **Promoting the Lebanese Heritage**

LDE is keen to highlight Lebanon's cultural spark around the world through the different fields. It aims to promote Lebanon's special imprint in the evolution of human civilizations throughout history, while working towards maintaining the special Lebanese essence among nations, which blends the nobility of heritage and the glamour of modernity.

## About LDE

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#### **Establishing Connections**

LDE constitutes a tie of interest alongside its emotional aspect. It is a chance to share experiences, enhance relations, and establish business and social connections. The event seeks to form a network of successful people of Lebanese origins worldwide, in order to spread and diversify their domains of action on the individual, national, and international levels. LDE 2016 will feature a special B2B online platform where people can meet bilaterally or in groups to share experiences and discuss opportunities.

#### **Exploring New Possibilities**

LDE is a patriotic initiative designed to support Lebanon. One of its objectives is to enact a more active diplomacy by revitalizing diplomatic efforts to enhance Lebanon's economy, while safeguarding our nationality, identity, and culture. Together, Lebanese residents and expatriates can restore the world's trust in the economy of Lebanon. On a more practical level, various on-ground projects have been promoted by the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants (Lebanon Connect, Learn Arabic, Diaspora House, Diaspora Museum, Lebanese School, among others), in order to implement a strong sense of belonging to Lebanon.

## Useful Information

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<b>LDE Hotline</b>	<b>79 172 429</b>
<b>Hotel Number</b>	<b>01 500 666</b>
<b>Logistics</b>	<b>03 961 159</b>
<b>Protocol</b>	<b>03 780 560</b>
<b>Organizer</b>	<b>04 932 081</b>
<b>Media</b>	<b>71 636 628</b>
<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>

## Useful Information

### Online Networking Platform

LDE constitutes a tie of interest alongside its emotional aspect. It is a chance to share experiences, enhance relations, and establish business and social connections.

LDE 2016 will feature a special Online Networking Platform where interested attendees will be able to schedule meetings with their peers to share experiences and discuss opportunities.

Using the Online Networking Platform on our website [www.lde-leb.com](http://www.lde-leb.com), Individuals will be able to request meetings from other available attendees at their convenient time and place.

We are happy to provide a limited number of meeting rooms for our guests during the conference on the 4th, 5th and 6th of May 2016 from 8 AM to 6 PM at Hilton Beirut Habtoor Grand.

Please note that due to the extraordinary high demand for meeting rooms during the conference, slots have to be booked in advance using the Online Networking Platform and are generally restricted to 25 minutes per session.

### Access Information

#### Badges / Security

The organizer and the local security authorities will do everything to ensure your security.

In the main entrance the security check will be through body scanners. We kindly ask you to wear your badge visible at all

## Useful Information

times. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the staff at the Information Desk at the Dome Entrance of Emirates Hall at Hotel Hilton Habtoor Grand.

All Badges are colour coded and Display the name and Country of Residence of the Holder. Colour of Lanyards and Badges Represent the following:

	Lanyards	Badge
Diaspora	Blue	Blue
Guests	Blue	Green
Local	Yellow	Red
Exhibitors	Yellow	Orange
Press	Red	Red

### Food & Beverages

#### COFFEE

LDE will host a number of official coffee breaks in between panel sessions. Coffee & Pastries will be served in the foyer area of Emirates Hall on both days. On the second day, coffee and pastries will be also served in Dubai Hall foyer area.

#### LUNCH

There will be two lunches during LDE Conference On Thursday, May 5th, 2016 and Friday, May 6th, 2016. Both will be held at DUBAI Hall at the Metropolitan Hotel featuring an international Buffet Style menu.

## Useful Information

### Side Events

Official Gala Dinner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants  
Featuring Lebanese Wineries Night

**Thursday, May 5th, 2016**

Biel, Pavillon Royal  
Restricted to Invitees only (Passes are required)

“Celebrating Lebanon Around the World” Performed by Caracalla  
Dance Theater

**Friday, May 6th, 2016**

Casino Du Liban  
Restricted to Invitees only (Passes are required)

Official Opening of the Lebanese-Russian Diaspora House

**Saturday, May 7th, 2016**

Batroun  
Open to All Participants

“The Art of Lebanese Cuisine” - A lunch Hosted by  
Minister Gebran Bassil

**Saturday, May 7th, 2016**

Batrouniyat, Batroun

## Useful Information

### Transportation Information

Transportation by bus will be provided to and from the side events. If you have not requested transportation during your online registration, please contact the staff at the information desk to reserve your places.

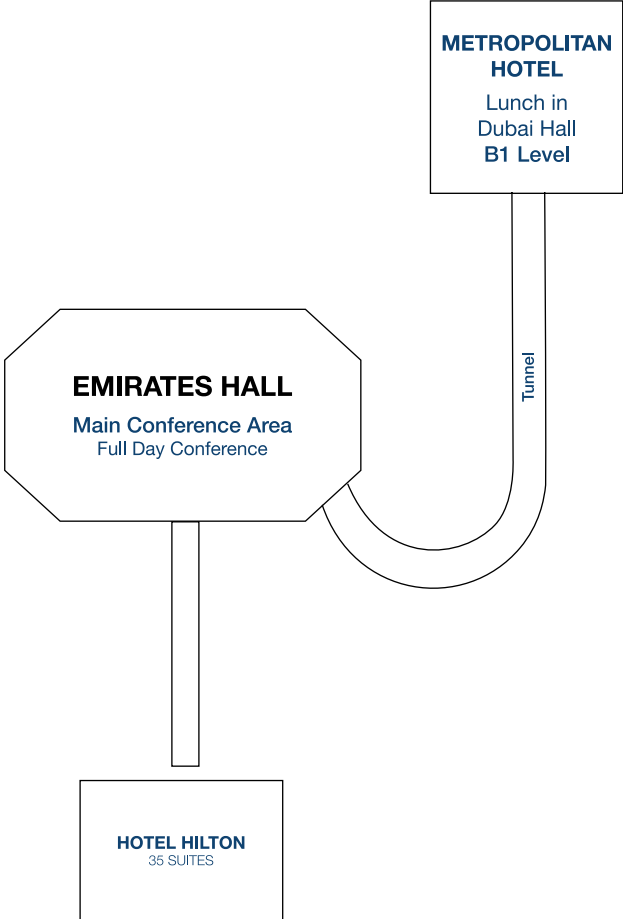
### Schedule

Date	Time	From	Destination
5, May 2016	19:30	Hilton Beirut Habtoor Grand	MOFA Official Dinner at Pavillon Royal Biel Beirut
6, May 2016	19:30	Hilton Beirut Habtoor Grand	Spectacle by Caracalla Dance Theater at Casino Du Liban
7, May 2016	10:00	Hilton Beirut Habtoor Grand	Opening of The Russian Diaspora House followed by Lunch Hosted by H.E. Minister Gebran Bassil at Batrouniyat



# Useful Information

## Venue Information DAY 1



# Useful Information

## DAY 2

### Conference Venue A

Session 1:  
Russian-Lebanese Cooperation:  
Windows of Opportunities.

Session 2:  
Exploring Iran with a Lebanese  
Perspective.

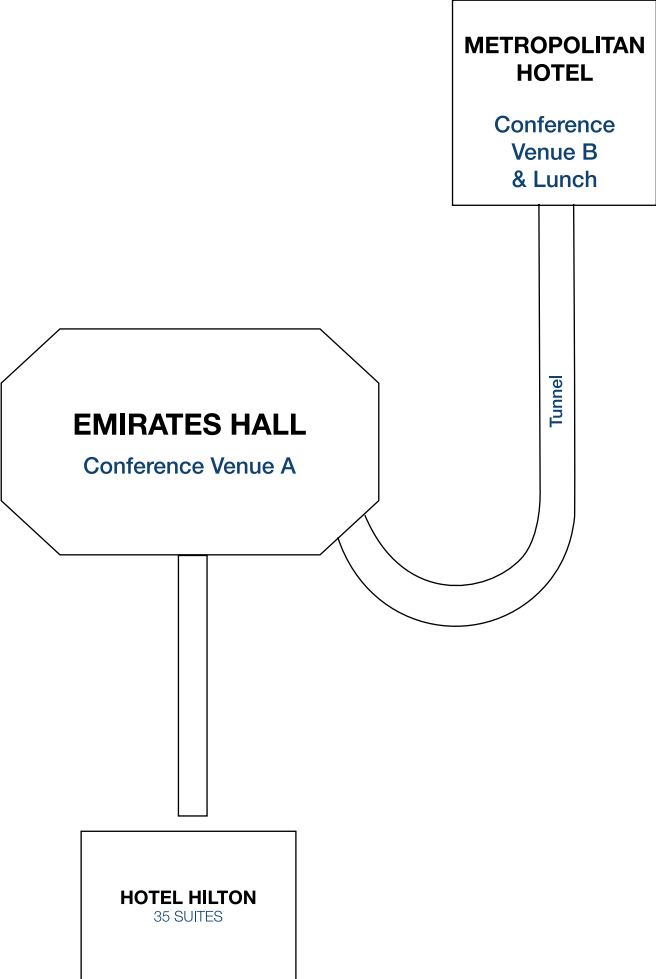
Session 3:  
Promising Horizons in Africa.

### Conference Venue B

Session 1: (Dubai Hall - B1)  
Latin America: Land of  
Opportunities.

Session 2: (Dubai Hall - B1)  
Embracing Iran with a Lebanese  
Perspective.

Session 3: (Noura Hall)  
Lebanese Initiatives and  
Successes in the Gulf States.



## Exhibition

### Painting Exhibition to Commemorate the Lebanese Aboard the Titanic

The RMS Titanic is the most remembered non-war disaster of the twentieth century. The scope of the disaster was tragic in terms of lost lives. Men, women, and children from a diverse group of nationalities perished on that ill-fated day in April 1912. The ship's engineering, construction, passengers, and sinking continues to draw interest among international scholars and the public.

One hundred and twenty-five Lebanese were among the various nationalities aboard the Titanic. They were emigrants who were either returning from a trip home or voyaging to America for the first time. Those who perished took their stories with them, and those who survived recorded their experiences. Much about the Lebanese aboard the Titanic remains unknown, however, especially the full list of names and places of birth.

To commemorate these Lebanese, an International Lebanese Titanic Committee (ILTC) was established in 2012 to a) collect as much information as possible on them and their descendants; b) correct their names without the Anglicization or phonetic approximation that shrouded their true identity for a century; c) ascertain their "Lebaneseness."

## Exhibition

The May 2016 painting exhibition at the Lebanese Diaspora Energy 2016 aims at paying tribute to the brave Lebanese whose courage, hardship, resilience, and determination continue to echo in the current migration from Lebanon.

Dr. Nick Kahwaji of British Columbia, Canada; Dr. Guita Hourani of Lebanon; and Artist Bernard Renno are behind this exhibition, which includes paintings by:

Bernard Renno, Hussein Joumaa, Hayat Haddad, Rosy Krikorian Hankach, Nathalie Jbeily, Rima Kibbe, Jean Zammar, Ghazi Riman, Ghinwa Radwan, Marie Khoury, Lucie Torkomian, Rita Daccache, Mountaha Chouity Saikali, Adlette Tarraf, Lolita Haroun Abou Samah, Malak Matta, Simone Boulos, Mary Haddad, Sylvie Alam, Joseph Ghanem, Akram Bouassi, Lea Waked, Nicolas Skaf, Colette Haddad, Nabil Radwan, Pascale Tarraf, and Amin Nehme, Joumana Bou Mattar, Abd Alrahman Almouhamad.

The ILTC is grateful to all those who have contributed to the realization of this event.

## Exhibition Area

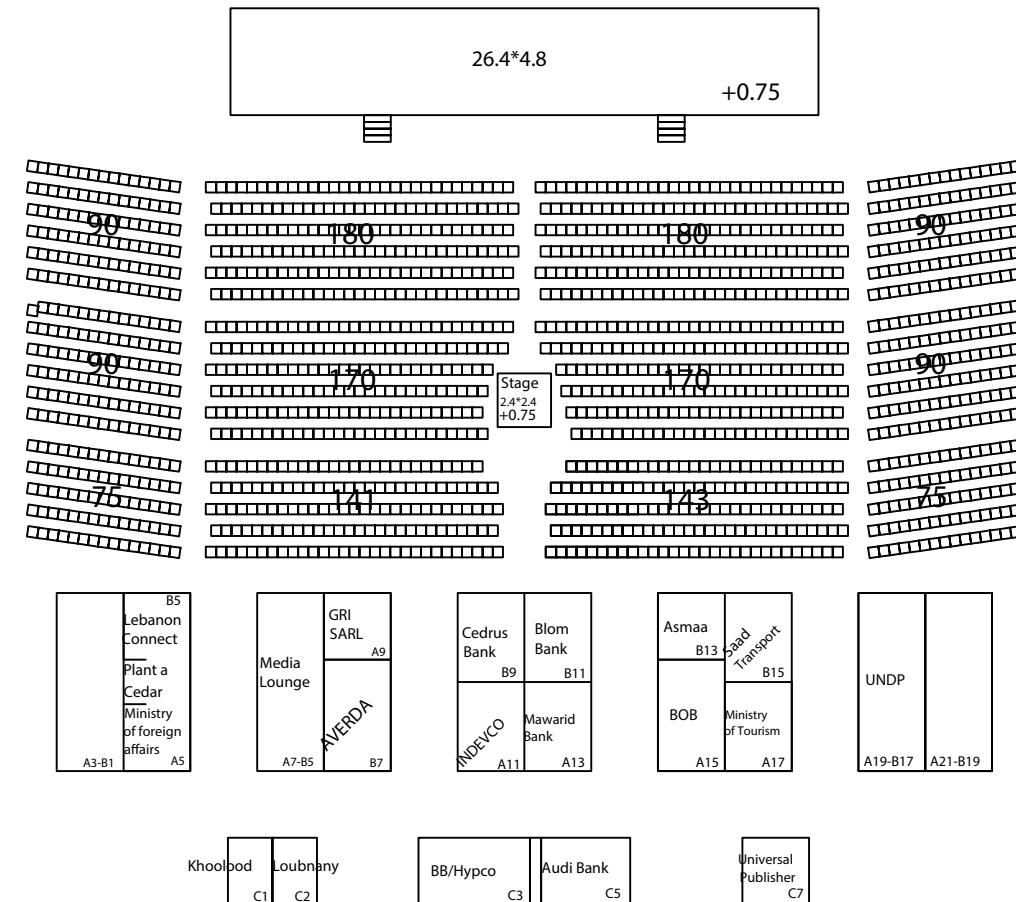
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Lounge: Visit the MOFA lounge to get information and benefit from all projects of the Ministry. Don't miss this chance to get acquainted with the Nationality Law and its procedures, to check the Diaspora Houses and Museum status, to download Lebanon Connect app and see the features, and get your Diaspora Cedar planted in the Diaspora Cedar Land!

### Media Lounge:

For the media, don't miss the chance to go to the media lounge where you can meet, interview and discuss horizons with participants.

For Participants, this is your chance to meet the media, tell your success story, launch your projects and get the highlight in your country!

## Exhibition Area





This is what we do.

## Distributing Energy Worldwide

BB Energy is among the world's leading independent energy trading companies. After decades of trading, we have an unrivalled depth of knowledge in the countries where we operate. This, combined with our logistics expertise and commitment to Middle Eastern values, allows us to meet our clients' needs with reliable and innovative solutions.





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## WHERE WE ARE NOW

- |    |         |    |              |
|----|---------|----|--------------|
| 01 | LEBANON | 07 | MOROCCO      |
| 02 | JORDAN  | 08 | ANGOLA       |
| 03 | IAF     | 09 | GABON        |
| 04 | KSA     | 10 | CONGO        |
| 05 | OMAN    | 11 | SOUTH AFRICA |
| 06 | QATAR   | 12 | UK           |
|    |         | 13 | IRELAND      |

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## Exhibitors List

Lebanon Connect  
Plant a Cedar  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Media Lounge  
GRI SARL  
Averda  
Cedrus Bank  
Blom Bank  
Indevco  
Al Mawarid Bank  
Asmaa  
Saad Transport  
BOB  
Ministry of Tourism  
UNDP  
Khoolood  
Loubnany  
Bank Audi  
Hypco/ BB Energy  
Universal Publisher



## Acknowledgments



## HILTON BEIRUT FACILITIES



### EAT & DRINK



#### OAK LOUNGE

Step into the sophisticated atmosphere of the lobby lounge. Delight in a menu of fresh coffee, drinks, light meals and delicacies from around the world.

#### SHISHA

Our outdoor lobby lounge offers your favorite "shisha".

### SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

From-to Hilton Beirut Hotels, ease into your seat, catch up on your reading, make those important phone calls, or simply sit back and enjoy your lift till you reach your destination. Morning transfers: 9am - 11am. Afternoon transfers: 2pm - 6pm.



#### UP ON THE 31<sup>ST</sup>

Live it up at the highest bar in Lebanon with a wide choice of wines, cocktails and international light cuisine. Jazz night with sushi and open wine every Thursday night and live bands on weekends.

#### LE CIEL

Appreciate French cuisine and panoramic sights of the city, in intimate and upscale surroundings. Brunch every Sunday.

#### VENEZIA

Genuine Italian-style dishes and a lively atmosphere make this vibrant restaurant a friendly and welcoming venue to enjoy a meal with friends. Italian open buffet every Friday night and Seafood festival on Saturday nights.

#### AL DIYAFA

Prepare for the day ahead at Al Diyafa with a mouth-watering Hilton Breakfast. An extensive selection of freshly baked bread and croissants, fresh juices, coffee and eggs cooked to your preference.



#### TENNIS PLAYGROUND

Available 24/7 in partnership with Tennis Inc. at Hilton Metropolitan Palace.

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See more on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/HiltonBeirutHabtoorGrand) | [HiltonBeirutHabtoorGrand](https://www.facebook.com/HiltonBeirutHabtoorGrand) and [HiltonBeirutMetropolitanPalace](https://www.facebook.com/HiltonBeirutMetropolitanPalace)

### LEISURE FACILITIES

#### ELIXIR SPA

Pamper yourself with a rejuvenating spa treatment or work out in our state-of-the-art health and fitness center. Our three dedicated floors with 3,500m<sup>2</sup> of space feature the latest professional equipments, with personal trainers on hand to offer guidance and advice.

#### SWIMMING POOL

Take a refreshing dip in the outdoor swimming pool, open seasonally. Swim laps or relax in one of the lounge chairs while sipping fresh cocktails at the Pool Bar.



#### FOR YOUR COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE

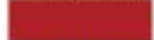
- Automated Teller (ATM)
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- Safety Deposit Box.





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