

Lebanese-Brazilian Businessman Mr. Mustapha Abdouni and Son Visit the Lebanon Migration Museum at NDU

Thursday 4th of November 2010, LERC NDU

Reported by Aurelia Eid

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center welcomed the Honorary Consul of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Mr. Mustapha Abdouni, to the Lebanon Migration Museum at NDU. He was accompanied by his son Mr. Munir Abdouni, who is an architect back in Lebanon for a project, and Mr. Roberto Khatlab LERC's Latin-American Liaison Officer.

Mr. Abdouni is a Brazilian businessman of Lebanese descent living in Sao Paulo, Brazil. In the 1950s, when just 16 years old, he started life as a peddler and after peddling for 10 years, he went on to own his business as a manufacturer of tissues and home textile, such as towels, blankets, and covers.

This year, Brazil commemorated more than 130 years of massive immigration into its territory. Of its 180 million inhabitants, about four million are the descendants of Lebanese who started coming in groups in 1880. It should be borne in mind, however, that there had been Arabs in Brazil ever since the 17th century.



Father and son seek out the ancestry: Mr. M. Abdouni (left) posing with his son with the historic photo in-between (Nov 2010).

Mr. Abdouni came to the museum specifically to see his own photo as an ambitious young man working as a peddler, taken in 1951. He knew of the picture from Mr. Khatlab as part of the Brazil collection. Such was the delight that both father and son posed for a photo before the timeless item.



Ms. G. Hourani presents LERC's publication *Our people* to Mr. M. Abdouni. (Nov. 2010).

Mr. Abdouni expressed his thanks to LERC for such a fine collection and stated his gratitude for the important work that the Center was undergoing. He promised to return for another tour.



The old with the new: (from left to right) Mrs. L. Haddad, Mr. Munir Abdouni, Mr. Mustapha Abdouni, Ms. G. Hourani, Mr. R. Khatlab Mr. E. Nabhan E. (Nov.2010).