

LERC's Latin American Liaison Officer Roberto Khatlab appointed Director of USEK Research Center

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Reported by LERC staff

Mr. Roberto Khatlab, the Latin American Liaison Officer at the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at NDU, was recently appointed the Director of the Centre des Etudes et des Cultures de l'Amérique Latine (The Study and Cultural Center of Latin America)-CECAL- at the Holy Spirit University at Kaslik, Lebanon.

Realizing that even though Latin America is a region that has absorbed most of successive waves of Lebanese emigration, the knowledge of its culture and economy remains inadequate. It is for this reason and others that USEK took it upon itself to found the CECAL.

The Center aims to disseminate and promote a deeper knowledge of Latin America in Lebanon by providing cultural and research information; to promote awareness between the two regions through conferences, seminars, roundtables and exhibitions; and to develop relations between those who have experienced emigration from the Mediterranean to across the Atlantic and vice-versa, especially those emigrants who have linked the Middle East with Latin America and who continue to do so.

A library concentrating on Latin American works, mainly in Spanish and Portuguese, but also in other languages, will be made available to those interested along with developing teaching facilities for the aforesaid languages.



Mr. R. Khatlab (left) at USEK with Rector P. Hady Mahfouz (June 2010).

In a brief interview with LERC, Mr. Khatlab stated that he will continue in his voluntary position at LERC and that the CECAL will cooperate with LERC and NDU particularly in everything related to migration and diaspora studies and issues.

LERC congratulates Mr. Khatlab for this appointment and wish him the best in his new endeavor.