

***LERC bids fond farewell to one of its own Ms. Basma Abdel Khalek***

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2010, Ksar Restaurant, Jbeil

Reported by Elie Nabhan

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center at NDU threw a lavish lunch at the Ksar restaurant in Jbeil, to send off former LERC Research Assistant/Project Manager and Office Coordinator, Ms. Basma Abdel Khalek, and to wish her well in her new job.

Over two and half years, Ms. Abdel Khalek single handedly reorganized LERC's administrative capabilities and overlooked the transfer of LERC offices to the new block. This included overseeing the move of LERC's Archives, the LERC library, the Lebanese Emigration Archive and Database, the Director's Office as well as the research and administrative departments.

During the course of her work she was of invaluable help to visiting researchers of all nationalities and was a hardworking researcher in her own right. Fluent in three languages and mastering her fourth, Ms. Abdel Khalek represented LERC at numerous diplomatic, social and academic events.



Ms. B. Abdel Khalek delighted with her certificate and farewell gifts she received from LERC (Oct 2010).

Nominated by LERC and the Lebanese Development Network, Ms. Abdel Khalek was chosen from hundreds of international applicants to participate in the IV CARIM Summer School on Euro-Mediterranean Migration and Development that was organized by the Robert Schuman Center for advances Studies (RSCAS) and the European University Institute (EUI), in Florence, Italy where she successfully completed her training with flying colors.

In her final year, Ms. Abdel Khalek took over the helm at LERC over the period between January and May 2010, when Director Guita Hourani was away completing her fellowship at Syracuse University in New York, USA.

Ms. Abdel Khalek represented LERC at a research conference at the American University in Cairo where she presented a paper entitled *The Global Financial Crisis: Impacts on the Lebanese Expatriates in the Gulf* authored by Ms. Guita Hourani, Basma Abdel Khalek and Suzanne Menhem.

Ms. Basma Abdel Khalek was interviewed on issues related to migration and LERC research on radio as well as TV on many occasions.

She will be joining the prestigious Bassil Fleihan Institute at the Ministry of Finance, an overriding ambition as finance was her keen interest and the subject of her undergraduate degree.



LERC bids farewell: (from left to right) Dr. D. Salameh, Ms. A. Eid, Dr. S. Karam, Ms. B. Abdel Khalek, Ms. G. Hourani, Mr. E. Nabhan, Mr. M. el Khoury, Mr. E. Sfeir, Mrs. L. Haddad, Dr. G. Abdelnour, Dr. E. Sensenig-Dabbous, Dr. R. Kazan (Oct 2010).

Basma was praised and appreciated by her superiors, peers, and subordinates. Although she will be missed, LERC and all those who have come in contact with her during her tenure at LERC/NDU whether from Lebanon or abroad wished her success in her new endeavor.

Those who attended to bid her farewell at the lunch included, LERC's Director Ms. Guita Hourani, NDU Professor and LERC Adjunct Research Associate Dr. Eugene Sensenig-Dabbous,

NDU Professor Dr. Doumit Salameh, LERC Research Associate Dr. Salwa Karam, LERC Consultants Dr. Rudy Kazan and Melkar el Khoury, CARE Director Dr. George Abdelnour, LERC Chief Indexer Mrs. Liliane Haddad, LERC Website Editor Mr. Elie Nabhan, LERC IT Specialist Mr. Elias Sfeir, and LERC Intern Ms. Aurelia Eid.