## LERC Attends the World Lebanese Cultural Union Youth Meeting, 2012

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Reported by Victoria B. Huerta, International Intern

Representatives of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center (LERC) attended the World Lebanese Cultural Union (WLCU) Youth Meeting 2012 at Hotel Le Royal Hotel in Dbayeh. By gathering Lebanese youths living abroad under one roof, the main objective of this meeting was to help foster communication and build stronger ties between the youths who are active in the various Lebanese communities where they live. All officers and members of WLCU currently present in Lebanon were invited to attend the opening ceremony.



Crystal Room at Le Royal Hotel Dbayeh, Lebanon (July 2012).

Mr. Michel Doueihi, WLCU World president, and Mr. Toni Kaddissi, World Secretary-General, chaired the event. Also present were Mr. Bechara Hakme (from Mexico) and Mr. Fady Bou Dagher, Chairman of the International Festival of the Lebanese Emigrants' Committee.

The presentation of participants opened the meeting. Twenty five young Lebanese and Lebanese descendants from around the globe discussed their various roles in their respective WLCU chapters.

In attendance were Munir Nellmeldin and Juan Jose Azar from Argentina; Catalina Saab and Andrea Helo from Colombia; Anthony Houayek from New York, USA; Tarek Yazbeck from the United Kingdom; Mireille Nader from Ecuador; Patricia and Sarah Geagea from Sweden; Rachelle El Zein Julian Fares, and Mansour Sukkar from Australia and New Zealand; Raya Josiane, Laila and Maira Rosetti from Brazil; and Elias Massoud from Los Angeles.

Afterwards, the global agenda for 2012 and 2013 was discussed, and ideas were exchanged amid an atmosphere of creativity and cooperation. The result was the establishment of a committee to organize the next WLCU 2013 Youth Meeting in Lebanon.



World Cultural Lebanese Union Youth Meeting, (July 2012)

The meeting ended successfully creating a benchmark for future endeavors in bringing together young Lebanese from the diaspora.