

LERC participates in launching ceremony of Live Lebanon Project

Thursday 12th November 2009, Downtown Beirut

Reported by LERC Staff



A launching ceremony for the “Live Lebanon” Project was held at the Dome old cinema organized by the United Nations Development Program and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants/General Directorate of Emigrants.

A large number of ambassadors, Lebanese expatriates’ delegations, NGO representatives and media representatives attended the event. Keynote speakers were Ms. Marta Ruedas, UNDP’s Resident Representative, Mr. Haytham Jomaa, the General Director of the General Directorate of Emigrants, Mr. Amine Moukarzel, President of Golden Tulip Hotels, and Mrs. Randa Bdeir, head of electronic banking and credit cards in Bank Audi.

The speeches revolved around the significance of the project and the way in which the role of Lebanese expatriates in the old homeland might be stimulated, by organizing Lebanese emigrants to support local development in the poorer more deprived areas of Lebanon.

Moreover, Mr. Raghed Assi, UNDP’s Poverty and Social Development Program Manager, briefed the audience on the website’s structure and goals of encouraging emigrants to donate online to the various development and community projects throughout the country.

The project’s website also allows for donors to donate towards the development of specific districts or villages and to follow-up on important updates.

The project aims to bring together civil society, local and foreign authorities, the Lebanese emigrants and the private sector. There is confidence that soon enough, taking into account the Lebanese tradition of generosity and support, LIVE LEBANON will evolve into a broad network in support of Lebanon.

The Lebanese Emigration and Research Center at Notre Dame University has provided important data and materials in support of the project and attended the launching.