

## **Recommendations of the LDE 2017 for North America, Las Vegas, Nevada**

### **Panel 1: Energy Sector Opportunities for Partnership in Lebanon**

#### **Sub-panel 1: Oil and gas**

- 1- Keeping Lebanon on the right track for attracting and protecting investments in the field of oil and gas. The very recent parliament's approval of the oil tax law will encourage oil firms to bid for offshore gas blocks on Oct. 12, 2017.
- 2- Preserving the harmonious unity government that Lebanon is currently enjoying and the environment of stability as well as the existing skilled workforce to bring the foreign companies into the emerging Lebanese market of oil and gas.
- 3- International corporations are called to take advantages of the current decrease in oil and gas prices to promote the infrastructure building for future explorations in the oil and gas industry when the demand will surge.
- 4- The Lebanese government will have to address in collaboration with skilled US counterparts the challenges that Lebanon still faces and engage universities in a nationwide educational system oriented towards harnessing this field into building a sustainable economic system.

#### **Sub-panel 2: Renewable Energy**

- 1- The Lebanese Government through the Ministry of Energy and Water has to pursue the process of building its second strategy of bringing the energy consumption in Lebanon from renewable sources to far more than 12% by 2030.
- 2- Lebanese Diaspora shall facilitate and encourage the renowned and leading companies in this domain to invest in Lebanon where talents and brains are ready to joint efforts in this booming sector.
- 3- Through Public Private Partnership (PPP) Lebanon is set to aim high towards ensuring a stable medium for the international companies to explore the Lebanese market. The Central Bank's (BDL) initiatives to boost and support the renewable energy sector is a proof to the commitment of Lebanon's endeavors in developing this field.

- 4- Engaging the influential Diaspora in convincing companies to invest more in Lebanon following the steps of Tesla that has funded recently the implementation of a Laboratory in the Holy University of Kaslik.
- 5- Investing and drawing funds to invest in infrastructure for the purpose of technology support which encourages the Lebanese wealth of talent among the Diaspora to seek mutual benefits in Lebanon.

### **Panel 2: Knowledge Economy**

- 1- The links between the Diaspora and their Lebanese fellows in Lebanon should be strengthened through education by enrolling students of Lebanese origin into the Lebanese system of education; a possibility to follow an America curriculum in the cultural background of the Lebanese homeland.
- 2- Revamping the Lebanese curriculum by taking into account that the 21<sup>st</sup> century belongs to innovative and creative people; such a step will contribute to a reliable workforce and helps development the capacities of both the public and private sectors.
- 3- Encouraging the leading Diaspora figures to engage the Lebanese students and entrepreneurs in innovative projects to help building capacities and put Lebanon on the track of the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution.
- 4- Taking advantage of the Lebanese Diaspora to reflect on the new trend of technological developments while not leaving behind the traditional sector that sustains the economy.

### **Panel 3: Diaspora Institutions**

- 1- Providing assistance to Lebanon through increasing the role of the Lebanese diaspora caucus from one side and ensuring a responsive collaboration with such institutions form the other side.
- 2- Relying on the economic diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants to extend the Lebanese market by reaching every Lebanese community abroad.

- 3- Building joint international ventures between Lebanese industrialists and their diaspora counterparts to share expertise and expand aspects of collaboration.
- 4- Supporting Lebanon by making use of its rich Diaspora starting from the Silicon Valley. Building a network of involved prominent Lebanese figures in the technological domain, nurturing the network and ensuring its continuity and eventually let it contribute with Lebanon to put him on the High Tech revolution map.

#### **Panel 4: Entertainment**

- 1- Increasing the role of the state in promoting the Lebanese cinema production industry.
- 2- Create new opportunities for artists to express their talents and bring to the world the wealth of the Lebanese culture and arts.
- 3- Lebanon shall create a film commission to align with the international norms of this domain where every film producer or director knocks the door to outreach to this sector in foreign countries.
- 4- Bringing more attention to this field in Lebanon and grant brilliant Lebanese students facilities to obtain scholarships abroad by finding them programs in alliance with diaspora institutions abroad.
- 5- Building a Lebanese council to help promote the art and culture field in Lebanon by lobbying laws and regulations in the Lebanese legislative institutions.

#### **Panel 5: Banking and Financial products and partnership opportunities in Lebanon, the US and Canada.**

1. Lebanon should continue to provide financial facilities to create a fertile business environment.
2. The Lebanese diaspora is welcomed to join efforts with their Lebanese counterparts to provide foreign market access to boost economic growth.
3. The Lebanese government shall place the economic growth on the top of the reforms agenda and establish a ministerial committee to reach this end.

4. Reforming the banking system in Lebanon to give opportunity for start up businesses.
5. Engage the diaspora by building the infrastructure in Lebanon and removing the obstacles that hinder the diaspora from investing in Lebanon.

#### **Panel 6: Lebanity: Reacquiring the Lebanese Nationality.**

1. Initiate lobbying activity in Lebanon to improve the citizenship law as highlighted by H.H Minister Bassil for the sole purpose of reaching out further to the emigrants from Lebanese origin.
2. Targeting the young generation by nurturing their patriotism and drawing their attention to the boundless opportunities that Lebanon can offer to them by enforcing the “Lebanity Project”.
3. Aiming to connect Lebanon to the United States of America by reaching agreements on establishing direct flights between both countries.
4. Taking the initiative to bring the diaspora institutions together to achieve the common goal of reacquiring the nationality and engage the diaspora on all aspects of the Lebanese life.
5. Targeting Lebanese emigrants that have no families in Lebanon by hosting them in Lebanon and teaching them about their cultural heritage and giving them courses in Arabic language-Lebanese dialect.
6. Engaging the Lebanese diplomacy to promote an effective door to door campaign for reacquiring the Lebanese citizenship.