



Marhaba



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Business Meeting

Dr. Sami Karaki: “Renewable Energy in Lebanon”

01 September 2009

RCBC had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Sami Karaki, professor at the American University of Beirut (AUB), to present to the club a very interesting topic entitled “Renewable Energy in Lebanon.”



By definition, renewable energy is the energy obtained from natural resources that continuously flows in the environment. It is also called green or sustainable energy. While non-renewable energy, which is also called finite supplies or brown energy, is obtained from finite resources and released by human interactions. Efficient use of energy demands that energy supply be matched to the end-use & that proper type of energy is used for the right

purpose. “*Energy management is vital to improve efficiency as no energy supply is free and renewable energy is expensive. Efficiency with finite fuel sources reduces pollution and with renewable energy reduces capital cost,*” said Dr. Karaki. He added “Looking for alternatives of burning fossil fuels, due to their adverse environmental effects, is essential.

One of the fastest growing renewable energy technologies is the solar or photovoltaic cell. Its increase in demand has been driven by its modular character, standalone and grid-linked opportunities, reliability, ease of use, lack of noise and emissions, and lower cost per unit of energy produced. At the same time, the photovoltaic cells have 10-22% efficient operation in ordinary sunshine.

Another resource to extract energy from is the wind. Wind energy is available everywhere on earth and the wind turbines which are the tools for the energy transformation are undergoing high technological developments to enhance their performance and serve the purpose. According to his studies, the best locations for wind generation in Lebanon are Marjayoun, Ksara and Akkar, based on energy generation and capacity factor.



Farewell to a Dedicated Rotarian!

An active member of Rotary, Rotarian Andrew Walton, attended his last meeting on September 1st before heading back to his home country upon completing his assignment in Lebanon. He gave his “farewell address” reviewing his experiences and encouraging the club to keep its outstanding work. You can get in contact with him at andykathywalton@aol.com

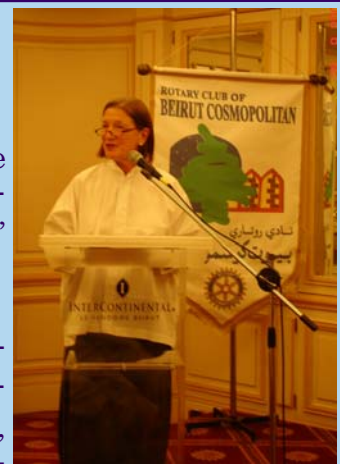


Business Meeting

Dr. Cynthia Myntti : “Neighborhood Initiative Project” 29 September 2009

Dr. Cynthia Myntti, Director of the Neighborhood Initiative at the Office of the AUB President, was invited to address RCBC members & shed some light on “the Neighborhood Initiative Project” and the purpose of its initiation.

The project was launched in October 2007 to encourage AUB faculty, staff and students to reach out, to share their energy, creativity, and skills with the people and places surrounding the campus, AUB’s Ras Beirut neighborhood. It is clear that AUB and Ras Beirut have shaped each other; AUB, as a multi-sectarian and international institution, helped create Beirut’s most diverse neighborhood, at the same time together they shaped the physical layout of the place, yet the Civil War forced AUB to become an inward-looking institution. Meanwhile, the neighborhood changed as well as its character, old buildings were demolished, and new luxury buildings began to crop up. AUB, as one of Beirut’s largest private employers, has a moral responsibility to be a good “urban citizen” by helping preserve the diversity of the area and keeping the neighborhood lively and pleasant.



Since its official launching several projects have begun, all in response to the concerns expressed by the neighborhood residents in different interviews. Among these projects:

1. Greening the Neighborhood: Its objective is to promote sustainable gardening practices in the immediate surroundings of the AUB campus. The project responds to the concern of the neighbors that gardening will increase the quality of life in the neighborhood, especially visually and environmentally.
2. University for Seniors: Concerned about healthy aging and to promote new ways of thinking about old age, a special program has been conducted which includes activities such as study groups, lectures, educational trips, activities with AUB students, etc...The formal launch of the program is in fall 2010.
3. The Neighborhood Congestion Studies: To sort out a list of problems confronting the neighborhood: difficulties in being a pedestrian, traffic jams, parking problems... series of studies were conducted to examine the conflict between walking and driving in neighborhood streets, analyze different scenarios for improving parking and suggest ways to improve the public transportation
4. The Ras Beirut Well-Being Survey: A demographic and healthy survey will document health, well-being and socio-economic composition of Ras Beirut.

Dr. Myntti concluded that the image of AUB as an inspiring, accessible place – indeed a good neighbor, should, over time replace that of AUB as a closed an inward-looking place.

Orphan's Iftar at Hard Rock Cafe 08 September 2009

The Hard Rock Cafe of Beirut, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan (RCBC) are keeping with a 10 year old tradition of inviting 200 orphans and their caretakers to enjoy a holiday meal during the Holy Month of Ramadan and during the Christmas holiday season.

Around 100 children were served Hard Rock's signature burger meal with soft drinks and dessert, where Hard Rock staff catered to each child's request with smiles. Animators from Family Care entertained the children with face painting, balloon animation and other activities.

Hard Rock Cafe's Management and staff, staying true to their mission statement, values and motto, are always ready to commit themselves to supporting local charities and international projects, which goes hand in hand with the ideals of Rotary.

RCBC is grateful to Hard Rock Cafe's Management and staff for making this year's Iftar dinner another great success.



Landmine Awareness Project – Back Packs

RCBC is proud to announce that 1500 backpacks have been organized and suitably printed to create exposure and awareness to the dangers of mines and cluster bombs.



The backpacks will be distributed to many schools in mine and cluster bomb affected areas in South Lebanon at the beginning of the school year 2009-2010 as part of the landmine awareness joint project in cooperation with LA Cedars, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Marshall Legacy Institute (MLI) and the TRF.

Congratulations to the Landmine Awareness Team headed by PP Georges Beyrouti in reaching this important milestone of the project.

Latest Updates on Ambassadorial Scholars Christina and Rashel Asfour

“I am doing great here at UGA. I am more familiarized with the campus; I made good friends with 6 other GRSPs who also attend UGA, and I am doing excellently in my courses. Next week I will start to make my presentation to my clubs. I have to present it 4 times to my 4 host clubs, and next Wednesday will be my first time. The student weekends have been incredible and the picture attached is what my team and I made on the Clayton student week-end.” By Christina Asfour.



**Souhour Ramadan at Hotel Al Bustan
18 September 2009**

In the occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadan, RCBC organized an oriental night at Hotel Bustan where many Rotarians, spouses, and friends were gathered to spend memorable time together celebrating this festive season.





Discovery Trip in Bekaa on September 27, 2009

To spend a beautiful refreshing day and enjoying nature, P. Edouard Rassie and his wife Rita invited all fellow RCBC members and their families to visit Bekaa, the trip included a visit the Litany dam and the hydroelectric generating plant. The tour was followed by a lunch at Chateaux Kefraya.



RI Projects News...

Ending Polio

Polio eradication in the four endemic countries, Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan, is paying off, thanks to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) which is moving forward in key political, technical, financial, and operational areas. According to WHO, the incidence of polio in India has dropped by 28 percent in 2009, meanwhile in Nigeria it has decreased by 41 percent. Even though the conflict in Afghanistan-Pakistan border has resulted in a slight increase in the number of cases, however, this helped gain access to parts of the country normally inaccessible areas and give children an additional dose of vaccine. In Pakistan, Rotarians encouraged by the given strong support to ending polio from the Prime Minister, in 2009, honored him with a Polio Eradication Champion Award.

A new vaccine will be introduced in India as early as November to help stop the transmission of wild polioviruses. This bivalent vaccine, health officials believe, will multiply the gains made during the past year toward eradicating polio.

Worldwide, the number of polio cases has dropped from more than 350,000 in 1988, when the GPEI began, to 1,651 in 2008, so in an effort to end "the final inch" Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge, which ends 30 June 2012, is seen as crucial to the initiative's success.



TRF News

Importance of Networking

The importance of social networking as expressed by Chuck Frazier, general coordinator of the Youth Services Resource Group, is that it could be used as a tool to connect young people and promote youth programs, where members can share their experiences and the benefits of joining such programs, by spreading the word about Rotary through Rotarians and young people more effectively.

A fine example of its potentials are the two Rotary members, Tim Mason, secretary of the Rotary Club of Swindon, Wiltshire, England, and Karin Sköld, secretary of the Rotary Club of Degerfors, Sweden, who through facebook they lead their teams to form a twin relationship, which besides encouraging them to meet together and get to know each other, it gave them the chance to start planning on Rotary Youth Exchange for soccer players and they hope to partner on environmental projects as well as efforts to promote Rotary's campaign to eradicate polio. Facebook also gave them the opportunity to make friends in Argentina, Brazil, India, Egypt, Italy, and all over the world.

Acts of Peace

Lisa Monette, a Rotary World Peace Fellow at Chulalongkorn University, joined forces with three other peace fellows, Gregorio Hernandez Jr., a major in the Philippine army; Raseema Alam, a peace-building trainer and consultant from Canada; and Virender Singh Malik, a retired colonel from India to encourage one million people to carry out one act of peace each called A Million Acts of Peace, an effort launched online on August 27. The idea is that if you have a million people doing little things, you can have a big impact, like anything that could be done to further the understanding of another person, place or culture, or any effort that help the vulnerable, outcast, or needy. These are necessary for the act of peace because "Communication really is the key to preventing conflict. And dialogue is the key to solving conflict" quoting from her words. She hopes by the end of the year to hit their mark but won't be terribly disappointed if they fall a bit short of their target.

What is Gift of Life and how it started?

The concept for the Gift of Life program began in 1974 when the Manhasset Rotary Club of Long Island brought five year old Grace Agwara on a 5000 mile journey to Roslyn, NY, where she underwent a successful four hour open heart surgical procedure at St. Francis Hospital and received the gift of life. This event developed into a dynamic worldwide movement involving both Rotarians and countless other community organizations. The Rotary District 7490 Gift of Life Foundation (GOL), founded in 1986 by the Rotary Clubs of Bergen, Passaic and Hudson Counties in New Jersey, is a non profit corporation created for the purpose of providing life saving cardiac surgeries to children from around the world. In addition to providing surgeries for these children performed both domestically and abroad, GOL also works in their home countries to educate the medical profession, provide medical equipment, and raise the standards of living thus lowering the potential incidence of congenital heart defects.

What can I do?

You can, quite simply, help us to give a child the gift of life. Your donations of time, money, or both can help make the difference between life and death for a child with a congenital heart defect. Virtually all of the funds we raise are used for medical services and related expenses to serve our children. The cost to sponsor a child in full is currently \$6,000; a rather small price to pay to save a life.



Corporate sponsorship donations ranging from \$500 to \$6,000 or more can be made and provide an excellent way for a business to both give back to the community and receive great publicity at the same time. Donations of \$25 to \$500 are great as a memorial or honorarium to someone you love, and will include an acknowledgement of the donation provided at your instruction. You may also wish to consider hosting a child and parent during their stay in the United States. It is the experience of a lifetime, and considered by many as a defining moment in their lives. Other volunteer opportunities include translation, transportation, or the donation of other non-monetary items such as car seats, strollers, high chairs, large suitcases and duffel bags.

For more information email to johnmoscajr@aol.com

What's New in Lebanon!

*Beirut Jazz Festival (Oct 7-11): After a five year absence the Beirut Jazz Festival is back this October with five nights of concerts in Downtown, in the newly opened Beirut Souks, organised by Solidere.

*'Improvisation for Theatre' Workshop (Oct 9-11): In collaboration with the Dutch association 'Kunst & cultuur' & TVA (Theatersport Vereniging Amsterdam) with VAPA (Visual & Performing Arts Association), ImproBeirut brings Improvisations for theatre workshop by Dutch trainers (with years of experience) Marijn Vissers & Maartje Van Amsterfoort at Monot Theatre.

*One Day Wine Trip (Oct 11): A trip to Chateau Bellevue in Bhamdoun where wine expert Carlos Khachan will enlighten on the art of tasting wine. The next stop is Lebanon's second oldest winery Domaine des Tourelles which will be followed by a lunch at Massabki Boutique hotel with open wine. Everyone will get a free wine tasting booklet, a bottle of red wine from Chateau Fakra and a free entrance to the Food and Wine Festival 2009.

*Beirut International Film Festival (Oct 07-14): The annual film festival continues with a stellar line up of future classics from the international film world.

*IN SHAPE (Oct 15-18): IN SHAPE is one of the leading exhibitions for Health, Beauty and Fitness industry in Middle East. The event will bring worldwide professionals together all at one place at one time. The exhibition is being organized by E Square-Events & Exhibitions which will be held at Beirut International Exhibition and Leisure Center.

*The 3rd International Conference on Cyberlaw (Oct 20-22) at USJ in Beirut

*Balthasar Burkhard (Ends Oct 31): An exhibition of work by the renowned Swiss photographer, in association with the Swiss Ministry of Culture at [The Running Horse](#) gallery.

Mark your Calendars!!!

Future RCBC Program:

*Tuesday, October 6, meeting with Khaled Yamout at 7:00 PM. He will be talking about "Norwegian People's Aid—Lebanon"

*Tuesday, October 13, meeting with Aline Melki at 7:00 PM. She will be talking about "Nutrition and Diet"

*Tuesday, October 20, dinner meeting with Dr. Khalil Karam at 8:30 PM. He will be talking about "Francophone Games in Lebanon"

*Tuesday, October 27, business meeting with BCRAC at 7:00 PM.

Members' Happy Moments 😊

Happy Birthday to RT Maurice Carlier (Sep 01), RT Silva Guiragossian (Sep 9), PP Karim Naamani (Sep 15) and PP Fahed Assaf (Sep 25). RCBC is wishing you another wonderful year of happiness and joy.