

Rotary

Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan



Marhaba

2025/2026

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Sicily, Italy

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District 2452 Governor

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Rotary Club of Larnaca-Kition,
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Assistant District 2452 Governor

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Rotary Club of Lebanon International
Beirut, Lebanon



DISTRICT 2452

Club ID 30893
Chartered 1995

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Officers

President	Olga (Joelle) Feghali
IPP	Haytham Kurdi
President Elect	Christine Arzoumanian
Vice President	John Edde
Secretary	Jean Paul Moubarak
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PP Joe Boulos
PP Mona Jarudi
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Marhaba Editor

PP Mona Jarudi
monajarudi@gmail.com



Letter From The Editor

PP Mona Jarudi

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

September in Rotary is the month of Basic Education and Literacy. Since its inception, Rotary has a strong global focus on education as part of its mission of Service Above Self. It sees education as the foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty, promoting peace, and building stronger communities. More than 775 million people over the age of 13 are illiterate. That's 17% of the world's adult population. Rotary's goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy.

According to the World Health Organization, if all women completed primary education, there would be 66% fewer maternal deaths. A child born to a mother who can read is 50% more likely to survive past the age of five. And if all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty that translates into a 12% cut in world poverty. These are jarring facts, and the world is reacting positively to this by increasing literacy rates and narrowing the gender gap in education. This is where the work of the Rotary Foundation comes to light, and the work of Rotary Clubs shines as they come up with programs to help in the fight against illiteracy.

In Lebanon, the education system has been taxed at multiple levels. The financial crisis affected the public schools' system, the influx of over 1.5 million refugees into the country that created an additional burden on schools, resources, salaries, infrastructure followed by the Beirut Port Explosion that forced some schools to shut down. But, education reigns supreme in Lebanon, and with limited resources schools were operating at full capacity. Rotary clubs sprang to action, providing solar panels to schools and universities, donating computers and school supplies to needy schools and even creating out of the box programs to keep students up to speed with the latest technologies.

As Rotarians, we are always researching and assessing needs in our communities. The harder the challenge, the higher we rise and provide support. As for education, we believe that educating a child is educating a whole village and community. We believe that no one should be left behind and when we Unite for Good, things can only get better!



Business Meeting

Maysoun Chehab

Chief of Education Section,
Senior Program Specialist at the UNESCO Multisectoral Regional Office
in the Arab States

Presentation Topic: 'Education Transformation in Lebanon'

Septembet 9,2025

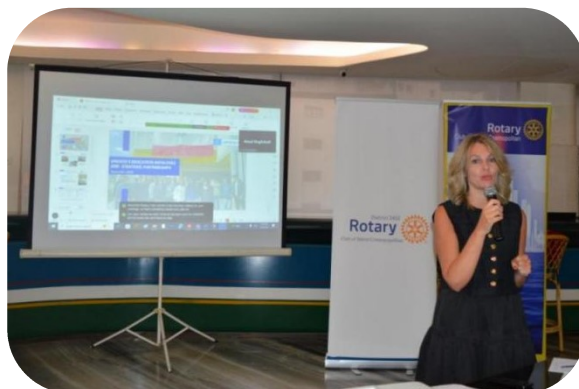
September in Rotary is Basic Education and Literacy month. In line with the theme, Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan hosted Ms. Maysoun Chehab to talk about state of education in Lebanon. Ms. Chehab possesses a wealth of expertise in program conceptualization, development, monitoring and evaluation. She plays a pivotal role in shaping policies and programs across numerous countries in the Levant, Gulf region and Yemen. She is committed to fostering inclusive, equitable and high-quality education systems that propel communities towards a brighter and more prosperous future.

Lebanon historically was a leader in literacy and quality of education. Its schools and universities boasted of high standards and attracted students from all over the region and the west. The high academic success propelled students to higher levels of innovation and excellence in the fields of science, math and technology. Unfortunately, years of civil war that culminated in the worst economic and financial crisis in the history of the country, wounded and scarred the education system in Lebanon, especially at the public school's level.

Following the Beirut Port Explosion in 2020, Li Beirut was started as the UNESCO's Flagship urban rehabilitation program, mobilizing nearly \$ 40 million to restore education, culture and media actors. The major achievements:

- Rehabilitated 145 education facilities: 95 schools, 20 TVET institutions and 30 university buildings.
- Provided equipment, materials, and furniture to schools and universities.
- Supported over 28,000 students with stationery kits and learning supplies.
- Strengthened distance learning in blast affected areas. 100 public schools were equipped with digital devices, 2000+ teachers trained on digital and online teaching, and psychosocial support was given to 500 teachers, staff and 300 caregivers.
- Developed online training courses for teachers to ensure continuity of learning.

Education is the most important to every Lebanese. Its true that the country took a major hit but with perseverance and political will, there will be light at the end of the tunnel.





In The Spotlight

One of the best attributes of being a Rotarian is the fellowship spirit one cultivates along the way. Our club Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan prides itself with its long history of collaborations with other clubs, locally and globally, and for highlighting Rotarian talents.

The spotlight on Tuesday September 9, 2025 was shed on Rt. Dr. Samar Saab, D-2452 Secretary.

Samar is a Rotarian who leads with her heart and compassion, she also leads with dedication and focus. Throughout her Rotary life, she was and still is the driving force in all things Rotary, always there, always ready for Service.

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan wanted to honor her in a special way, and in the presence of PDG George Azar, Rotary Club Beirut Cedars, Rotary Club Keserouan, Rotary Club Aley, Rotary Club Lebanon Eco and Rotary Club Beirut Center, all gathered to wish Dr. Samar a very happy birthday and many more years in Rotary Service.





Business Meeting

President Hana Abi Tarabay

Rotary Club of Lebanon Eco

President Rana Kanso

Rotary Club of Aley

Past President Rana Hindi

Rotary Club of Lebanon Eco, Club Secretary



Presentation Topic:

Education Environmental Sustainability in Rotary Clubs Every Club Climate Friendly

Septembet 16,2025

Education is never confined to one field, area or age group. Education is multilayered, and generational, and it is in a constant state of evolution. Despite all the challenges that Lebanon is passing through, the desire to learn, innovate and be ahead in every field of education never ceases. Building on that, the meeting on September 16,2025 was solely to introduce a program to teach students about waste management and climate conservation.

Our guest speakers were three brilliant Rotarians, accomplished in their fields, who shared with us the projects they are working on in educating the youth.

The first speaker was **Hana Abi Tarabay, President of Rotary Club Lebanon Eco**, who is an agricultural engineer and a Masters in Horticulture. She is also an environmental activist who worked with World Vision and Waste Management Coalition and is the co-founder of Lebanese Composters. Hana went through the program designed with 5 objectives: Educate on solid waste; Promote reduce, reuse, recycle; encourage sustainable habits, develop young environmental advocates and support proper recycling practices in schools.

The target audience will be elementary to high school students; and the key topics will be environment, health, carbon footprint and the link to UN sustainable SDGs and start environment clubs with student delegates.

Methodology and Activities:

- Presentations tailored by age and school context.
- Hands-on: sorting, reusing, composting.
- Group discussions and competitions.
- School clean-up drives.
- Eco club and Rotary clubs support.



✂ What is required from our RC partner

- Choose a needy school in their area (private or public)
- School visits to assess, plan and set a budget.
- Attend the awareness sessions/ Green Day at school
- Follow-up on the implementation of the new waste management practices

Of course all with the help and/or presence of Lebanon Eco



✂ Outcomes and Evaluation

- Greater student awareness.
- Better segregation practices.
- Reduced waste and more recycling.
- Student-led initiatives.

Evaluation via behavior, data, and feedback.



The second speaker, **Past President Rana El Hindi**, also holds dual degrees in Agriculture, Nutrition and Dietetics and a masters in environmental science. She is currently an ambassador for ESRAG and its Climate Solutions Task Force. Her work bridges health, environment and lifestyle to promote sustainable agriculture, climate action and holistic well-being.

In a detailed and very scientific presentation, Rana went through a plethora of facts and figures on why environment matters. As an ESRAG (Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group) ambassador, ESRAG wants to make Rotary net zero emissions by 2040 with the help of Climate solutions task force. She started by a wakeup call that carbon pollution is causing the planet to overheat dangerously with rising sea levels. She outlined the impact of climate change on human health: Pollution and increasing allergens, extreme heat, drought, environmental degradation, wildfires and smoke, degraded living conditions and social inequities, food systems inequalities, and water quality. In Rotary, climate change has a negative impact on all the areas of focus but every club can reduce the carbon foot print. This can be done by starting with meetings to make them virtual/ hybrid, Reducing printed material and food waste and by sourcing local vegan foods. We can also address transportation by reducing air travel and encourage carpooling and in general promote energy efficient practices with club operations.

The third speaker was **President Rana Kanso, Rotary Club Alek West**, who holds a Masters degree in Curriculum Management and Design. She is a seasoned educational consultant and is currently a university instructor at Balamand University and cofounder of the Lebanese Organization for Peace Building and Sustainable development. Rana's presentation was titled: Eco Quest: A Summer Journey for a Sustainable Future.

Rana started by sharing the program goal which is to foster a deep, lasting connection between students and the natural world by transforming their understanding of environmental issues and empowering them to take meaningful action towards a sustainable future, specifically aligned with the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The following slides will shed some light on this program.

Eco-Quest: A Summer Journey for a Sustainable Future

RANA KANSO – September 16, 2025
Rotary Club Alek



Student Learning Objectives

Environmental Understanding

Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of complex environmental topics through structured inquiry-based research on climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion.

Systems Thinking

Explain interconnections between human activities and their impact on ecosystems, both locally and globally, fostering holistic environmental perspective.

Environmental Stewardship

Cultivate responsibility and stewardship, moving from awareness to active participation in conservation efforts and sustainable lifestyle choices.

Practical Implementation

Implement sustainable habits in daily life including reducing plastic consumption, conserving energy, and practicing responsible waste management.

Innovation & Collaboration

Apply critical thinking to design innovative solutions while enhancing collaboration and communication skills through teamwork and advocacy.

Self-Directed Learning

Develop independent research skills by investigating topics of personal interest within the broader framework of environmental SDGs.

Summer Program Overview



5-Week Intensive Program

Comprehensive summer experience designed to serve our environmental education goals



Environmental Focus

Core themes include deforestation, pollution, waste management, animal extinction, and climate change



Global Citizenship Values

Environmental responsibility, respect for nature, empowerment, and active agency



21st Century Skills

Critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, communication, digital literacy, leadership, and creativity



Methodology

Inquiry-based learning through a guided cubing strategy that promotes differentiated instruction and active learning using choice boards.

Environmental Sustainable Development Goals



Goal 6: Clean Water

Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all communities worldwide.

Goal 14: Life Below Water

Conserving and sustainably using oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption

Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns to reduce environmental impact.

Goal 15: Life on Land

Protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity.



Goal 13: Climate Action

Taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts on global ecosystems.

Students identify and articulate three key environmental SDGs as the foundation for their research and action projects.

Sample of Students' Products

Define/ Describe the topic

Deforestation refers to the decrease in forest areas across the world that are lost for other uses such as agricultural croplands, urbanization, or mining activities

•Deforestation is when forests are destroyed by cutting trees (logging) and not replanting them.

•Deforestation is the clearing, destroying, or otherwise removal of trees through deliberate, natural, or accidental means.

•Deforestation is the clearing of forest areas by cutting down the trees

<https://www.britannica.com/science/deforestation>



Compare It

Just as a corpse has lost its life force, a deforested area has lost its vibrant ecosystem. The trees, which are the lungs of the earth and provide habitat for countless species, are gone. The intricate web of life that thrived there collapses.



Apply It: GET INVOLVED!




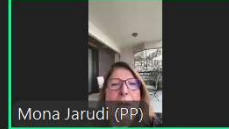






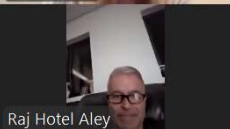



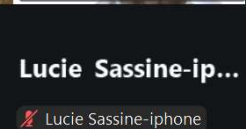




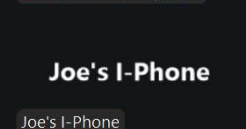
Adopt sustainable habits in our daily life. This includes reducing our paper consumption, recycling, and buying products from sustainable sources.

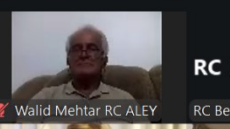
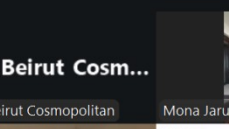
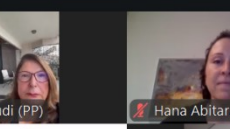
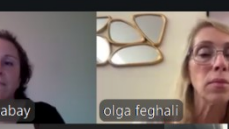
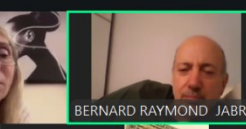
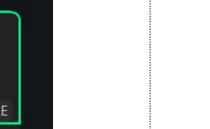
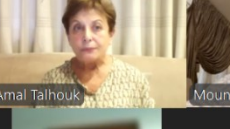

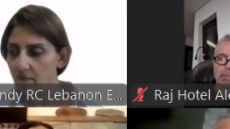
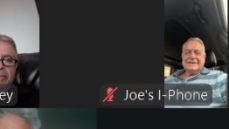
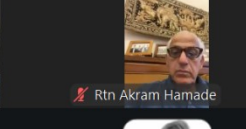
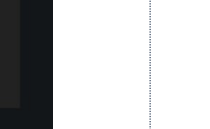

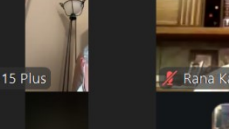

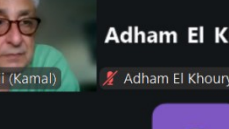
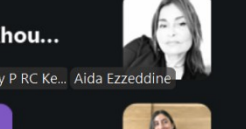
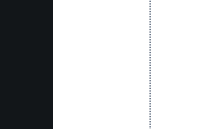
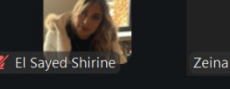
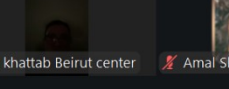
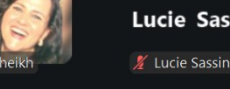
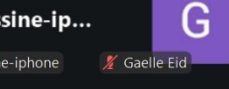
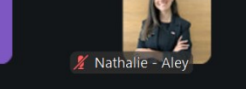



Evaluate It

Is it ethically justifiable for poor countries to sacrifice their natural forest capital for short-term economic gains through timber sales?



 Rana Kanso	 RC Beirut Cosmopolitan	 Walid Mehtar RC ALEY	 Mona Jarudi (PP)	 Hana Abitarabay
 olga feghali	 BERNARD RAYMOND JABRE	 Amal Talhouk	 Mounir Jabre	 Rana El Hindy RC Lebanon E...
 Raj Hotel Aley	 Samsung SM-S711B	 Adham El Khoury P RC Ke...	 Lucie Sassine	 Lucie Sassine-iphone
 Aida Ezzeddine	 Kamal Srouji (Kamal)	 SJ 15 Plus	 El Sayed Shirine	 Joe's I-Phone

 Walid Mehtar RC ALEY	 RC Beirut Cosmopolitan	 Mona Jarudi (PP)	 Hana Abitarabay	 olga feghali	 BERNARD RAYMOND JABRE
 Amal Talhouk	 Mounir Jabre	 Rana El Hindy RC Lebanon E...	 Raj Hotel Aley	 Joe's I-Phone	 Rtn Akram Hamade
 Walid Faraoun RC Leban...	 SJ 15 Plus	 Rana Kanso	 Kamal Srouji (Kamal)	 Adham El Khoury P RC Ke...	 Aida Ezzeddine
 El Sayed Shirine	 Zeina khattab Beirut center	 Amal Sheikh	 Lucie Sassine-iphone	 Gaelle Eid	 Nathalie - Aley

Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan Participation in Rotary Clubs Events

Rotary Lebanon / UNITE FOR GOOD Grants Management Seminar

September 06, 2025

Rotary Lebanon  **UNITE FOR GOOD**

GRANTS MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

Enhance your knowledge in **GLOBAL GRANTS**
Planning & Implementation

HANDS-ON SESSIONS & WORKSHOPS ON

- The Rotary Foundation & our Grants System
- Global Grants Application Process
- Co-Funding & Global Grants Financial Management
- Global Grants Measuring & Reporting

DATE
6 Sept, 2025

TIME
9:00AM - 1:30PM

LOCATION
Habtoor Grand Hotel



Rotary Club Beirut Cedars A Tribute Night to Ziad El Rahbani

September 06, 2025

Rotary 
Club of Beirut Cedars

A Tribute Night to Ziad El Rahbani

Enjoy a live band performing his most iconic songs, paired with a delicious Lebanese dinner.

This event is more than a concert; it is a celebration of Ziad's unmatched musical legacy, making it one of the most meaningful and memorable fellowships of the season.

Introduction by the distinguished theatre actor **Rifaat Tarabay**

DATE
Saturday, 6 September 2025

TIME
8:30PM

LOCATION
Mezyan Restaurant - Hamra

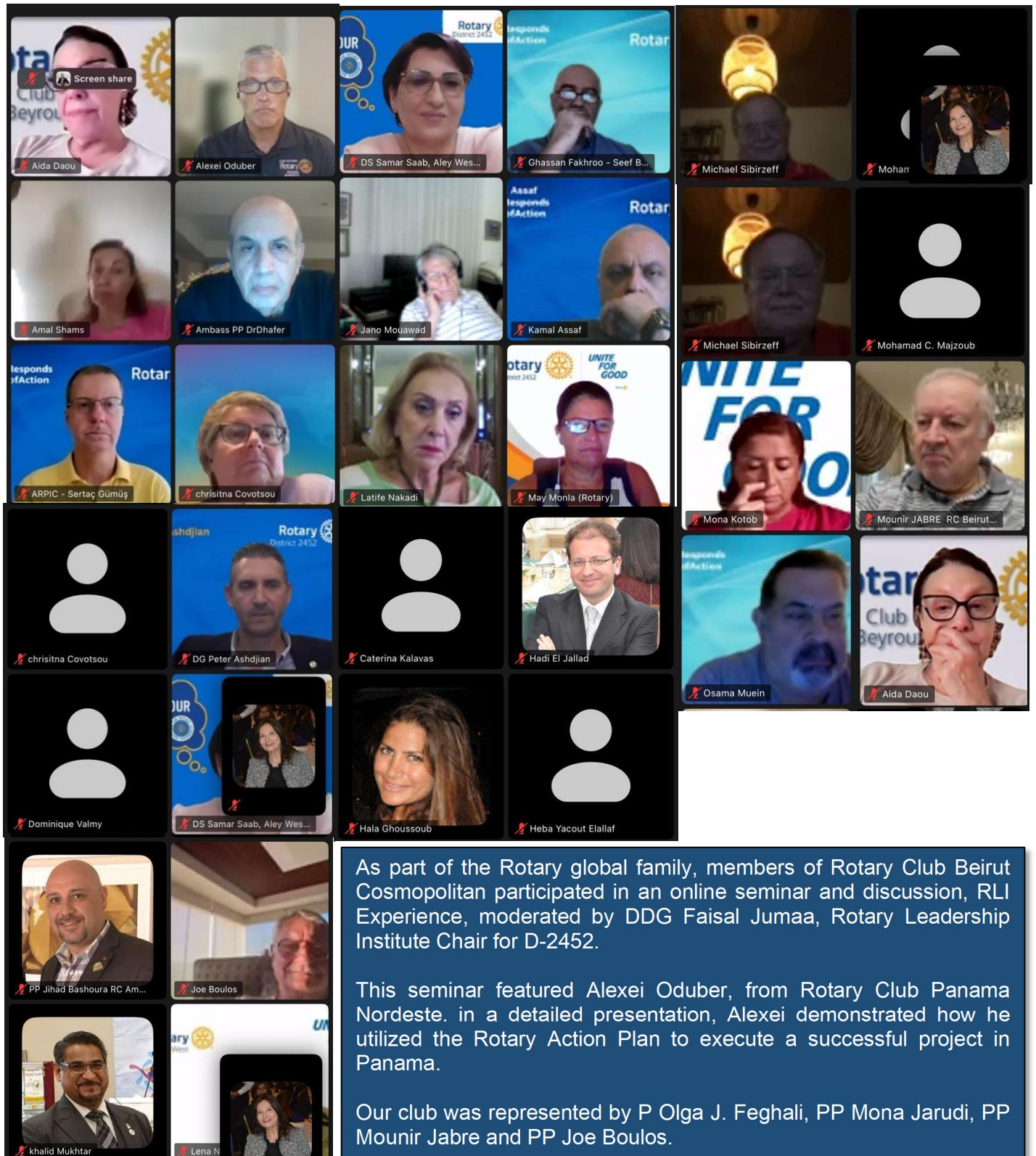


D2452 RLI ZOOM MEETING

D2452 RLI Committee: Alexei Oduber (RC of Panama Nordeste)

September 8, 2025

RLI Experience Share: How the implementation of the Rotary Action Plan resulted in successfully completing an inspirational project.



As part of the Rotary global family, members of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan participated in an online seminar and discussion, RLI Experience, moderated by DDG Faisal Jumaa, Rotary Leadership Institute Chair for D-2452.

This seminar featured Alexei Oduber, from Rotary Club Panama Nordeste. in a detailed presentation, Alexei demonstrated how he utilized the Rotary Action Plan to execute a successful project in Panama.

Our club was represented by P Olga J. Feghali, PP Mona Jarudi, PP Mounir Jabre and PP Joe Boulos.

Rotary Club of Kesrouan
“Meeting with visionaries in Rotary”
is a series of lectures by Rotarians on how they envision the
future of Rotary.

September 11,2025



Rotary Club of Tripoli-Maraad
Fellowship, fun, and sea breeze!

September 13,2025



**Rotary Club Lebanon Eco
Fundraising & Fellowship
Sunset Guided Tour in Broumana**

September 13,2025



September 24,2025

On September 24, members of Rotary Club Beirut Cosmopolitan attended a very insightful presentation as part of our collaboration with Rotary Club Beirut Cedars.

The speaker Mr. Charles Hayek, a cultural historian , took the audience on an informative lecture about Lebanon, how and why it was conceived and the process it went through, highlighting in his narration the thinking that shaped Lebanon and its importance in exporting culture and wealth to the world.



Meeting Amal Baghdadi
Founder of Rotary Brescia Club in Italy

September 30, 2025



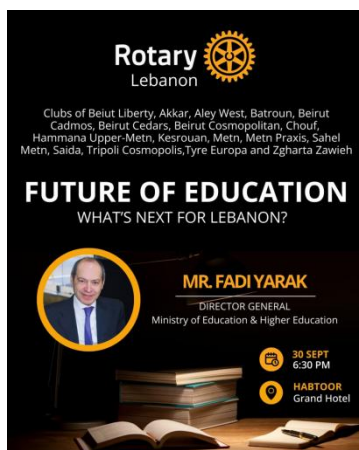
“ Rotary connects the World “ was a motto that has stood the test of time. As a club, we have a long history of connecting with other clubs globally, share projects and enjoy fellowship.

On Tuesday September 30, 2025 P Olga Feghali hosted for a day Rt. Amal Baghdadi from Italy where Lebanese hospitality was at its best. The day culminated with P Olga attending with Rt. Amal at the Habtoor Hotel a presentation by Mr. Fadi Yarak, the Director General of Education.

Rt. Amal was very impressed with what Rotary does in Lebanon and the spirit of fellowship.

Amal and her club and district have been generous in supporting our Global Grants.

We look forward to her club's visit to Lebanon soon.



Clubs of Beirut Liberty, Akkar, Aley West, Batroun, Beirut Cadmos, Beirut Cedars, Beirut Cosmopolitan, Chouf, Hammana Upper-Metn, Kesrouan, Metn, Metn Praxis, Sahel Metn, Saida, Tripoli Cosmopolis, Tyre Europa and Zgharta Zawieh

FUTURE OF EDUCATION
WHAT'S NEXT FOR LEBANON?

MR. FADI YARAK
DIRECTOR GENERAL
Ministry of Education & Higher Education

September 30, 2025
HABTOOR - Grand Hotel



Rotary Clubs Beirut Cosmopolitan, Aley West & Lebanon ECO Fellowship Event

Saturday, September 20, 2025

On Saturday September 20, our club organized a health retreat day in collaboration with Rotary Club Aley West and Rotary Club Lebanon Eco and attended by Rotarian friends from Rotary Club Beirut Cedars, Rotary Club Beirut Center and Rotary Club Beirut Cadmos.

The day started with a beautiful hike in the hills of Ainab then back to the home of Nadine Nouredine, founder of 4like April, an enterprise of healthy baked goods and artisanal products.

PP Iman Jaffal from Rotary Club Cedars led part of the group in a yoga session in a magical setting, and others enjoyed an apple pie baking contest led by the maestro Nadine. All enjoyed a brunch of home made products while engaging in animated conversations in the utmost of fellowship spirit.





