



Leaders for Democracy Fellows

Weekly Review and Evaluation Report

Week 2: October 7 - 13, 2013

I. Review of the Week

The successful beginning of the LDF program was followed during the second week by presentations, workshops, and field visits under the theme: “The Workings of Democracy and the Challenges to the Lebanese Democratic System.” Participants also held a meeting with LAU’s partner representative Dr. Julia Ganson from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs - Syracuse University. Dr. Ganson visited LAU between October 10 and 11, 2013.

Dr. Ganson had lunch with the participants, during which participants learned about the history of the LDF program, inquired about the role of Syracuse University, its various academic programs as well as gotten information regarding the Alumni get-together in Istanbul, Turkey between December 12 and 17, 2013. The visit of Dr. Ganson was also a good opportunity for her to observe the LAU LDF program in action, meet with the LAU LDF team and exchange experiences, and, in the process, get to know the Lebanese American University better. During her stay, Dr. Ganson visited with LAU Provost Dr. George Najjar who welcomed her to LAU and highlighted the importance of the LAU-Syracuse University partnership in implementing the LDF program. Dr. Ganson went as well on a tour of the LAU Beirut campus.

This week also included for the LDF participants: a) hands-on trainings on political advocacy, b) public opinion research and the use of social media among other topics, c) presentations regarding political parties, the legal system, and conflict during political transitions, and d) the Lebanese democratic system and its challenges. Finally, the LDF participants visited the Common Space Initiative

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(CSI) Center in downtown Beirut, which plays a supporting role to the Lebanese national dialogue and is a forum for politicians and civil society representatives to engage on difficult topics and issues far from the media spotlight and in the presence of professional facilitators.

Overall, the participants' evaluations of the program remained extremely positive as summarized in the below section, the weekly evaluation session, and during their meeting with Dr. Julia Ganson where participants were praiseful of the program and the LAU team. Many also inquired about follow-on programs to the LDF program. The group also held its first meeting to share information about their joint idea to produce short clips on lessons learned from each of their countries that they would share on You-Tube with their respective fellow-citizens. The dedication of the group to learning and to further develop their leadership skills was heartening and encouraging.

"We would like to thank the LAU team for an excellent program so far..." Nebras from Iraq, praising the LAU LDF team during a meeting with Dr. Julia Ganson from Syracuse University. These praises were echoed by other participants as well.

Finally, the participants spent Sunday at the historical region of the Cedars, home of the ancient cedars of Lebanon, as referenced in the bible. This trip was again a great success, and created an excellent opportunity for team building.

II. Workshops: Content and Evaluations

Overall the workshops and presentations of the second week were well received and participants were engaged and interested in maintaining contact with many of the presenters. Below are selected pictures and a summary of the evaluations per session, broken down by subject.



Ms. Yara Nassar, Executive Director, LADE
Workshop on Elections and Observation



Mr. Ziad Abdel Samad, Executive Director, ANND
Workshop on Political Reform in the MENA region



Ms. Lina Alamedine, Expert Trainer
Advocacy Workshop

(5: Excellent, 4= Very Good, 3= Good, 2= Fair, 1= Unsatisfactory)

Question		5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Socio-Political Reform in the MENA Region	1 Speaker Presentation Skills	4	4	4	2	3	0
	2 Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable)						19
	3 Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	8	6	2	1	1	0

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4	How do you rate the quality of the information presented	2	4	5	2	3	0
5	Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	1	5	3	4	3	0
6	Was the discussion/exercise helpful	2	3	3	3	5	0

Stories From the Field: The
Lebanese Association for
Democratic Elections

Question	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
1 Speaker Presentation Skills	7	11	2	0	0	0
2 Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable)	7	6	3	0	0	0
3 Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	11	7	2	0	0	0
4 How do you rate the quality of the information presented	7	10	2	0	1	0
5 Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	6	9	4	0	1	0
6 Was the discussion/exercise helpful	5	7	4	2	0	0

Minorities in the Middle East
in Times of Transition

Question	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
1 Speaker Presentation Skills	7	6	5	1	1	0
2 Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable)	0	0	0	0	0	20
3 Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	12	4	2	1	1	0
4 How do you rate the quality of the information presented	9	3	4	3	1	0
5 Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	9	3	4	2	2	0
6 Was the discussion/exercise helpful	7	3	5	2	1	0

The Evolution of
Political Parties in
the MENA region

Question	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
1 Speaker Presentation Skills	7	8	2	1	0	0
2 Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable)	0	0	0	0	0	19
3 Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	12	5	1	0	0	0
4	8	8	1	1	0	0

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	information presented						
5	Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	6	7	4	1	0	0
6	Was the discussion/exercise helpful	7	5	4	1	0	0

	Question	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
The Role of Public Opinion Research in Democracies	1 Speaker Presentation Skills	2	10	0	6	2	0
	2 Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable)	0	0	0	0	0	20
	3 Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	11	8	1	0	0	0
	4 How do you rate the quality of the information presented	4	5	4	4	2	0
	5 Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	4	4	4	5	2	0
	6 Was the discussion/exercise helpful	4	3	4	3	3	0

	Question	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Political Advocacy	1 Speaker Presentation Skills	18	1	1	0	0	0
	2 Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable)	17	1	1	0	0	0
	3 Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	18	2	0	0	0	0
	4 How do you rate the quality of the information presented	18	0	2	0	0	0
	5 Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	17	1	2	0	0	0
	6 Was the discussion/exercise helpful	17	2	0	0	0	0

	Question	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
The Role of the Judiciary and the Legal System in a Democracy	1 Speaker Presentation Skills	12	7	1	1	0	0
	2 Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable)	0	0	0	0	0	21
	3 Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	13	8	0	0	0	0
	4 How do you rate the quality of the information presented	9	7	4	0	0	0

5	Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	9	5	3	1	0	0
6	Was the discussion/exercise helpful	10	4	2	0	2	0

Question		5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Law in the Middle East	1 Speaker Presentation Skills	11	5	1	0	0	0
	2 Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable)	11	0	0	0	0	0
	3 Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	14	3	0	0	0	0
	4 How do you rate the quality of the information presented	11	5	0	0	0	0
	5 Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	10	5	0	1	0	0
	6 Was the discussion/exercise helpful	10	3	1	0	1	0

Question		5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Women in Politics	1 Speaker Presentation Skills	8	3	3	1	0	0
	2 Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable)	7	5	2	0	0	0
	3 Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	9	5	1	0	0	0
	4 How do you rate the quality of the information presented	8	3	2	1	1	0
	5 Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	6	6	1		1	0
	6 Was the discussion/exercise helpful	6	3	2	1	2	0

Question		5	4	3	2	1	N/A
The History of Modern Lebanon	1 Speaker Presentation Skills	15	3	1	0	0	0
	2 Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable)	12	2	1	0	0	0
	3 Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	13	2	2	2	0	0
	4	12	5	2	0	0	0

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	information presented						
5	Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	13	5	1	0	0	0
6	Was the discussion/exercise helpful	12	3	2	0	1	0

Question		5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Lebanon's Institutions and Challenges to Political Reform	1 Speaker Presentation Skills	11	8	2	0	0	0
	2 Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable)	10	8	2	1	0	0
	3 Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	14	5	2	0	0	0
	4 How do you rate the quality of the information presented	10	7	3	0	0	0
	5 Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	9	8	3	0	0	0
	6 Was the discussion/exercise helpful	10	7	1	1	0	0

Question		5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Inter-religious Dialogue in Times of Political Transitions and Beyond	1 Speaker Presentation Skills	15	4	1	0	0	0
	2 Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable)	15	3	2	0	0	0
	3 Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	15	3	2	0	0	0
	4 How do you rate the quality of the information presented	15	4	1	0	0	0
	5 Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	12	7	1	0	0	0
	6 Was the discussion/exercise helpful	15	3	2	0	0	0

Question		5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Social Media and Advocacy (workshop)	1 Speaker Presentation Skills	21	1	0	0	0	0
	2 Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable)	20	2	0	0	0	0
	3 Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	20	2	0	0	0	0
	4 How do you rate the quality of the information presented	17	5	0	0	0	0
	5 Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	17	4	1	0	0	0
	6 Was the discussion/exercise helpful	17	3	0	1	0	0

		Question	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Welcome and Introduction to the Common Space Initiative	1	Speaker Presentation Skills	9	7	4	0	0	0
	2	Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable)	7	9	3	0	0	0
	3	Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	7	9	2	2	0	0
	4	How do you rate the quality of the information presented	7	5	7	0	1	0
	5	Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	7	8	4	0	1	0
	6	Was the discussion/exercise helpful	7	6	4	1	1	0

III. LDF Internship/Capstone Project Update

During the past week, LAU began finalizing agreements with host organizations for the internship component of the LDF program. All participants have now been allocated to one of the 17 organizations listed below. Furthermore, the LAU team finalized the capstone project template which will be used by each LDF participant to write down her/his capstone project idea and present it at the end of the academic program to a committee.

Below is an updated table of all the NGOs that will be hosting the participants.

1	Common Space Initiative	10	Kafa
2	LADE	11	Alef
3	Amel	12	Chamel
4	Institute Bassel Fleyhan	13	Mercy Corp
5	ANND	14	HFHL - Habitat
6	LCPS	15	Permanent Peace Movement
7	Samir Kassir Eyes Skeyes	16	Lebanese Handicap Union
8	NDI	17	Lebanese Transparency Association
9	Injaz		

IV. Review of Operational Progress

During the past week, one participant had to visit a doctor regarding a malaise she

developed while at the hotel. Following a consultation with a doctor, she was judged as able to continue the program. A few other participants suffered from like symptoms and stomach ache problems; those were treated successfully by the LAU nurse.

Information was also collected regarding the Turkey Alumni program, and further assistance provided to the operations team of Syracuse University on how to secure assistance in Lebanon for the Turkey visa issuance and ticket bookings.

Arrangements were also made to provide LDF participants with information regarding university extra-curricular activities.

Most participants were part of the successful visit to the Cedars region.



LDF Group at the Gebran Khalil Gebran Museum, Bsharri, on the way to the Cedars



LDF Group picture during the outing



LDF Group having Dinner at the Lebanese Participant's House

V. Program Outreach

During the second week, the LDF team continued working on a draft of the English LDF website, which is almost ready. Once launched, the English version will soon be followed by the Arabic version.

Dr. Julia Ganson was interviewed by the LAU Marketing and Communication (MARCOM) department for an article that will appear in the next issue of the LAU Magazine.