



# Leaders for Democracy Fellows

## *Weekly Review and Evaluation Report*

September 29 to October 6, 2013

In an effort to best capture the impact and progress of the Leaders for Democracy Fellows' (LDF) program on a weekly basis, this "Overview and Evaluation Report" includes information useful to properly evaluate the various components of the program, highlighting issues of concern but also successes. The weekly report will also contribute to the overall evaluation of the impact of the program. The report is divided into five sections:

### **I. Review of the Week**

The LDF program began on a good note with a reception to welcome the participants held at the LAU Beirut Campus on Sunday September 29 from 4 to 6 PM at the Faculty Lounge. This event was attended by LAU president Joseph Jabbra and Provost George Najjar, as well as US Embassy Mr. Richard Mills – Deputy Chief of Mission, and Mr. Michael Griffith – Political Officer, in addition to Deans from several Schools, the LDF team headed by Dr. Walid Touma and the LDF program participants from 11 countries, namely: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen.

In his opening speech President Jabbra thanked LAU's partners, in particular Syracuse University, the MEPI program, the Department of State, the US Embassy in Lebanon as well as the American People for standing behind this important initiative and program at a time of great need in the Middle East and North Africa region.



On Monday, September 30, 2013, the program kicked off its first week with a series of lectures and hands-on workshops covering the first theme of the program, namely: “Democracy/ Transitions/ Media and Communication.” This week also included hands-on trainings on communication and a visit to the leading Lebanese newspaper *Al-Nahar* which is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Overall, student evaluation of the program has been extremely positive as summarized in the below section. Furthermore, students during the end-of-the week evaluation were clearly energized as they decided and agreed unanimously to produce three short minute clips on lessons learned from each of their countries that they would share on You-Tube with their respective fellow-citizens. This positive energy and dedication was truly exemplary and very encouraging.

**During the first week participants have been engaged and reported in their evaluations greatly benefiting from the program. They have asked to be given a chance to develop a series of short clips on lessons learned to share with their fellow-citizens.**

The pre-program evaluation conducted on the first day, highlighted the lack of knowledge of certain important concepts in politics such as the “quota” and an “independent civil society” among others. This issue is not uniform however, but highlights the degree to which many of the participants are in need of programs such as LDF to better be able to contribute positively and effectively to the transitions in their respective countries.

## II. Workshop Content and Evaluation

Overall the workshop presentations were very well received and students were engaged and interested in having many of the presenters come back for additional discussions. Below is a summary of the evaluation of each session broken down by subject:



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

		Question	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
The State of Democracy in the MENA region	1	Speaker Presentation Skills	10	8	2	0	0	0
		Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable )						
	2	Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	8	7	2	1	0	2
	3	How do you rate the quality of the information presented	13	7	0	0	0	0
	4	Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	7	11	2	0	0	0
	5	Was the discussion/exercise helpful	8	7	3	2	0	0
		6	12	4	3	1	0	0
		Question	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Electoral Systems and Reforms in the MENA Region	1	Speaker Presentation Skills	13	5	2	0	0	0
		Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable )						
	2	Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	0	6	1	0	0	13
	3	How do you rate the quality of the information presented	15	4	1	0	0	0
	4	Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	8	9	3	0	0	0
	5	Was the discussion/exercise helpful	8	7	4	1	0	0
		6	11	6	1	0	0	2

		Question	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Group Dynamics and Ground Rules	1	Speaker Presentation Skills	17	4	1	0	0	0
		Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable )						
	2	Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	3	6	2	1	0	0
		How do you rate the quality of the information presented						
	3	Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	16	5	1	0	0	0
	4	Was the discussion/exercise helpful	14	6	1	1	0	0
			9	10	0	1	1	1
			10	8	2	0	1	1
		Question	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Media and Democracy in the MENA Region	1	Speaker Presentation Skills	12	5	5	0	0	0
		Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable )						
	2	Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	0	0	0	0	0	22
		How do you rate the quality of the information presented						
	3	Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	13	6	1	2	0	0
	4	Was the discussion/exercise helpful	9	8	3	2	0	0
			8	8	5	1	0	0
			12	6	1	1	2	0
		Question	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Debate Workshop	1	Speaker Presentation Skills	14	6	1	0	0	0
		Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable )						
	2	Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	10	8	1	1	0	1
		How do you rate the quality of the information presented						
	3	Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	13	6	2	0	0	0
	4	Was the discussion/exercise helpful	13	6	2	0	0	0
			12	6	2	1	0	0
			12	6	2	1	0	0

	Question	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Comparative Democratic Systems	1 Speaker Presentation Skills	14	4	1	0	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	16	3	0	0	0	0
	4 How do you rate the quality of the information presented	13	4	1	1	0	0
	5 Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	11	5	2	1	0	0
	6 Was the discussion/exercise helpful	10	4	2	0	0	3

	Question	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Challenges of Democratic Transitions	1 Speaker Presentation Skills	7	7	5	2	0	1
	2 Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable )	0	0	0	0	0	22
	3 Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	12	5	4	0	0	1
	4 How do you rate the quality of the information presented	6	8	4	2	1	1
	5 Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	6	6	5	2	2	1
	6 Was the discussion/exercise helpful	6	5	5	2	1	3

	Question	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Trip to El-Nahar Newspaper (Field Visit)	1 Speaker Presentation Skills	11	6	4	0	0	0
	2 Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable )	8	2	4	3	0	4
	3 Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	8	7	3	2	1	0
	4 How do you rate the quality of the information presented	7	8	4	1	1	0
	5 Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	6	9	3	1	1	1
	6 Was the discussion/exercise helpful	7	5	3	2	2	2

Conflict and Political Transitions	Question	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
	1 Speaker Presentation Skills	16	6	0	0	0	0
	2 Quality of Power Point and handouts (if applicable )	16	6	0	0	0	0
	3 Relevance of the subject to the LDF Program	17	5	0	0	0	0
	4 How do you rate the quality of the information presented	14	8	0	0	0	0
	5 Presentation Benefit to your knowledge	14	8	0	0	0	0
	6 Was the discussion/exercise helpful	13	7	1	1	0	0

### III. LDF Internship Update

During the past week, LAU finalized a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to be signed by LAU, the host organization and the LDF participants. The majority of the hosting non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have received the resumes of the students they will be hosting and have responded positively by signing the MOU with LAU. LAU will be establishing with other NGOs such agreements. Please find below an updated table of all the NGOs that will be hosting students.

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, 22 of the 25 expected participants arrived in Beirut and were received at the airport by the LAU LDF team. Two withdrew (1 from Jordan, and 1 from Algeria). The last participant, from Syria, has not been able to join the group. The participants were then briefed and housed at Coral Suites hotel in Hamra, Beirut, a five minute walk from the LAU campus and well-equipped with small kitchenettes and comfortable rooms, in addition to WI-FI. The hotel is also centrally located in the heart of Beirut.





Participants were also given a tour of campus, provided their university campus access IDs, given access to the Library as well as to the internet around campus. Arrangements were also made for them to receive their weekly stipend and to learn about university extra-curricular activities.

Most participants participated in the successful visit of the Grotto of Jeitta on Sunday, as well as a visit to the area of Harissa which oversees the bay of Jounieh.



On the way to the Grotto of Jeitta



At Harissa





## **V. Program Outreach**

During the past week, the LDF team started working on a draft of the LDF website. By early next week, users will be able to see a complete draft of the website (only the English version). This version will soon be followed by an Arabic version.

A number of LDF students were interviewed by local media about their program and by the LAU Marketing and Communication (MARCOM) department for an article posted on the LAU website at: [http://www.lau.edu.lb/news-events/news/archive/shaping\\_regional\\_democracy\\_lea/](http://www.lau.edu.lb/news-events/news/archive/shaping_regional_democracy_lea/)

A press release was also sent out to the press to announce the launch of the LDF program.