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LCPS Newsletter

The Lebanese Center for Policy Studies

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The Arab Uprising Domestic Consequences and International Reactions

LCPS, in collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, organized on May 19, 2011 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Beirut, two roundtable discussions on the domestic consequences of the Arab uprising and the international reactions as part of a series of roundtables on the Arab uprising.

The first roundtable gathered five distinguished panelists—Martin Beck, Resident Representative of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Amman Office, Jordan, Kevan Harris, PhD Candidate in Sociology at Johns Hopkins University, Steve Heydemann, Senior Vice President at the United States Institute of Peace, Richard Khuri, Professor of Philosophy, Religion, Mythology and Cultural Studies at the Lebanese American University, Reinoud Leenders, Professor of International Relations at the University of Amsterdam, Paul Salem, Director of Carnegie Middle East Center, Michael Young, Opinion Editor of the Daily Star Newspaper in Beirut—to discuss the causes of the uprising, the types of regimes expected to emerge, and the role of the international community in the transition process. The discussion will be synthesized into a brief report that will be widely distributed and uploaded on LCPS' website.

The second roundtable focused primarily on what could and should the European Union do in light of the uprising. Dr. Martin Beck, Resident Representative of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Amman Office, Jordan, led the discussion which was followed by interventions from local and international scholars, experts, and diplomats.



Forthcoming Publication

'The Arab Uprising: Domestic Consequences and International Reactions' is the first of a series of LCPS Reports on the Arab uprising and its political and economic implications on Lebanon.

It synthesizes the main arguments discussed and debated during the LCPS Roundtable in collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Amman, Jordan, on May 19, 2011. The report will be available on the LCPS website by end of June.



Paul Salem, left, Director of Carnegie Middle East Center and Richard Khuri, Professor of Philosophy at the Lebanese American University taking part in the roundtable discussion on the Arab uprising

Governance and Society in Iran and Syria

Challenges and Prospects in Regional Perspective

LCPS hosted in its premises on May 20, 2011, a seminar jointly organized with the University of Amsterdam and HIVOS to discuss a collaborative research program on governance and society in Iran and Syria. Part of a two year project funded, the seminar was attended by local and international researchers.

The Foresight for Conflict Prevention in the Middle East

Beirut Expert Meeting

Part of a regional project funded by the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) and coordinated with the Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies and the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, LCPS organized a national experts' meeting on May 3, 2011 with Nizar Abdel Kader, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Al-Diyyar newspaper, Fadi Abi Allam, President of the Permanent Peace Movement, Ghaleb Abou Mosleh, Independent Economist, Abdel Halim Fadlallah, Director of the Consultative Center for Studies and Documentation, Rania Masri, Assistant Professor at the University of Balamand, Marwan Rowayheb, Assistant Professor at the Lebanese American University, and Tannous Mouawad, General Manager of the Middle East Studies Ltd to discuss the factors that lead to conflict in Lebanon.

The meeting is part of a larger project that aims to enhance the ability to anticipate and address sociopolitical, economic, military, and environmental factors that could lead to conflict.

Preparation for the Third Arab Democracy Index in Jordan

LCPS, in partnership with the Arab Reform Initiative (ARI), is working towards the publication of a yearly report that constitutes a pioneering effort to develop the first of its kind report on the status of reforms in the Arab world produced by an Arab institution.

Towards this end, LCPS' Project Manager, Rania Jureidini, participated in a meeting held in Amman on April 21, 2011, to discuss the final publication of the third yearly report (2010-2011) and the possible revisions to the upcoming report (2011-2012) in the light of the changes taking place in the region.

Evaluation of Training Provided by Search for Common Ground

to Teachers in Selected Lebanese Schools

Subsequent to four focus groups and several interviews conducted with teachers and public schools administrators in Beirut, Nabatieh and Tripoli, LCPS' focus group unit evaluated for Search for Common Ground (SFCG) the training that has been provided to teachers to help build an inclusive national identity and enhance youths listening skills. The focus group report also provided recommendations on how to improve future training for teachers.

Amman Workshop on Think Tanks and Research Centers in the Levant Region



Rania Abi Habib, LCPS' Development and Communication officer, shared the LCPS experience as a leading Lebanese public policy think tank with peer centers from Jordan and Palestine in a workshop organized in Amman on May 21-22, 2011.

The workshop, which was hosted by the Vision Institute for Civil Society Studies, is part of a series of networking and capacity building activities organized by the Network of Democrats in the Arab World (NDAW). The guidebooks and proceedings resulting from these activities series will be presented in a regional conference to be held in Beirut in September 2011.

Public Policy and Research in the Arab world

Pre and Post Uprising

Sami Atallah, LCPS' Director, discussed the role of policy research institutes in the Arab world post-uprising in a two-day seminar on 'Public Policy and Research in the Arab world: Pre and Post Uprising' organized by the Consortium of Arab Policy Research Institutes (CAPRI) at the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB). The event which was held in Beirut on May 6-7, 2011 was largely attended by the directors of policy research centers in the region.

Grants Awarded

LCPS received an institutional support grant from the Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) to support LCPS become a self-sustaining policy center as well as rebrand LCPS to reinforce its identify, image, and long term visibility in line with its mission and values.

LCPS also received funding for a policy research on the 'Impact of the Political Crisis on the Economy' from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). The project intends to investigate the impact of the current political crisis on the Lebanese economy through diagnosing the problem and formulating policy recommendations on how to mitigate these effects.

LCPS Online



Follow these in full detail on the new LCPS website launching soon.

www.lcps-lebanon.org

LCPS Newsletter

June 2011

Upcoming activities

Two roundtable discussions. Political and economic implications of the Arab uprising on Lebanon

Workshop. 'Reconciliation, Reform, and Self-determination in Lebanon', in collaboration with Conciliation Resources

LCPS publications

Our publications include books, working papers, and policy reports, and briefs. They are available at the Center and online by visiting our website www.lcps-Lebanon.org

Director's Note



Dear friends and colleagues,

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the first issue of our newsletter which will serve as a regular mean of communicating LCPS policy research activities and outputs. In each issue, we will provide our readers with a brief synopsis about our roundtable discussions, our current research projects, conferences we organized and participated in, grants awarded, and upcoming initiatives.

As part of our roundtable series, we launched in May two roundtable discussions aimed at examining more closely the domestic consequences of and international reactions to the Arab uprising with a group of experts. The first roundtable discussed the impact of the uprising on the emergence of democracy in the Arab world. The second examined the possible policy roles of the EU during these crucial times in the region.

We will keep you informed about our research agenda which will tackle issues of local development, transparency and accountability in the national budget, and sectarianism. We are currently redesigning our website which will become a reference policy portal on Lebanon. Please feel free to contact us for more information.

Sincerely,

Sami Atallah



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