

## **JUCAL holds its Annual Conference in Tucuman - Argentina from 11 till 14 October 2013 - En**

Upon the invitation of the chairperson of the WLCU World Council for Youth of Lebanese Descent Dimas Chantiri, the youth Chapter in Argentina "JUCAL" held its Annual Conference from 11 till 14 October in Tucuman - Argentina, in the presence of the Ambassador of Lebanon in Argentina Antonio Andary, World Secretary General Toni Kaddissi, Regional Secretary General for Latin America Juan Saliba, former chairperson of the WLCU World Council for Youth Mr. Ernesto Saliba, President of RJLiban Naji Farah, Miss Emigrants 2013 Miss Rita Hokayem representing the Youth Chapter of Toronto – Canada, officers and members of the youth chapters from all over Argentina and a youth delegation from Mexico "JOMALI" that participated in the World Congress for youth which took place in Lebanon last August. The number of participants reached 150 young men and women.

The conference started with the Argentinean National Anthem followed by the Lebanese National Anthem and one minute of silence in memory of the great Lebanese singer Mr. Wadih Safi.

Mr. Dimas Chantiri delivered the welcoming statement followed by WSG Toni Kaddissi who thanked the Youth for the invitation and congratulated them on the conference. Thereafter WSG welcomed the Lebanese Ambassador and thanked him for his presence. Moreover he reiterated the WLCU WP, WSG and world council's commitment to assist the Youth chapters in spreading, not only in Argentina which I believe is an excellent example to follow, but across the World and Mr. Dimas Chantiri hard work is greatly appreciated defying all odds. On the occasion the WSG reiterated the commitment of the WLCU to work closely with the municipality of Dhour Shweir to hold the event of Miss Emigrants 2014. Moreover Miss Emigrants 2013 Rita Hokayem will take part at the event of Miss Earth to be held in the Philippines in 7 December and Miss Emigrants Argentina Maria Laura Garcia will take part in the event of the Miss Intercontinental in Germany in 14 December. However the most important news I carry is to confirm the World Congress for youth for 2014 will be held in Lebanon between the 18th and 28th of July expecting your assistance and participation.

The WLCU WP Mr. Michel Doueihi sent a letter of encouragement to the conferees thanking them and reminding them of their excellent and successful trip to Lebanon past summer. Mr. Doueihi said he is sure that Lebanon will survive with expatriates who can relate to the mother land the land of the cedar and the Phoenicians. He addressed those who visited Lebanon in summer and ask them to continue the long path of success because they are the treasure of the future of Lebanon. Mr. Doueihi concluded with a thankful note to all.

Misses Rolande Abou Kassam, Rita Yammin and Rita Khoury addressed the conference on behalf of the Lebanese Youth who took part at the congress in Lebanon thanking the WLCU for the outstanding job. They stated that it was a great encounter of friends from across the globe infused with an exchanged of culture and a demonstration of the deep connection of the young expatriates with the motherland.

During the conference, Dimas Chantiri and Ernesto Saliba explained the true meaning of the Lebanese identity "Lebanonism".

Thereafter a testimony of the mutual work of JUCAL with the organization of NINAWA DAHER that concluded with re-opening of the social house of CASITA DE PIEDAD for the Argentinian natives.

Mr. Naji Farah president of RJLiban presented the collaboration work with JUCAL that led to donate a 45 days scholarship to one member of JUCAL and 15 more scholarships to members of the Argentine Youth that includes lodging and courses to learn Arabic in Lebanon for 20 days in order to develop cultural links with all the chapters in Argentina.

Finally, the committees of social work, journalism, media, culture and education got together to develop new projects and activities across all the states in Argentina.

The conference and award ceremony concluded with a gala dinner in honor of those present.