

"Rethinking Lebanon"

Friday June 17, 2022

Maison du Futur, Bickfaya

Concept note:

The "Maison du Futur" launches its annual conference on June 17, 2022. The conference aims to profoundly revisit and reflect on Lebanon. A most needed endeavor, following the myriad financial and political crisis that overshadowed the 100th anniversary of the creation of the State of Lebanon, culminating in the apocalyptic explosion on August 4, 2020, of the port of Beirut.

The conference theme will be "Rethinking Lebanon". It targets a new line of thought and assesses the very foundation of the Nation. It will underline the rebirth of the State within a new social and economic spectrum. In doing so, it will spearhead the development of constructive proposals laying the foundations for a new road map towards a better future.

The speakers will hail from various Lebanese, Arab, and Western backgrounds. Starting with the founding principles of the Lebanese state, they will tackle those problems and obstacles hindering the smooth running of institutions, proposing hitherto pragmatic solutions towards Nationhood and Statehood.

Their expertise will shed a light on the current existential problems in the development of a proper democracy and liberal economy, which once was the role model for the entire region. Discussion panels will address thorny issues, be it political sectarianism, the relation between state and communities, the pertinence of the Lebanese economic system, the impact of regional tensions and foreign interferences on the independence and sovereignty of the state- notably the possible hegemonic role of Iran in the Mideast and its influence in Lebanon. Also, the conference will discuss Lebanon's place in the Arab World and within the international community, the young generation's role in a new social pact, the impact of May 15 legislative elections and the reform process in the country.

At a time when the stakes of power are exacerbated in the region, and against the background of sectarian tensions, Lebanon seems to be, now more than ever, despite- or because of- these deep crises, the very potential for a new beginning, for a new hope for the entire Mideast and beyond.

We are delighted to welcome you to the Maison du Futur, in its calm and serene setting in the Metn, in Bikfaya, for a fruitful and productive exchange on these most important and pressing issues.