

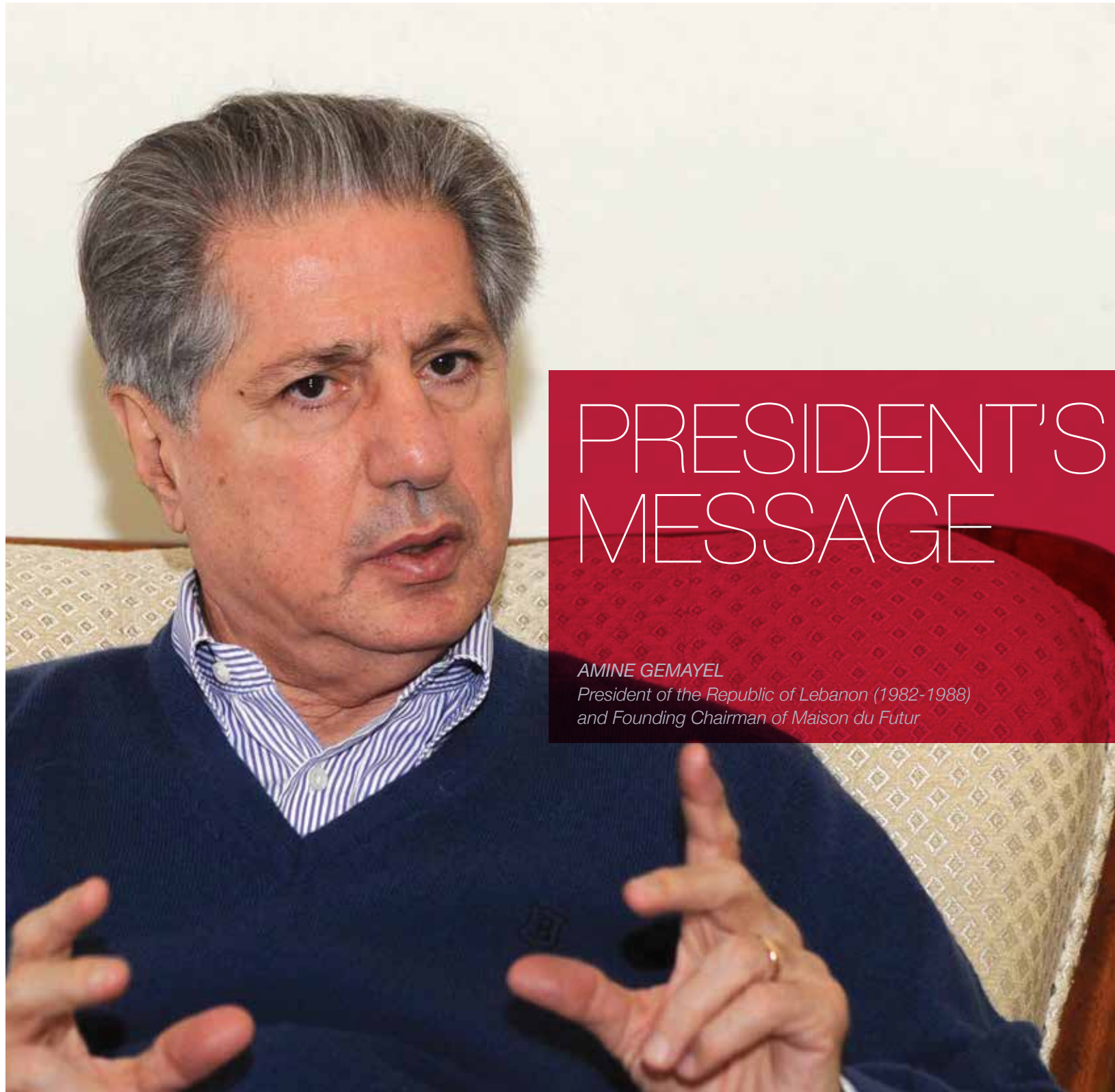


MAISON  
DU FUTUR

بيت المستقبل

A RESEARCH, ANALYSIS AND DIALOGUE INSTITUTION,  
**MAISON DU FUTUR**





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AMINE GEMAYEL  
*President of the Republic of Lebanon (1982-1988)  
and Founding Chairman of Maison du Futur*

## “ SHAPING THE DESTINY OF THE ARAB WORLD, INCLUDING LEBANON ”

I am pleased to announce that Maison du Futur (MdF) has resumed its mission and activities after a forced hiatus, imposed by conditions of the Lebanese War and a resulting eclipse of civilization. Today, MdF has returned to its roots dating back to the mid-1970s, when it was a leading center of research and study in Lebanon and the wider Middle East. Always a haven for an intellectual vanguard eager to engage in civil discourse and substantive dialogue, Maison du

Futur has reopened its doors in a new venue: the historic Serail of Bikfaya, a prominent district of Beirut since the mid-nineteenth century.

Maison du Futur resumes its role amid a set of disastrous circumstances prevailing in Lebanon, the Arab world and the Middle East generally. This state of affairs can be encapsulated as self-inflicted paralysis, wars without borders, and regimes with no future. The Arab Spring ushered in a moment

of hope characterized by a fleeting consensus that, unharnessed, was rapidly supplanted by disillusionment and conflict.

In the face of prevailing and looming threats that cloud the present and future of Lebanon and the Arab region—and that even call into question global peace—let us search for real solutions that will break the cycle of wars and crises. An earnest movement for real change can begin

with a cadre of scholars and thought leaders who join together to forge a new vision, a new strategy and a new bundle of solutions.

Arab peoples will neither thrive nor survive if they are captured by mindsets and doctrines that hinder progress. Instead, what is needed and urgent at this juncture is a series of ideas and programs that propel societies

from stagnation to modernity and innovation, from a triptych of illiteracy, ignorance and violence to a trinity of education, development and values.

My ambition for Maison du Futur is to create a dynamic forum for generating innovative thought as the basis of genuine reform. MdF will be an open and sustainable platform where leaders, scholars and experts

from various fields can pause to reflect, debate and forge new ideas and concepts for creating a world of stability, peace and human dignity.

Let us join together and pool our efforts towards this great endeavor.

# MISSION

“ ONE OF THE MOST VENERABLE THINK TANKS IN THE MIDDLE EAST ”



A research, analysis and dialogue institution, Maison du Futur explores viable alternative futures for the Middle East and Arab world, including Lebanon. Founded in 1975 and now embarking on a re-launch, Maison du Futur has been called “one of the most venerable think tanks in the Middle East.”

Maison du Futur recognizes the urgent need for conflict management in today’s turbulent Middle East. At the same time, Maison du Futur’s perspective transcends current crises by identifying the requirements of a stable postwar regional order and addressing essential priorities through its flagship initiative, the **Arab Marshall Plan**.

Maison du Futur’s Arab Marshall Plan aims at providing a platform for the forces of moderation in their struggle against extremism and formulating near and mid-term strategies for sustainable economic development, legitimate government, religious pluralism, and minority rights. Inspired by the international thought of visionary statesmen and women of the East and West, Maison du Futur’s work is guided by four key principles:

CREATING PARTNERSHIP AND ENCOURAGING LEADERSHIP THROUGH DIALOGUE

ENGAGING A RANGE OF STAKEHOLDERS

BLENDING SKILLS & EXPERIENCE BETWEEN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

INNOVATIVE IDEAS & PLANS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CONTINUOUSLY MONITORING THE PROCESS OF ITS INITIATIVES



# HISTORY

THE FOUNDING BUILDING  
*Maison du Futur 1978-1988*

## FOUNDING

EMBODYING A VISIONARY CONCEPT DEVELOPED BY ITS FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN PRESIDENT AMINE GEMAYEL, MAISON DU FUTUR WAS LAUNCHED IN 1975 WITH THE MANDATE OF ENHANCING THE SCHOLARLY AND CULTURAL LIFE OF LEBANON, THE ARAB WORLD, AND THE BROADER MIDDLE EAST. AT ITS PEAK, MAISON DU FUTUR COMPRISED SEVERAL KEY INITIATIVES, MOST OF WHICH ARE DESCRIBED BELOW.

### INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES FOR PEACE

The Institute for Strategic Studies for Peace (ISSP) produced advanced geopolitical, economic and cultural studies on the national, regional, and international levels. After Amine Gemayel was elected President of Lebanon in 1982, ISSP was tasked with furnishing his administration with strategic advice and programmatic guidance to help the government implementing its national and international agendas.

### CENTER FOR DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH

The Center for Documentation and Research (CEDRE) established in 1975 was a truly groundbreaking enterprise: the first computerized documentation/research hub established in the Middle East. CEDRE created a steady stream of electronic records collected from newspapers and periodicals, all accessible in a keyword-searchable format. These records were raw materials for objective and scientific studies of Middle Eastern affairs.

### DATA BANK

Using the latest in computer technology, CEDRE Data Bank has tracked and documented daily events and strategic trends across the Arab world and Middle East. The procedures and techniques developed by the Data Bank—including trilingual (Arabic-English-French) keyword search routines—were later utilized by a major global event-data project at the University of Maryland, College Park, USA.

### RESEARCH LIBRARY

CEDRE featured a state of the art Research Library specializing in Middle Eastern topics which included extensive materials on microfilm. The library held a wide-ranging collection of historic and contemporary Arabic newspapers, especially Lebanese dailies.

### CULTURAL CENTER

No portrait of the original Maison du Futur would be complete without appreciating its status as a leading cultural center dedicated to enriching the literary and artistic life of Beirut, one of the world's great cosmopolitan cities. In this capacity, Maison du Futur organized and hosted a lively calendar of musical concerts, photo galleries, and artistic exhibitions; in the context of dialogue of cultures, it also awarded an annual prize to a young artist of distinction.

### PUBLISHING HOUSE

Maison du Futur maintained an active publishing house for the production and circulation of quality books, monographs, and journals in Arabic, English, and French. One of Maison du Futur's premier titles was Halyatt ("Panorama of Events"), a quarterly compilation of official documents and media reports drawn from sources across the Middle East with cross referencing.



### FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND CIVIL WAR

During the difficult era of foreign intervention and civil war in Lebanon, Maison du Futur attempted to provide a haven for the kind of intellectual and cultural pursuits and exchanges that can bridge divides between contending communities. Unfortunately, Maison du Futur itself fell victim to armed strife when its facilities, assets, and headquarters were demolished during the later stages of the Lebanese civil war. From the 1990s until recently, Maison du Futur experienced an interval of semi-dormancy forced upon it by successive blows of war, foreign occupation, and outside interference in Lebanon's internal affairs.



# STRUCTURE

“ EDUCATION, GOVERNANCE, ECONOMIC VIABILITY, HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT, RELIGION AND POLITICS ”

The Maison du Futur’s vision to become an intellectual hub for the conception and discussion of a new Middle East has proven its value in light of the tragic events that continue to afflict the region.

The comprehensive coverage suggested through the identification of key themes that ought to be treated as priorities in the region (education, governance, economic viability, health

and the environment, religion and politics) will remain the natural course to seek for the development of Maison du Futur.

Maison du Futur on inception will initiate three topical “centers” to distinguish from sister institutions and to build upon existing strengths and connections in order to deliver unique products and perspectives.





## THE MAISON DU FUTUR CENTERS

### **CENTER FOR THE ARAB MARSHALL PLAN** مركز مشروع مارشال العربي

Focusing on exploring and promoting the feasibility of a Marshall plan like effort in the region at its highest conceptual level, through the identification and study of initiatives towards such goal.

### **CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE** مركز الحوار الدولي

Focusing on encouraging and maintaining communication and understanding between cultures, religions, various political and social systems at a time of increasing polarization, and focusing on developing a permanent dialogue between various minorities.

### **CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTIONS** مركز دراسات التدخلات الدولية

Focusing on analyzing and assessing previous international interventions in local and regional conflicts to draw lessons applicable to current crises. This center would be the first of its kind and may attract academic and policy interest from the region and beyond in association with international recognized universities centers both on the east and the west.



# EVENTS



## AN ARAB MARSHALL PLAN

A PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE MIDDLE EAST

A conference that tackled the future of the geopolitical order in the Middle East, in light of a discussion about Germany's post World War II experience and its suitability for Lebanon and the Arab countries.

*Serail Bikfayya  
May 30, 2015, starting 9:00 am*

# EVENTS

## AFTER THE STORM

### DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT IN A NEW MIDDLE EAST

A conference on democracy, stability and security in the region, that shed the light on ways to fill the vacuum created by the current chaos and focused on key choices that the Arab World is facing.

Washington, DC  
December 10, 2013



## لبنان، إلى أين؟ وأي لبنان نريد؟

الدكتور فيليب سالم

بيت المستقبل، بكفيا، ٣٠ تموز  
يوليو ٢٠١٥

A lecture with Dr. Philippe Salem entitled: "Where is Lebanon heading? Which Lebanon do we want?"

The lecture was held in Maison du Futur headquarters in Bikfaya.



## "CULTURE OR CIVILISATION. THE RETURN OF POLITICAL EXTREMISM IN THE 21ST CENTURY"

A lecture with Rob Riemen, founder and President of the Nexus Institute, on the situation in the Arab World and the resurgence of extremism in Europe: is it the product of a defensive stand or the result of deeper faults in the global culture?

MAISON DU FUTUR Serail Bikfaya,  
Bikfaya  
April 27th, 2015 at 5 p.m.

## TRANSPARENCY IN ARAB MEDIA

### FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION & TRANSPARENCY IN ARAB MEDIA

A panel of experts from renowned Lebanese and Arab institutions discussing the freedom of expression and transparency in the Arab media (TV and social media) and the relevant challenges and opportunities.

Le Gabriel hotel, Ashrafieh ,Beirut  
February 6th, 2015



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**HASSAN I. MNEIMNEH**

Principal at Middle East Alternatives in Washington DC, USA

Over the past 15 years, he has served as scholar, policy analyst, and civil society practitioner specializing in the affairs of the Middle East, North Africa and the wider Islamic world. From August 2011 to August 2014, he was Senior Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF).



**ABBOUD BEJJANI**

AbbVie Regional Vice President, Middle East, Africa & Pakistan Region

Bejjani is Regional Vice President for AbbVie Biopharmaceutical for the MEAP Region, following the separation of Abbott into two publicly traded companies: Abbott & AbbVie. He has joined Abbott in 1998 as Financial Planning Manager for the Middle East Region. He began his career in 1992 at Arthur Andersen & Co.



**ROBERT K. SURSOCK**

Chairman and CEO of Gazprombank Invest MENA

He became a shareholder in the Bank through a share swap with Primecorp Finance SA. Mr. Sursock established PrimeCorp Finance S.A. in 1997, a financial institution providing Investment Banking advisory services specialized in funds structuring and offering corporate finance advisory services to institutions across Europe and the Middle-East. He held the position of Chairman and CEO.



**GABRIEL E. JALKH**

Information Science Professor & Consultant

25 years of Industry Experience in Management.  
35 years in Teaching Computer Science & Information Science.



**SAMUEL G. MENASSA**

Extensive experience in Arab media outlets, including as host of political talk show and as researcher and analyst for various newspapers and television stations throughout the Arab world.

Former General Director of VDL. Expert in data gathering and processing related to Middle Eastern affairs, especially political and social aspects of Arab development. Decades of experience in compiling and dissemination of Arab media information.



**SAMI AOUN PH.D**

Tenure Professor at the School of Applied Politics at the Université De Sherbrooke Québec, Canada

Director of the Observatory of the Middle East and North Africa at the Raoul-Dandurand-UQAM. Analyst at Radio Canada (CBC) RDI, Lecturer, guest speaker in Canada and elsewhere on the Middle Eastern affairs.



**JOSEPH KHOURY**

CEO and Founding partner of REACH

Joseph Khoury is a founding partner of REACH, and CEO since the inception of the company. Specialized in Social Psychological and Marketing research, owner of patents in psychometric measurement PhD in Social Psychology, Sorbonne Paris, France 1977 and Professor of social psychology.



**NABIL FADDOUL**

Financial and real estate investor

2011-Present: Financial and land investment at Abuja (Nigeria) and Kinshasa (Congo)  
1997-2000: Member of the board EDL (Electricité du Liban)  
1994-Present: Member of the board FTML ( France Telecom Mobile Liban)  
1994- Present: Reference shareholder in telecom service companies in Jordan and Algeria.

MAISON DU FUTUR AND KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG  
AGREED UPON A COOPERATION STRATEGY AIMED AT PREPARING EVENTS OF  
COMMON INTEREST FOR BOTH FOUNDATIONS.

MAISON DU FUTUR AND THE CENTER OF PARTNERSHIP OF CIVILIZATIONS, MGIMO, RUSSIA  
SIGNED ON MAY 30, 2015 A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THREE YEARS TO  
ENCOURAGE DIALOGUE OF CULTURES, ORGANIZE JOINT CONFERENCES AND CONDUCT  
STUDIES FOCUSING ON THE MENA REGION.

MAISON DU FUTUR AND THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND  
SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON JUNE 30, 2013 TO STRENGTHEN  
COOPERATION AND DEVELOP ACTIVITIES WITH A FOCUS ON THE MENA REGION.

# PARTNERS



Konrad  
Adenauer  
Stiftung



**G | M | F** The German Marshall Fund  
of the United States  
STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION



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