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2017 Report of the Arab Forum for Environment and Development (AFED)

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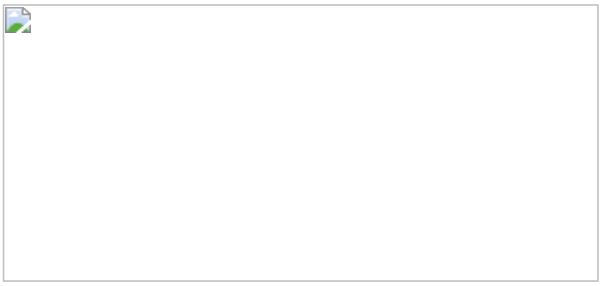
AFED's SwitchMedPanel in Barcelona: Green Economy and Cleaner Production in Lebanon

Barcelona, 20 October 2016

AFED's SwitchMedPanel in Barcelona: Green Economy and Cleaner Production in Lebanon



Barcelona, 20 October 2016

The Arab Forum for Environment and Development AFED) today hosted a session at SwitchMed annual gathering in Barcelona, on Sustainable Development Goals in a Changing Arab Climate. SwitchMed is an initiative that supports and connects stakeholders to promote sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in the southern Mediterranean region, through social and eco innovations. The initiative, supported by the EU, UNIDO and UNEP, gathers some 500 innovators annually from 8 Mediterranean countries.

Moderated by AFED Secretary General Najib Saab, the SDGs session featured 3 panelists: Michéle Gendreau-Massaloux, Vice President of Groupe Intéracademique pour le Développement, Hossam Allam, Regional Program Manager at CEDARE, and Sabine Ghosn, Program Director at the Lebanese Ministry of Environment.

Saab introduced the subject by presenting main challenges facing Arab countries in achieving the SDGs. He concluded that, by applying traditional methods, it will be difficult for most Arab countries to re-establish the status-quo which was prevailing in 2010, rather than achieving the SDGs by the 2030 target. He outlined the approach advocated by AFED, based on integrating sustainable development principles in the re-construction plans in countries that suffered from wars, conflicts or political upheavals. He stressed the need of a nexus approach, combining water-energy-food, with the impact of climate change.

Gendreau-Massaloux discussed the role of education and research in advancing development. Allam focused on green economy as a smooth transition route to human-centered development, which creates real jobs and preserves the natural capital.

Ghosn discussed options of international cooperation in achieving sustainable development targets building on local assets. As a model, she presented the industrial pollution abatement project in Lebanon, funded by the World Bank and UNIDO in cooperation with Banque du Liban. The project enables factories to get soft loans to shift to cleaner production, provided they comply with conditions imposed by an environmental commitment certificate.

Innovative practical initiatives were presented by young entrepreneurs from Mediterranean countries. Among them was a project to transform used plastic bags into stylish purses, by Lebanese graphic designer Nour Qais.

PHOTO CAPTION: From left: Saab, Gendeeau-Massaloux, Allam, Ghosn.

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AFED 10th Annual Conference in November: Arab Environment in 10 Years
19/6/2017

AFED at Arab Sustainable Development Forum in Rabat
Rabat, 5 May 2017

AFED Founding Trustee Maroun Semaan Passes Away
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Climate change, natural resources and conflicts in Arab countries
The Netherlands, 9/2/2017

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Recommendations of AFED 9th Annual Conference on Sustainable Development in a Changing Arab Climate
Beirut, 14 November 2016

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Beirut, 11/11/2016

AFED annual conference kicks off at AUB, Beirut
Beirut, 10/11/2016

AFED 2016 Conference in November at AUB: Sustainable development in a turbulent Arab world
Beirut, 27 October 2016

Global declaration on the ethical aspects of climate change
Rabat, 26 September 2016

AFED Conference in November Part of AUB 150th Anniversary
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AFED participates in the second United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 2)
Nairobi, 28/5/2016

AFED Secretary General at UN General Assembly
New York, 22/4/2016

AFED at MENAREC
Kuwait, 7/4/2016

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