



Lebanon and Climate Change



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The UN Information Centre in Beirut, in cooperation with the Association for Forest Development and Conservation (AFDC), held a one-day workshop entitled “Lebanon and Climate Change” at the UN House, in the presence of Lebanese Member of Parliament Akram Chehayeb, representatives from a number of Lebanese ministries, the Council for Development and Recon-

struction (CDR), and NGOs. The workshop was held under the overall theme of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and as part of the Seal the Deal campaign initiated by the UN to encourage governments to adopt a fair, balanced and efficient agreement on climate change at the upcoming UN conference to be held in De-

cember in Copenhagen. Participants in the meeting emphasized the grave impacts of climate change on Lebanon and ways to counter them. They also stressed the effects of climate change on our lives and the danger of rising greenhouse gas emissions. Participants also issued a series of recommendations to be

submitted to the UN and the Copenhagen meeting. The main issue raised was the establishment of a national committee to include all ministries and official administrations, alongside the civil society, academia and environmental media to put in place a local and an international strategy for Lebanon on climate change. Another recommendation of the meeting was to activate

The UN Celebrates the International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace was observed on Monday 21 September this year with individual and collective initiatives. “The International Day of Peace is a global call for ceasefire and non-violence. It is a time to reflect on the horror and cost of

war, and on our duty to resolve disputes peacefully,” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in his message for the Day. The UN held a series of events worldwide to commemorate the day, and Ban

rang the UN Peace Bell in a ceremony at UN Headquarters. “As long as such weapons exist, no one is safe,” he said. “On this International Day of Peace, I have a simple message for all: We Must Disarm! We must have peace.”

Lebanon and Climate Change (Cont.)

the Lebanese environmental observatory for studies and research on the matter.

The meeting also called for the establishment of a communications committee made up of the representatives of civil society, relevant ministries and the media to raise awareness on climate change. It stressed the importance of giving enough support to the “Seal the Deal” campaign and gathering as many signatures on it as possible in Lebanon.

Participants agreed that there should be a financing mechanism in the context of the UNFCCC, and that a major portion of the funds should come from the public sector and government budgets. They called on developed countries that will come together in Copenhagen to offer sufficient financial and technical support to establish national committees in developing countries and draw up long-term plans on climate change. ■

The UN Celebrates the International Day of Peace (Cont.)

In Lebanon, viewers who tuned in to local channels on this day saw their religious leaders and heard them preach words of peace. The leaders of seven main religious rites appeared on TV screens throughout the day through short spots in which they addressed viewers and spoke about peace, and its meanings for every religion. The project was initiated by the UN Information Centre (UNIC) in Beirut and produced by Future TV, and it sought to reach the widest possible audience in a country that was once war-torn and where peace is very precious.

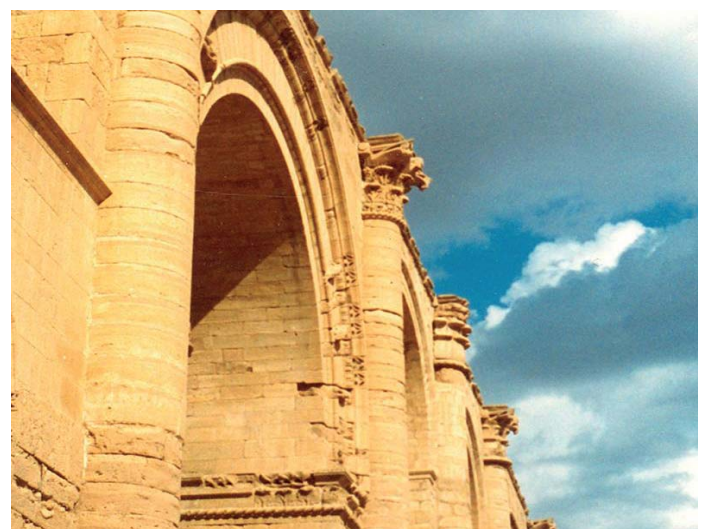
The UN General Assembly declared in 2001 that every 21 September shall be the International Day of Peace, and shall be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an invitation to all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day. ■



UNESCO World Heritage Sites in ESCWA Region

A large fortified city under the influence of the Parthian Empire and capital of the first Arab Kingdom, Hatra withstood invasions by the Romans in A.D. 116 and 198 thanks to its high, thick walls reinforced by towers. The remains of the city, especially the temples where Hellenistic and Roman architecture blend with Eastern decorative features, attest to the greatness of its civilization. ■

Iraq; Hatra; Date of Inscription: 1985
Source: UNESCO/BPI



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