



RESEARCH WORKSHOP:

‘Workers organisations, social demands and public policies’

Organised by Aurora Sottimano (OIB) in collaboration with Elisabeth Longuenesse (IFPO)

Date: 17 November 2012
Venue: Orient-Institut Beirut (OIB)

9 – 9.30 **Keynote speaker:** Elisabeth Longuenesse, Director
Department of Contemporary Studies, French Institute for the Near East (IFPO)

9,30 – 11,15 **Panel 1** **Trade unions in post-war Lebanon**

Introduction: Ghassan Slaiby
Sub-Regional Secretary, Arab Countries, Public Service International

Castro Abdallah President of FENASOL, Federation of Lebanese Workers Unions
Abdel Amir Najde President of Federation of Public Cars Drivers for Land Transport Unions

The panel will discuss the recent history of the Lebanese labour movement, with a focus on the process of fragmentation of the labour movement after 1994: is this a result of the conflict and its precarious ‘balance of peace’; a consequence of globalization and changed paradigms and discourses (from socialism to the market); or the outcome of domestic struggles peculiar to Lebanese politics? The panel will analyse the relation between unions, local federations and the General Federation of Trade Unions as well as the role/input of the General Federation in the making of relevant public policies.

11,15 – 11,30 Break

11,30 – 13,15 **Panel 2** **Niqabat and rawabit: Workers’ demands and social issues**

Introduction: Adib Bou Habib
General Secretary of Printing Press Employees Union and
President of the Lebanese Trade Union Training Centre

Hanna Gharib President of Public Secondary School Teachers League
Georges Hajj President of the Federation of Bank Workers Union
Kamal Mawlud President of the Union of North Lebanon Water Establishment Workers
Discussant: Farah Kobaissy
Lebanese Observatory for the Rights of Workers and Employees

The panel will analyse activities and programs of specific Lebanese workers’ organisations, identified as relatively more representative and active than most unions, and less related to political parties, and will question the reasons of their success. It will address the way they articulate workers’ demands and their platforms for action regarding workers’ rights and welfare.

Participants:

Lebanese associations

Milad Barakat, President, Spinneys Workers Union
Antoine Bechara, former head of General Federation of Trade Unions in Lebanon
Kamal Hamdan, Director, Consultation and Research Institute
Riad Isa, activist and workers representative at OGERO

International Organisations:

Samir Farah, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Beirut
Gisela Nauk, ESCWA, Social Policies Department, Beirut
Nabil Abdo National Coordinator for "Strengthening Workers' Organizations in the Arab
Countries through Economic Social and Legal Literacy Project" ILO, Beirut

Media commentators

Salwa Baalbeki, al-Nahar, Beirut
Hasan Lhaf, journalist, Beirut
Wissam Matta, al-Safir, Beirut
Mohammad Zbeeb, al-Akhbar, Beirut

Researchers /academics

Marie Noelle Abi Yaghi , Researcher, IFPO
Nicolas Dot-Pouillard, Researcher, IFPO
Georges Kadige, Director, Centre d'études des droits du monde arabe (CEDROMA), USJ
Manfred Sing, Research Associate, OIB