

Lebanon updates

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LEBANON MUNICIPAL FORUM 2012



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UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Lebanon Municipal Forum 2012

More than 600 Participants

Under the auspices of the Minister of Interior and Municipalities, the Lebanon Municipal Forum 2012 was organized on the 8th and 9th of June 2012 in UNESCO Palace. This two-day event is part of UN-Habitat Project “Improved Municipal Governance for Effective Decentralization in Lebanon” funded by the Italian Government and implemented jointly with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities – Directorate General of Municipalities.

Organized in partnership with Beirut Municipality and the Order of Engineers and Architects in Beirut, Lebanon Municipal Forum 2012 represents a pioneer experience in the field of municipal work. It seeks to emphasize the fundamental role of municipalities by highlighting a number of outstanding practices and achievements carried out by Lebanese municipalities and unions of municipalities. In specific, the pre-determined event objectives were the following:

- Disseminate the notion of municipal work and its contribution to the local development of the cities, villages and towns.
- Encourage municipalities to initiate innovative developmental projects.
- Promote communication and networking between municipalities and governmental institutions and

international donors.

- Enhance experience exchange between municipalities.

The two-day event comprised a varied programme ranging from an exhibition showcasing 21 Municipal Best Practices, a networking platform gathering national and international actors initiating strategic plans in various regions and eight working sessions and roundtable discussions addressing various topics of direct concerns to the municipal sector in Lebanon including:

- Administrative decentralization
- Public-private partnerships
- Role of municipalities in enhancing public safety
- Local and regional planning frameworks
- Role of engineers in developing municipal work
- In addition to other important topics.

The Forum opening ceremony took place on Friday 8th June 2012. Speakers included representatives from UN-Habitat, Beirut Municipality, Order of Engineers and Architects in Beirut, the Italian Embassy and the Minister of Interior and Municipalities. Additionally, more than 350 certificates were distributed to representatives of the 12 Unions of Municipalities who took part in the training on “Local Strategic Planning”.

Local Strategic Planning

Launching UN-Habitat Training Guidebook

Being one of the main outcomes of the Italian funded Project “Improved Municipal Governance for Effective Decentralization in Lebanon” the Training Guidebook on “Local Strategic Planning” was launched during a special working session that took place on the second day of the Municipal Forum.

In his presentation, Mr. Tarek Osseiran the project manager, explained about the objectives of this guidebook and its importance, being a key tool to allow mayors, municipal staff and civil society organization to develop local strategic plans in their related regions and cities.

The Guidebook content was developed taking into consideration the specificity of the Lebanese context and the capacities of Unions of Municipalities and Municipalities. While strategic planning concepts in the first section of the guidebook is addressed to a varied audience, the second section related to the application the Strategic Planning exercise targets experts and community representatives with required background expertise and knowledge. ♦



Lebanon Municipal Forum 2012 Opening Ceremony. PHOTO © UN-Habitat



To order please contact UN-Habitat offices in Beirut.

The 2012 Municipal Best Practices

Aytaroun Municipality and UoMs of Al Fayhaa and Al Shouf Al Aala

As part of the Municipal Forum 2012, one municipality and two Unions of Municipalities were granted the Municipal Best Practices Award. The three winners will be provided with the opportunity to attend the UN-Habitat World Urban Forum, which will be taking place in Napoli, from 1 until 7 September 2012. The winners and their related projects are the following:

- Al Fayhaa Union of Municipalities for the project “Tripoli Environment and Development Observatory”
- Al Shouf el Aala Union of Municipalities for the project “Wastewater Disposal and Treatment”
- Aytaroun Municipality for the project “Establishing a Dairy Processing Plant”

Launched in July 2011, the Municipal Best Practices consist of projects implemented by municipalities or unions of municipalities throughout the period 2004-2010 and fall within the three

following areas of focus:

- Improving socio-economic conditions
- Management of natural resources
- Improved municipal governance

As a result of the wide media and information campaign by the end of 2011, 22 municipalities and 3 unions of municipalities submitted their applications/projects. A Steering Committee to review these applications was set up composed of representatives from the Directorate General of Administrations and Municipal Councils, the UN-Habitat, as well as a representative of the Italian Cooperation Office.

After the desk review of applications and related documents, the team conducted field visits to all municipalities and unions of municipalities that applied for the Municipal Best Practices. The team examined closely the existing projects and inspected their results, in addition to conducting a number of interviews with stakeholders and beneficiaries. Based on the initial evaluation process, the

committee selected 21 projects out of the 25 submitted initiatives.

This step was followed by the formation of a Selection Committee composed of representatives from the Directorate General of Administrations and Municipal Councils, the UN-Habitat, the Italian Cooperation Office, and the Order of Engineers and Architects in Beirut. Based on specific criteria, the said committee selected the best three projects.

The Municipal Forum 2012 came to contribute to the dissemination of these initiatives at the national level through the Municipal Best Practices Exhibition. Additionally, trophies were distributed to all municipalities and three runners-up were also selected detailed below:

- Dahr El Ahmar Municipality for the project “ Reviving the Weekly Municipal Market”
- Hammana Municipality for the project “Eco-Tourism”
- Jdeidet, El Bouchrieh, Al Sed Municipality for the project “Job Creation”◆



Best Practices awards and prizes distribution to the 21 Municipalities and Union of Municipalities. PHOTO © UN-Habitat

Municipal Forum Side Events

Working Sessions and Roundtable Discussions

Eight working sessions have been organized as parallel events to the Lebanon Municipal Forum 2012.

Topics were carefully selected to respond to the needs of the municipal sector.

With the overall participation of 24 speakers, these sessions mobilized more than 400 people as detailed in the following table:

Session Title	Participants
Jbeil and Batroun Cadas Strategic Plans	70
Public-Private Partnership	60
Decentralization in Lebanon	48
Launching of the Training Guidebook on "Local Strategic Planning"	55
The National Master Plan	52
Role of Municipalities in applying safety measures	56
Building synergies between local and regional planning frameworks	58
Role of engineers in developing municipal work	32
Total	431

Local Strategic Planning in Lebanon

Municipal Forum Networking Platform

With the aim of promoting networking communication and experience exchange between all concerned stakeholders involved in developing local strategic plans in various regions, the Local Strategic Planning Platform gathered various institutions ranging from Municipalities, donor and UN agencies, private sector and NGOs. Below is the list of exhibitors:

- Beirut Municipality.
- The United Nations Development Programme in partnership with the Unions of Municipalities of Dannieh and of Jezzine Region
- The Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR)
- Union of Municipalities of Tyre Caza
- Al Fayhaa Union of Municipalities
- SuggestAid
- Khatib & Alami – ESRI
- Order of Engineers and Architects in Beirut
- UN-Habitat
- Ministry of Interior and Municipalities – Directorate General of Municipalities ♦



Municipal Forum networking platform. PHOTO © UN-Habitat

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