

10 years of French Lebanese Cooperation in Health Matters celebrated at ESA



The ESA Business School organized a ceremony celebrating the 10 years of French Lebanese cooperation in health matters on Monday 15 October 2018.

The School was honored to host **His Excellency M. Ghassan Hasbani**, Minister of Public Health in Lebanon (MPH), **His Excellency M. Bruno Foucher**, Ambassador of France in Lebanon, **Dr. Walid Ammar**, Director

General of the Ministry of Health as well as three leaders of major health agencies in France: **Mrs Dominique Le Guludec**, President of French National Authority of Health (HAS), **Mr. Dominique Martin**, Director of the National Agency for the Safety of Medicine and Health Products (ANSM) and **Mr. François Toujas**, President of the French Establishment of Blood (EFS)

On this occasion, the Lebanese Republic honored two personalities who have worked hard in developing this cooperation by awarding them the Gold Medal of the Order of Merit of Lebanese Health, delivered by H.E Mr. Ghassan Hasbani in the name of the President of the Lebanese Republic, General Michel Aoun.

Mr. Stéphane Attali

ESA CEO

For his contribution in establishing and developing this cooperation and his support as the CEO of ESA.



Dr. Alain Beauplet

Previous Director of International Affairs of the EFS

For his engagement in reinforcing the quality and security of blood transfusion in Lebanon.

A major event celebrating the advancement brought by the French-Lebanese Cooperation.

The meeting of these three agencies, considered to be among the most prominent in France, is an exceptional event for Lebanon. Their presence highlights and reinforces several years of cooperation and collective work with the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health leading to the enhancement of the Lebanese health system.

- Through its scientific and technical expertise, the ANSM contributes to the development of the medicine and medical devices circuit. Over the past 10 years, the ANSM allowed the MSP to strengthen and regulate the marketing of medication and health products.
- HAS supports the MPH in the accreditation process of hospitals leading to the enhancement of the Lebanese hospital system and the quality of care towards patients.
- The EFS offers Lebanon its scientific and technical expertise in the blood transfusion specialty. This cooperation allowed the unification of the practices on a national level in order to warranty a similar quality of product of labile blood all over the Lebanese territory. A big effort was also



made towards spreading the awareness regarding blood donations, so it becomes an anonymous, free, and voluntary act in Lebanon as it is in France.

Many prominent figures were present including the presidents of the Syndicate of Importers and Manufacturers of Medicine, Mr. Armand Phares and Mrs Carole Abi Karam, the President of the Syndicate of Private Hospitals, Mr. Sleiman Haroun, the President of the Syndicate of Biologists Mr. Christian Haddad, and the representative of the President of the Order of Doctors in the North Dr. Omar Ayache.

Ceremony Sequence

Mr. Stéphane Attali, Dr Walid Ammar, Mr. Dominique Martin, Mrs Dominique Le Guludec, M. Francois Toujas, H.E Mr. Bruno Foucher and H.E Mr. Ghassan Hasbani, respectively, gave a speech at the event.

In regards to the French Lebanese cooperation, H.E Mr. Ghassan Hasbani confirmed that “the solicitation of French agencies such as the National Authority of Health (HAS), the National Agency for the Safety of Medicine and Health Products (ANSM) and the French Establishment of Blood (EFS) began 10 years ago while we were in full reconstruction mode. Different agreements were signed over the years including an inter-ministry agreement in 2011 which was renewed in 2017. It didn’t take time to render working with France an evidence in as we share the same values and similar challenges.”

The different addresses highlighted the success of this French-Lebanese cooperation as well as the achievements made by the concerned parties in enhancing the quality of health. The three French agencies confirmed the importance of their cooperation with Lebanon, qualifying it as an



international model and assured their intention in pursuing and developing this cooperation.

In the matter of blood transfusions, the president of the EFS confirmed that the progress made in 10 years is considerable since Lebanon went from a quasi-non-existent organization of blood transfusion to a structure and centralized operation of the activity. As for the Lebanese Minister of Health, he addressed the challenges which included the enabling and empowerment of blood transfusion centers, blood safety and monitoring as well as blood donation awareness.

Regarding hospital accreditation, the president of HAS reiterated the support of her agency to the Ministry of Public Health through the establishment of the “Technical Committee of Hospital Accreditation” (CTAH) by French experts suggested by HAS. It evolves around the training, in Paris, of Lebanese trainers who will train Lebanese evaluators, a support to the creation and the drafting of the procedures and documents necessary for the organization as well the governance of a new iteration of accreditation. She also commended the continuous efforts deployed by the health establishments in Lebanon in order to enhance the quality of care and the security of patient including the use of new cross-cutting methodologies such as the evaluation of professional practices (EPP) or the longitudinal follow up track.

Regarding the matter of quality of medicine, the director of the ANSM also highlighted the remarkable improvement of practices, commending the professionalism of the ministry experts who developed an efficient system of quality control and traceability for both medicine and implantable medical devices. The current challenge is to continue these efforts so that products become available securely and equally all over the country, allowing access to quality generic and biosimilar medicine while controlling the whole chain, from registration to distribution of products.

