



ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES ANCIENS ET ANCIENNES ELEEVES
DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT CATHOLIQUE

WORLD ORGANIZATION OF FORMER PUPILS
OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DE ANTIGUOS ALUMNOS Y ANTIGUAS ALUMNAS
DE LA ENSEÑANZA CATOLICA

Lisbon, 1st June 2005

Dear friends,

You are all warmly invited to participate in the **XIII World Congress of the Former Pupils of Catholic Education**, which will be held in Lebanon from 24 to 27 November, under the theme “*Former pupils of catholic schools: testimonies and agents of development, of dialogue and of peace*”

Please find enclosed the programme and the booking form which we ask you to return urgently, duly filled up to the Secretariat of the Congress.

This XIII Congress is of utmost importance for OMAEC. It is the first to be organised in the Near East and after the first outside Europe which was held in Lima – Peru in 2002. We want to give our movement the real world dimension understood by its structures. On the other hand because it is held in Lebanon, referred by Pope John Paul Two as “It is more than a country, it is a Message!” This XIII Congress was decided to be held in Lebanon for a long time, but due to the situation in the World and in the Near East we had to postpone the event.

Lebanon is a small country, having as frontiers the Mediterranean Sea, Syria and Israel, temperate climate with temperatures about 18°C in April. Arabic country but pluralist having above 18 religious confessions officially recognized! Arabic, French and English are spoken. Cradle of the Phenician civilization, Lebanon, the only country referred to 72 times in the Holy Bible, is the bridge between the East and the West, a rosary of religions, creating a multicultural society. It overcame the dramatic war between 1975 and 1990, in the Middle East; henceforth its economic and social situation has suffered a lot.

It is in this context that we wish to approach the essential questions concerning the defence of the catholic schools, in countries where the economic situation handicaps its development toward the future; we, former pupils, cannot be indifferent to the difficulties these countries face!

I warmly thank the Lebanon Organizational Committee of this Congress, under the supervision of Nagy Khoury, President of FAEC, under the coordination of the President of OMAEC. We sincerely hope that there will be a solid representation of young former pupils and also a good representation from developing countries; we shall do our best to give them a financial support if necessary.

My best wishes, with great hopes to see you in Lebanon in November.

António G. PIRES
President of OMAEC

XIII CONGRESS OF OMAEC

LEBANON - NOVEMBER 2005

PROGRAMME

Theme: « Former pupils of catholic schools: testimonies and Agents of development, of dialogue and of peace »

A – Touristique Programme:

- **Monday 21 November 2005 (Evening):** Arrival of the participants at the International Airport of Beirut. Personal reception by Former Lebanese Pupils
 - Accommodation at family homes: family dinner
 - Accommodation at the hotel of your choice: dinner at your own
- **Tuesday 22 November 2005** (National Lebanese Feast): visit to the city of Saida in the South (seaside city, Khan el-Franj, soap museum) and the region of Chouf au Mont-Liban (Beiteddine palace, church, Deir el-Kamar palace and square, emir Amine palace, Moukhtara palace, Baakline library, cidars of Barouk etc)
- **Wednesday 23 November 2005** Full day trip to the Bekaa plain (Tanal, lake Qaraoun, ruins of Anjar, city of Baalbeck, Ksara etc.)

Cost of this package: USD \$100 per person + accommodation and meals at the excursions (free at family homes, USD \$50 to USD \$150 person per night breakfast inclusive according to the chosen Hotel)

B – Common programme of the Congress

- **Wednesday 23 November 2005** (Evening): Arrival of the participants at the International Airport of Beirut. Personal reception by Former Lebanese Pupils
 - Accommodation at the Convent – Saydet el-Jabal (Notre Dame duMont, Fatka), the highest point of the city of Jounieh, 20 km from Beirut.

* **Tuesday 24 November 2005** (till 19.00) arrival of the last participants Accommodation as above free morning for those who arrived yesterday

14.00 - meeting at Saydet el-Jabal

15.30 - visit to the grotto of Jeita, one of the best natural grottos of the world

19.30 - opening ceremony - official addressing:

- words of the President of the organizing committee, Nagy Khoury
- message of the Pope and of the pontifical council for laymen
- words of the Sec. Gen. of catholic schools in Lebanon
- words of the President of OMAEC prof. António Pires
- words of his eminency the cardinal Mar Nasrallah Boutrous Sfreir, Maronite Patriarch of Anthiochia and of the Whole East, President of the Patriarch and Bishop Assembly opening conference by mons F. G. Brugnaro, permanent observer of the Holy See at WTO

21.00 – reception dinner – film on Lebanon

Friday 25 November 2005

- 08h15 - holy mass in French at the notre dame church by Mons Francesco G. Brugnaro
09h00 - conference by Youssef Bechara, Bishop Pres. of the Episcopal Com. for Education and Culture
09.40 - **5 testimonies** on the theme: Europe, Asia, Africa, Youth, Lebanon
10.30 - coffee break
11.00 - work shop 1 – French, English, Spanish and Italian
meeting of the Executive Council of OMAEC
13.00 - lunch
15.00 - workshop 2
17.00 - end of the workshop
18.00 - visit to Beirut by car - Reception at the City Hall
21.00 - gala dinner – with Lebanese folklore

Saturday 26 November 2005

- 09.00 – interventions:
Fr. J. Rocha Monteiro sdb “ Sociologic Commitment of Former Pupils in Today's World”
Laico Frances : “Action and Voice of Laymen”
Bassam Tourbah – Former Pupil of Moslem religion
Former pupil of Buddhist religion
10.30 - **GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF OMAEC**
for others visit to Jbeil, Byblos and shopping
13.00 - lunch for all at Byblos
15.30 - visit to the house of the Patriarch Sdfeir at Bkerke
16.30 - pilgrimage to notre dame of Lebanon at Harissa and holy mass presided by the apostolic Nuncio
18.30 - continuation of the General Assembly of OMAEC
Presentation of the candidates, their programme and election of the president and executive committee
free time for the rest
work shop for the elaboration of the proposals and resolutions
20.30 - dinner with the apostolic Nuncio and high dignitaries

Sunday 27 November 2005

- 08.30 – conclusions of the workshops, resolutions
10.00 - message from cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, prefect of the pontifical congregation for Education on the theme
10.30 closing address
11.00 Solemn Mass by cardinal Mar Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir
12.30 Lunch in the City
Departure of the participants transported to the airport

COST

- Adults, usd \$150 full board (plus usd \$25 for those who arrive on 23 November Evening)
- Youth up to 30 years, usd \$100 (full board)
- Lebanese participants, usd \$50.00 (meals included)

REMARKS

- The plenary sessions of the Congress will have simultaneous translations in French, English, Italian and Spanish.
- All the trips will be in air conditioned vehicles
- The booking form should be sent not later than 23 October, Sunday, with 50% of the total dues, through bank transfer, with not costs for the organizers. This payment will not be reimbursed in case of cancellation after 06 November 05.
- Exceptional financial support is possible for youth (under 35) coming from less developed countries, particularly from Africa, covering the air flight ticket and booking fee. They should apply to the Secretariat of OMAEC in Paris (cofaec@cef.fr; 48 Rue de Richelieu – F- 75001 PARIS France, providing evidences to justify their petition.
- The cost of this event is a package. It consists of the participation at the plenary sessions with simultaneous translations (French-English-Spanish), attendance to the official ceremonies, tourist visits, full board, transportation. And attendance to the last events of the Congress.

For further details please contacted:

BUREAU OF XIII CONGRÈS MONDIAL DE L'OMAEC - AVRIL 2005

- Fax : 00 961 5 924 147 (Congrès OMAEC)
- E-mail : amicale@ndj.edu.lb (Congrès OMAEC)
- Adresse : Bureau de la FAEC
Secrétariat Général des Écoles Catholiques
Rue de l'Université Saint Joseph
Imm. Maroun Saadé, Achrafieh (Liban) – Tél. 01-334351
- (or) Collège Notre-Dame de Jamhour
BP 45-151 Hazmieh, Liban – Tél. 05-924146
Attention M. Nagy Khoury (Amicale des Anciens)
- (or) António G. Pires mobile 917 849 780 ; Fax 218 407 253
Lisbon - Portugal

INDIVIDUAL BOOKING FORM FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS

(2 pages)

MUST BE SENT **BEFORE 23 October** 2005 Sunday

- By fax : 00 961 5 924 147 (Congrès OMAEC)
- By E-mail : amicale@ndj.edu.lb (Congrès OMAEC)

INFORMATION FORM - FOREIGNERS

(please fill in capital letters)

Mr Mrs Madam Father Sister

Name : *(attach passport photo)*

Surname :

Surname of Father (Compulsory in Lebanon) :

Bachelor Name :

Date of Birth : Place of Birth :

Nationality :
.....

Full Address :
.....

Phone : Fax :

E-mail :

Mother Tongue : spoken : understood :

Profession :

Name of the Former Pupil Organization :

Post at this Organization :

STAY IN LEBANON :

Date of Arrival: Flight N.° : Air line :

Date of Departure: Flight N.° : Air line :

PERSONAL REMARKS :

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BOOKING FEE FORM - FOREIGNERS

A - TOURISTIQUE PRE - PROGRAMME :

Inscription : 100 \$US

Free Accommodation in family House

Hotel : \$US : 50, 100 or 150 \$US, as chosen, x 2 days (bed & breakfast)

NB = for this package, only two meals are included during the excursions.

B - PROGRAMME OF THE CONGRESS:

Inscription adults : 150 \$US (full Board) :

single room double room

Inscription youth (below 30 years) : 100 \$US (full board)

Supplement 25 \$US for those who arrive on 23 November evening

Inscription for Lebanese participants : 50 \$US (No accommodation)

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE : \$US

ADVANCED PAYMENT 50% : \$US

The Balance due should be paid on arrival in Beirut

I am sending you Today \$US "free of any charges" through a Bank transfer (I have instructed by bank that any charges in this transaction should be debited to my account) to credit the bank account of the Congress at:

**Société Générale Libano-Européenne de Banque, sal
(Agence centrale, Sin el-fil, Beyrouth)
OMAEC (13^{ème} Congrès) 001-004-360-222516-01-0**

To avoid the multiplication of banking committee, it is advisable that bank transfers directly to Lebanon be jointly made.

Date :

Signature :