

MINARET Launching Week Report

Opening event: March 4

The opening event aimed at informing stakeholders, public and governmental entities about the project and about the process of implementation. Speeches were delivered from the Mayor, YDO and Representative of Ministry of Energy and Water, then MINARET panel explained the project aims, phases and the different components. A welcoming buffet followed.

References for event:

<http://ydo-lb.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/344353435677356/>

<https://www.facebook.com/aymansharafeddeen?fref=ts>

<https://www.facebook.com/rima.khaddaj.9?fref=ts>

Workshop dates: 5 and 6 March-2017

A focus group workshop was held in Jdeideh municipality where the MINARET team displayed and explained the project plan of year 1 and the expectations from municipality and stakeholders. The project provides a regional platform to exchange experiences, make use of others' practices, discussion of policies and techniques, and exchange of technical and scientific visits to the three partner countries.

Mr. Rami Al-Akhras introduced the first year time plan which includes capacity building activities in order to develop the skills of the different stakeholders and beneficiaries, and socioeconomic baseline assessments in order to determine the needs of the municipality and stakeholders. These studies will include shops, hospitals, schools, organizations, and demographics. He further clarified that statistical studies should cover population, municipality, organizations, and local NGOs and other stakeholders and data analysis is an important key point in socioeconomic studies. Policies & laws in Lebanon and available data and reports will also be considered.

Moreover, he described the Covenant of Mayors process and conditions, and noted that there is a one year period in which the standards and studies must be applied after signing the agreement. The list includes:

- Abide by the world standards to decrease carbon dioxide emissions (14% in a year)
- Decrease the costs of energy sources and make it constant and affordable
- Improve water quality and make it safe, clean and accessible
- Ensure a way for water to reach people constantly and be able to access water sources
- Install street lightings with energy saving lamps and solar panels

Next, Mrs. Majd Abou Zaghlan presented a main component of the project "Gender Mainstreaming". Gender equality should be attained in all aspects such as in men and women's roles, needs, problems and solutions. Gender mainstreaming will be merged in all stages of the project. The negative outcome

can be reduced with the knowledge of the specific and special needs based on previous experiences and completed studies.

Finally, Mrs. Areen Alhajaj displayed the water component. She described the baseline studies that should be done with a deadline July 2017. Baseline water studies will focus on:

- Assessment of water, agriculture and the used systems
- Supply and demand
- Problems found
- National and regional policies/studies
- Municipality's water situation

Finally, for a successful outcome a proper communication should be attained between the focal point, municipality and the local community, schools, government and institutions; in addition to the communication between the focal point and project team.

A yearly evaluation will be done and implementation of the suggested project will be done according to studies and needs.

Questions from workshop participants:

- Q: Mr. Ousama Fatayri president of neighborhood committee asked whether this project is installing heaters on solar power or generating energy
A: Mr. Rami Al-Akhras answered that this will be determined after the studies are done.
- Q: Mr. Ousama Fatayri asked if the devices will be imported from the outside or bought from Lebanon
A: Mr. Rami Al-Akhras said that he prefers if it can be bought from Bakaata or Shouf to contribute in the economic development of this region.
- Q: Mr. Hisham Fatayri president of Jdeideh municipality asked about how can the amount of carbon dioxide be decreased from the environment?
A: Mr. Rami Al-Akhras replied that it is possible through forestation which is the process of planting trees.
- Q: Mr. Hisham Fatayri argued that trees increase the amount of emissions
A: Mr. Nizar Hani interferred to say forestation was done in the Arz reserve and it was successful. He also clarified how trees contribute in decreasing carbon dioxide emissions in the environment.
- Q: Mr. Hisham Fatayri also asked if this project is installing heaters on solar power
A: Mr. Rami Al-Akhras responded that that will be determined after doing the studies required.
- Q: Mr. Lilian Jaafar memeber in YDO was wondering about the possibility of having training courses of capacity development for youth also and not just the women
A: Mr. Rami assured that the capacity development trainings will also include the youth.
- Q: Miss Reem Mahasen member in YDO asked about the number of subjects that will be worked on to build capacities

A: Mr. Rami showed that the participants will be able to choose more than one subject to work on but the priority is for the subjects that can benefit the MINARET project.