

Annual Report 2016

Ahmad Al Rachwani



Liberal greetings,

Well Despite the sad situation that the MENA region lives in, we tried to stand against all the bad circumstances, trying to change for a better life. Wars, martyrs, refugees, corruptions, repression and more, but we still didn't lose hope! That's why we as young activists and politician need to work more, to help more!

Ahmad Al Rachwani

The Past few months were very busy with IFLRY, yet very fruitful, from Beirut to Denmark, to Santo Domingo to Ankara to Paris.

Lebanon, Beirut:

October 2015 Beirut,

Liberal cooperation training seminar about Education I had the chance to be the course director and to work with three of our MO's Future Movement (Lebanon), 3H Movement (Turkey) and the Young Liberals of Norway the seminar was very fruitful taking the comparison of the educational systems between the different countries, the educational problems that the Syrian refuges face in Lebanon and Turkey. Also a small insight on the differences between private schools and public schools, and how much influence this had on the future of the students

The next part of the seminar went out to discuss the difference between Formal and Non-Formal education. The participants themselves determine the difference, and arrive at a conclusion. Moreover, a discussion was held about how to get the benefit of both methods

in the classroom. This ended up in writing a statement and a resolution on the importance of non-formal education and was sent to IFLRY EC in Santo Domingo.

Santo Domingo:

Attended IFLRY Executive Committee in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic from 13-15 November 2015, it was a great chance for me to meet our MO's from Latin America and had an important discussion within the Latin America program

I had the chance to address the participants from Latin America talking about the political situation in the Middle East and on our newest regional member AYUFD and suggested the probability of working together on a common project as Regional- Regional.

Denmark:

I went as part of IFLRY delegation along with President Christian Scharling and The climate change program manager Tone Bjordal, to the national congress of our MO Radikal Ungdom, great chance to discuss some Danish politics and exchange point of views about the international one, especially from the MENA region, and a great practice for me in speaking Danish and attending their internal election. I had the honor to have a speech in the gala dinner and to introduce IFLRY and share our programs and our work as a political international organization. The interesting part is how RU members are very interested in IFLRY's work and showed a lot of enthusiasm.

Turkey Ankara:

December 2015 I was chosen to be a part of a facilitation team, in a conflict transformation seminar in Ankara Turkey with our MO 3H. The goal of the seminar is to transform the conflict between the Kurds and the Turks, mainly our job was to transfer the knowledge and the technics and the tools on how transform a conflict using of course the none formal education, that we already use in IFLRY, the experience was extremely enriching as we learned new things on the history of the conflict and more about the Turkish politics. It was a great experience learned a lot of information and had an amazing time.

Paris:

End of December we had IFLRY council meeting between the bureau and program managers. We worked on strengthen our week points, and had a lot of serious discussion on developing our work and we settled a plan for the upcoming year projects.

Gender Equality Program:

In the council meeting in Paris we agreed with the GE PM Laura Neijenhuis that she will work on Gathering input from MOs; to see what do they expect from the GE programme and the important subjects that they want to tackle to see what kind of future activities like seminars and workshops (which for now will be a long-term target). I've shared the input positioning paper on the IO group on Facebook and we got few replies and the team will meet to start working on.

Laura and the team formed a Positioning Paper for IFLRY on Gender Equality, and will try to organize a fringe to discuss IFLRY's position on Gender Equality.

They will be working as well on picking up and strengthen contact and cooperation with Liberal International and the International Network of Liberal Women.

Until now Laura is doing an outstanding job, putting ideas, and sharing experience until we relaunch the programme on a good solid ground.

MENA Region:

For the last period I was working very close with AYUFD bureau trying to enlarge the POA and how to involve them more with our international community, as I mentioned before I was part of a small committee with their bureau working on developing the statutes and the bylaws. Until end of February 2016 where they had their second elections in Tunisia. I look forward to working with you during what hopefully becomes a very successful and productive term and wish you all the best in spreading the liberal agenda. We have a lot of challenges in the MENA region, especially at this time, but together we will get through them.

The bureau:

President: Iyad Ishtaya Palestine

Vice President: Hisham ElFikri Morocco

Secretary General: Saeb Ali Lebanon

Activities Coordinator: Farah Irqsusi Jordan

Media Coordinator: Mohamad Farid Egypt

International Officer: Zakia Bouhjila Tunisia

Treasurer: Mohamad El hiba Morocco

Extra activities:

I had the pleasure to host a group from JD netherland in Lebanon where I organized a debate on politics in the MENA region and Lebanon and as well the refugees crises, and organized as well a visit to a refugee camp where we had the chance to see the bad situation that these people live in, and listening to their stories and try to take something back to our organizations and to our political parties to try to change or advocate their humanitarian situation.

It was a great experience that two MO's JD and FY worked closely on a really important subject, to exchange ideas and experiences.

Last Message:

Since it's my last bureau report I want to say that today I look back gratified of the achievements done, the great people I met. A lot of meetings, seminars with IFLRY and great people from all around the globe, in the past two years it all increased my knowledge and enhanced my experience. I'll always be impressed by role of IFLRY, this amazing international organization, along with the homogeneous professional bureau I was pleased to be part of, and as well the amazing member organizations that I had the pleasure to work with and looking forward for more work.

I would like to thank everyone for all the collaboration and help, starting with my organization Future Youth, to IFLRY Bureau, to all the MO's and to all the wonderful people that I worked with, Cheers!