

The 2008 Basil Fuleihan Innovative Good Governance (BFIGG) Competition

The second annual Basil Fuleihan Innovative Good Governance competition was launched in December 2007. The goal of the competition was to solicit innovative, sustainable ideas from young Lebanese people in the area of public reform. The final date for submission of papers was 29 February 2008. For the sake of impartiality, all competition entries were electronically assigned a number and were referred to by that number only from the time of submission and throughout the competition, until presentations were made before the Final Jury. A Selection Committee consisting of:

- Dr. Rashid Khalidi:
Edward Said Professor of Arab Studies
Director of the Middle East Institute
School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University
- Prof. Ronald Findlay:
Ragnar Nurkse Professor of Economics
School of International and Public Affairs,
- Prof. Beat Burgenmeier:
Directeur du Centre Universitaire d'Écologie Humaine et des Sciences de
l'Environnement, Université de Genève

reviewed all submissions and chose by consensus the top five papers to be presented before the Final Jury.

On 22 March 2008, Mr. Nabil Dabbous and Mr. Ramzi Al-Hafez, acting as an Intermediary Committee, met personally with the five finalists chosen by the Selection Committee. The interviews took place at the offices of InfoPro in Beirut. Each applicant was allowed 30 minutes in which to present and discuss his or her competition entry. Upon completion of the five interviews, it was agreed by both judges that all papers submitted were authentic, original work and that the applicants showed a clear and solid knowledge of their subject.

The top five applicants then personally submitted their entries to the Final Jury on 27 March 2008 in the form of 30-minute PowerPoint presentations at the offices of the An-Nahar newspaper in Beirut. At the end of all the presentations, the jury unanimously decided that, as all five submissions were of the highest quality and of exceptional value, this year would also honor the fourth and fifth place papers with an "Honorable Mention" in addition to the first, second and third place papers. The members of this Final Jury were:

- H.E. Ghassan Tueni, MP and Publisher of An-Nahar;
- Ms. Frances Guy, HM Ambassador to Lebanon, British Embassy;
- H.E. Marwan Hamade, Minister of Telecommunications;
- H.E. Michel Eddeh, former Minister of Culture and Higher Education;
- Mr. Mohammad Mattar, Mattar Mouawad Majdalany el Khazen Law Firm;
- Mr. Maroun Asmar, Board Member of the Banque Méditerranée and Chairman of MIB Holding;
- Mr. Nader Al Hariri, Managing Director, Omnia Holdings;
- Mr. Ali Jaber, Managing Editor of Dubai Media Incorporated.

Owing to the exceptionally high quality of the winning entries and the growing international reputation of the BFIGG competition, it was decided jointly by the Chairperson and the BFF Board of Directors that the amounts of all the cash prizes would be increased. The first prize was increased to \$12,500, the second prize to \$7,500 and the third prize to \$5,000. The fourth and fifth place “Honorable Mention” papers were also rewarded with a cash prize of \$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively. The winners of the BFIGG competition are as follows:

- **First Place: Fadi S. Shayya** for his entry
Invigorating a Park in the City: Alternatives for the Good Governance of Horsh Al-Sanawbar in Beirut
- **Second Place: Houda Sahyoun** for her entry
Innovative Good Governance in the Electricity Sector in Lebanon: Adaptation of the Electricity Governance Initiative (EGI)
- **Third Place: Rebecca Semrani** for her entry
A Federal Lebanon? Agent for Good Governance or Cause of Dispute?
- **First Honorable Mention: Nader Houella** for his entry
Promoting Good Governance through Academic Institutions: National Youth Movements
- **Second Honorable Mention: Nadine Dib** for her entry
Council of Citizens

Paid internships have been secured for the first and second place winners in the Public Sector as part of the prize package.

<http://www.basilfuleihanfoundation.org/news2.htm>