ROLE OF THE LGBC

Become a leading non-profit organization working to promote the sustainable building industry at an international level.

Achieve the goal of sustainability within an economically visible context.

Certify buildings with the AR2 BRS

Develop and promote industry standards, educational programs, and design practices.

Conduct research and educational activities.

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first LGBC newsletter. Summer is here, so I hope that you enjoy reading it in a passively tempered environment.

A lot has been happening since the beginning of the year and we are very excited to share what the Board and the Committees have been working on, a main accomplishment being the attainment of the Emerging Member status within the World Green Building Council.

I would like to thank the Communication and Public Relations Committees, led by Rachad Itani and Camille Elias, for editing and designing this newsletter.

We hope that it will gain widespread readership and become a reflection of issues relating to the built environment, in general and climate responsive buildings, in particular.

Stay cool!
Aram K. Yeretzian, President

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The Lebanon Green Building Council (LGBC) is an NGO established in 2008 with a mission to promote, spread and help implement the Green Building Concept that is environmentally responsible, healthy and profitable.

In this respect, a key LGBC accomplishment was the issue of the “ARZ,” a customized building rating system (BRS), for Existing Commercial Buildings. The ARZ BRS was, and still is, supported by the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

Another important LGBC achievement is attaining the “Emerging Member” status at the World Green Building Council. The elected LGBC board celebrated this event on the 24th of May at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Consistent with previous years” participation in “Project Lebanon,” the LGBC is continuing to spread awareness by providing interactive exposure at the stand and by presenting at Ecorient 3 topics that aim to transform the building industry in Lebanon to a Greener and healthier environment.
BOARD ACTIVITIES: 2013: 3rd TERM ELECTIONS

The New Board was elected on February 15th, 2013. Dr. Samir Trawelsy, past president was managing this event with the help of Mrs. Abier Hanna, the LGBC administrator.

Members of the Nominating Committee are:
- Mr. Elie Baradhy, Chairperson
- Mr. Rachid Jarsis
- Mr. Youssef Ghantous
- Mr. Nohad Boudani

This committee nominated 8 candidates, that were considered by the electorate members.

The 10 elected Board Members are:
- President: Mr. Aram Yeretzian
- Vice President: Mr. Rabilh Khalailah
- Secretary of the Board: Mrs. Rima Sarour Al-Housseiny
- Treasurer: Mr. Tony Harrouk
- Accountant: Mrs. Amal Khreis
- Government & Public Relations: Mr. Gilbert Tegho
- Member: Mr. Raymond Abou Zed
- Member: Mr. Ziad Hadad
- Member: Mr. Ali Berro
- Member: Miss Rachia Itani

Right after the election, the new board started its meetings by distributing the positions and tasks.

LGBC EMERGING WITHIN THE WGBC

The LEBANON GBC is now working towards achieving Established GBC status. In doing so, the LGBC needs to prove that it has a sustainable future and that it is proactively transforming the local market.

This will require showcasing examples where the LGBC’s work has resulted in change (number of certifications, unifying all the stakeholders in the market, shifting local or national policy, etc.).

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

New members for year 2013 till the publication date

PLATINUM Members:
- Water Front City

Members:
- Wassim Mansour
- Faisal Abdallah
- Fadi Garib
- Nada Raad
- Kamar Samaaran
- Zeina Majdalani
- Dunia Abboud
- Nader Houella
- Jack Gemayel
- Lina Handal
- Atib Dada
- Nagi Bachour
- Hicham Majdalany
- Antoline Kaldany

CORPORATE Members:
- Libel
- Estates Sal

Student Members:
- Tarek Chehade
- Ridab Bou Nasser Edine
- Rachid Hajjar

Affiliated Members:
- Wael Itani

4TH BUILD IT GREEN - LEBANON

March 26th / 27th 2013

Beyond Green Building - Green Communities.
The Conference took place on the 26-27th of March at the Monroe Hotel, and was held under the patronage of the Municipality of Beirut. LGBC was a supporter to this event, and was offering a free ARZ registration at its booth in the exhibition and networking area. Many conference delegates were interested in the ARZ rating for commercial building and asked to receive ARZ soft copies or LGBC membership details. The booth was also considered as a gathering point for the new and old LGBC members.

International and local presenters addressed for the first time in Lebanon the subject of Eco-Cities and Green Communities with an in-depth review of Beirut City Green plan for soft transportation.

The second day topics covered many case studies of Green buildings in Lebanon among which the first LEED Gold project in the Country, projects aiming for BREEAM, and projects bringing sustainability to remote rural communities.

More can be found on www.BigLeb.com
AUB CIVIC FAIR

April 10th 2013

Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service (CCECS) at the American University of Beirut organized the Civic Fair 2013.

The theme was “Engage for Better Change.” LGBC was among 100 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and university partners that participated in this event. LGBC members were at the stand advising, educating visitors about LGBC and AR2. Among the visitors were students, engineers, architects, representatives from various organizations, teachers and other people having different background.

The Fair proved to be a successful event aiming at increasing awareness about Green Buildings in the region.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

COCKTAIL EVENT May 24th 2013

On the occasion of reaching the status of Emerging member at the World Green Building Council, Lebanon Green Building Council held a Cocktail Reception on May 24th, 2013 to celebrate this event.

The ceremony started with an opening speech by the new president Aram Yeretzian and a welcome speech by Ms. Jane Hanley, CEO of the WGBC.

The former president Dr. Samir Traboulsi and our Platinum member Water Front City were honoured.

A small Green Quiz was made, three winners were granted 1 year free “Regular Membership” with LGBC (Zeina Majdalani, Dunia Abboud, Nader Houella)

AWARENESS & EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE: AL MABARAT Association May 24th, 2013

The title of LGBC presentation was "لا نملك إلا بيئة واحدة"

The main presentation topics addressed indoor air quality, hazardous materials and renewable energy.

Students were delighted and excited to learn about these subjects.

Students participated in the following five main activities.

1- They had to think and discuss a statement related to indoor air.
2- They were given a worksheet having a picture for a house and had to identify and understand the source of the problem for indoor air quality including hazardous materials.
3- Students had to determine which area is the most polluted by counting the particles that will stick to a card over a period of time and compare the results by presenting a graph.
4- Animated slides showing the students different concepts for renewable energy.
5- Students were divided into groups & shared the information with all other students and representatives from different government agencies, and schools. The students asked questions, shared ideas & opinions, and learned new concepts regarding how to protect the environment.

The LGBC provided pamphlets and worksheets that the students kept for future reference.

The certificate given to every student who attended the LGBC workshop - brought them joy and pride.

It was a successful experience for the Awareness and Educational Committee at the LGBC.

We look forward to similar events and activities in the future.
SUSTAINABILITY IN CONTEXT:

Building, Neighborhood, City

The presentation, within a series of lectures organized by the Architect’s Association at the Order of Engineers and Architects, took place on May 28th, 2013.

President Aram Yeretzian addressed several topics about climate responsive and sustainable master planning and architecture.

A comparison between different sustainability parameters at different environmental scales was presented.

PROJECT LEBANON - ECOrient

June 4th-7th, 2013

From June 4th to 7th, 2013, the Lebanon Green Building Council participated in “Project Lebanon 2013” by organizing and animating stand S-16 at the Hall 2 of the Environmental Engineering section. Visitors were enthusiastic to know about the LGBC accomplishments since its recent creation.

Moreover, in the “Ecorient” conference, the LGBC vibrantly communicated its mission addressing Green Buildings to the interested attendees. Eng. Rabih Khairallah moderated a session and three presenters from the LGBC enriched the morning session of the second day.

They presented Green Buildings from different perspectives: the business point of view was addressed by Eng. Ziad Haddad integrating sustainability into the building law was discussed by Eng. Najib Tannous and a real ongoing case study of transferring an existing building to a green one was presented by Arch. Rima Sorour.

WELLSPRING

June 12th, 2013

Wellspring Learning Community school invited LGBC to visit their exhibition for Green Architecture done by fifth grade students.

Dr. Naada Raad, the Chairperson of the AWARNess & EDUCATIONAL Committee, visited the exhibition and was impressed with the work of the fifth grade students. They went through the scientific process and applied the engineering concepts for Green Architecture and went through the writing process under the supervision of their teacher.

They brainstormed ideas, found what is needed to be done for the project, interviewed an architect & an engineer, searched the internet, wrote papers, expressed their opinion in writing, prepared a video about problems that earth is facing as climate changes, invited guest speakers, and visited Project Lebanon including LGBC stand. LGBC / ARZ brochures and LGBC members’ pictures were part of their exhibition too.

Dr. Raad encouraged the students and the teachers to work on 3D model for their next project.

LAU SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP

June 27th, 2013

The department of Architecture & Design, LAU invited LGBC for a presentation in a common workshop with Brandenburg University of Technology (BTU) Cottbus - Germany and USEK. on Sustainable Development and it was interesting for the German team to learn more about LGBC and ARZ.

Mrs. Hana Alamuddin and Ms. Racha Itani, presented the objectives and work of LGBC.
COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE: ... Some of the Work done by the Committee

ARZ CERTIFIED BUILDINGS

BLC Bank, Adiye, Lebanon
ARZ Bronze Certified

BLC Headquarters building is the first ARZ rated building meeting a credible score in green building and performance measures and was awarded the ARZ rating at Bronze Level.

BETA Engineering, Badaro, Lebanon
ARZ Bronze Certified

ARZ Building Rating System allows rating buildings, or particular entities within a building. The office of BETA Engineering was awarded The ARZ rating at Bronze level.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

FACT SHEETS

FACT sheets are one of the committee tasks, for more information visit LGBC website www.Lebanon-gbc.org

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

World Environmental day, 5th June

World Environment Day is an annual event that is aimed at being the biggest and most widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action. World Environment Day activities take place all year round and climax on 5 June every year, involving everyone from everywhere. The theme for this year’s World Environment Day celebrations is Think.Eat.Save. Think.Eat.Save is an anti-food waste and food loss campaign that encourages you to reduce your foodprint. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), every year 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted. This is equivalent to the same amount produced in the whole of sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, 1 in every 7 people in the world go to bed hungry and more than 20,000 children under the age of 5 die daily from hunger. Given this enormous imbalance in lifestyles and the resultant devastating effects on the environment, this year’s theme – Think.Eat.Save – encourages you to become more aware of the environmental impact of the food choices you make and empowers you to make informed decisions. www.greeningtheblue.org
ARZ BUILDING RATING SYSTEM  LEBANON

The ARZ Building Rating System created to measure the extent to which existing commercial buildings in Lebanon are healthy, comfortable places for working, consuming energy and water.

In addition, the rating system stimulates building owners and facility managers to achieve ever-higher certification levels to attract discerning tenants and clients.

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LGBC COMMITTEES

Chairpersons: Mr. NAJI TANOUNS  THE ARZ COMMITTEE provides all services required for the good functioning and development of ARZ Building Rating System.

Dr. NADA RAAD  THE AWARENESS & EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE educates people about the general concepts of sustainability and Green Buildings and illustrates the impact of the society’s well being in the long term time frame.

Mr. CAMILLE T. ELIAS  THE COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE communicates the LGBC mission to gain increased membership and popular support. It provides information to council members and promotes LGBC events to the community.

Mr. ELIE BARADHY  THE ETHICAL COMMITTEE advises LGBC Board of Directors on ethics policy and concerns, as well as fosters awareness on ethical issues and promotes ethical behavior among its members, certified assessors and other organizations working within the LGBC.

Mrs. AMAL KHREISS (Acting Chairperson)  THE EVENTS COMMITTEE develops, organizes and coordinates a series of regular informational and educational seminars, panel discussions, workshops and special events that engage the broad audience including the general membership and non-members.

Mr. NOHAD BOUDANI  THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE prepares means for identifying prospective, and recruiting new, members as well as maintaining the affiliation of existing members.

Mr. ELIE BARADHY  THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE nominates candidates for the LGBC board.

Mr. RIAD ASSAF  THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE investigates, evaluates, “green technologies” and inform members and the public.