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## **Feedback from delegates to AFED Annual Conference 8-9 November 2018, Beirut**

AFED Secretariat received dozens of messages from delegates during the days that followed its 11<sup>th</sup> annual conference on 8-9 November 2018 in Beirut, during which AFED report on Financing Sustainable Development in Arab Countries was released. Here are few comments:

I enjoyed the interactions with the various policy makers and business people. I also interacted with quite a few of the young people you had invited and found their drive for making a difference really refreshing and much needed.

*Jos Verbeek, Manager and Special Representative to the UN and WTO, World Bank Group, Geneva Office*

My participation in the Session on “Financing Development by Fighting Corruption” provided an excellent opportunity to speak not only about the negative impact of corruption in the social and economic development of the MENA region but also to highlight the positive work of the OECD Working Group on Bribery in the fight against corruption. The OECD stands ready to further support the efforts of the MENA countries in this respect.

*Patrick Moulette, Head, Anti-Corruption Division, OECD, Paris*

AFED conference provided a superb opportunity to share the messages from the G20 report with a very well informed and interested audience. I very much enjoyed meeting a number of key stakeholders, and learning more about the interesting set of issues and perspectives specific to your region.

*Anthony Cox, Deputy Director, Environment Directorate, OECD, Paris*

Thanks you for allowing RCREEE to take part of AFED prestigious 2018 report and conference. We wish to sustain and develop our cooperation, especially in the climate change domain.

*Dr. Ahmed Badr, Executive Director, Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RECREE)*

Important issues and practical recommendations. We hope to continue our constructive cooperation to serve the environmental sector in the best way and support the implementation of the recommendations. Best wishes for lasting excellence.

*Dr. Ibrahim Al-Dukhairi, Director General, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD)*

I found the event interesting and stimulating, and hope we will have a chance to work together again soon.

*Mattia Romani, Managing Director, Economics, Policy, and Governance Department, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)*

AFED report and conference are of prime importance to us. They provided concrete ideas for implementing and achieving the SDGs, which can be translated at the regional level within our Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). Your work already had significant impact on the Mediterranean Strategy. Excellent content and organization.

*Julien Le Tellier, Programme Management Officer, UNEP/Mediterranean Action Plan, Athens*

Excellent report and stimulating conference.

*Dr. Mohammed Alsayrafi, Advisor, Anti – Doping Lab. Qatar (ADLQ), Doha – Qatar*

I was lucky to have attended this meaningful and very well organized event. Other than exchanging ideas and learning from the diversified panels, the event was a great networking opportunity. Having returned to Cairo, I am determined to make use of the great perspectives and collaborate more efficiently with AFED and its associates.

*Amal EL-Araby, Sustainability Development Manager, Commercial International Bank (CIB), Egypt*

The conference provided me with great experience, and I am sure all the other students will agree. Thank you for choosing me as delegate and panelist.

*Heba Abdulrahim (student), American University of Sharjah*

Attending the conference was a privilege and an honor. The most important part was the opportunity to interact with such great speakers from around the world. This added a new dimension to our scope of learning.

*Marie Claire Andraos, Student, Université Saint-Joseph, Beirut*

I'd also like to thank you all for the well-organized conference, and the high quality content both within the report and during the conference itself. I believe it was a great success, and the topic is of utmost urgency for the entire region.

*Shada El-Sharif, Director, Jordan Environment Fund, Amman*

It was great meeting you all, such a warm hospitality made us feel at home. I really enjoyed and benefited from talking and supervising that wonderful group of students.

*Dr. Lama Sakhnini, Coordinator of Graduate Programs in Environment & Sustainable Development, University of Bahrain, Manama*

This is a piece of art report. I am super impressed by its methodology, content and set of actions. Thank you for the copy you had sent to us.

*Mr. Almotaz Abadi, Managing Director, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)*