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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND THE IPT ENERGY CENTER

The United Nations Development Programme and the IPT ENERGY CENTER are holding a signing ceremony on sustainable and renewable energy and eco-driving at the UNDP office, Beirut, Riyadh EL Solh Street, Arab African International Bank Bldg, on Thursday 15th of January at 11am.

“The collaboration with IPTEC will serve as both a lobbying group for policy reforms and an implementing agent for eco-friendly projects in the transportation sector in Lebanon; we are enthusiastic about this partnership as it will lead to concrete improvements towards addressing the effects of the transportation sector on air pollution and climate change in Lebanon,” UNDP Country Director Luca Renda said.

UNDP works with partners in numerous countries to promote sustainable development, eradication of poverty, advancement of women, good governance and the rule of law. In addition to its interest in enhancing its development activities jointly with the Private Sector.

“We need to stress on the importance of achieving sustainable transportation through eco-driving in Lebanon. This can be achieved by potentially facilitating the purchase of eco-friendly cars in Lebanon and improving the public transportation sector, among many other initiatives; Lebanon is in desperate need for policy reforms regarding the environmental effects of the transportation sector. UNDP and IPTEC will adopt a holistic approach to consolidate and strengthen relations, dialogue, and cooperation, with all stakeholders, including governmental, non-governmental, and international actors, in order to reach a real and tangible impact in this sector,” Renda added.

The purpose of the agreement between the UNDP and the IPT Energy Center is to collaborate between both parties in several areas of common interests including a joint lobbying and support for activities related to sustainable and renewable energy, transportation sector and the oil and gas sector in Lebanon.

“The IPT’s commercial activity in the energy sector in Lebanon requires the application of a series of procedures related to protection, prevention, risk management and response to the health and environmental risks resulting from the combustion of petroleum products in vehicles and generators. This situation has led us, in IPT, to create the IPT Energy Center (IPTEC) to practice direct supervision over the achievement of these goals, in addition to IPT’s role in social responsibility and sustainable development,” President of IPT Energy Center, Dr. Tony Issa said.

Out of the main topics agreed upon are to raise awareness on environmental hazards related to the oil and gas sector, tackle environmental and health and safety measures for petrol stations and natural gas prospective stations, update the standards of fuel in Lebanon, develop and disseminate the concept of eco-driving, and promote public transportation in Lebanon.

“The press conference we hold today falls within this context; the memorandum of understanding signed between the United Nations Development Programme and the IPTEC regarding cooperation in supporting sustainable and renewable energy-related activities, the transport sector, the oil and gas sector and eco-friendly driving in Lebanon, constitutes an essential part of the Center’s projects. The MoM warrants the achievement of the Center’s objectives through cooperating for raising awareness on environmental hazards related to the oil and gas sector, addressing the environmental, health and safety measures for the upcoming fuel and natural gas stations, updating the fuel standards in Lebanon as well as developing the concept of eco-friendly driving and circulating it and the promotion of public transport in Lebanon,” Issa added.

For more information, please call:

961-1-962511

961-1-962509