Press Release

American University of Beirut: August 2012

Header: Denmark’s Former Ambassador to Syria and Jordan becomes IFI’s first Diplomat in Residence

The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) inaugurates its Diplomat in Residence program with Visiting Fellow Christina Lassen, Denmark’s former Ambassador to Syria and Jordan.

Ambassador Lassen recently completed her three-year service in Damascus as Denmark’s Ambassador to Syria and Jordan (non-resident ambassador), and was one of the last remaining ambassadors still residing in Damascus. Prior to her post in Damascus, Ambassador Lassen had served five years in Copenhagen as Director of the Executive Secretariat at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Executive Assistant to the Permanent Secretary of State, and Special Advisor to the Danish Prime Minister on Middle East and Transatlantic Affairs. From 2000-2004, she was posted at the Danish Embassy in Washington, D.C. as political counselor focusing on US foreign policy towards the Middle East and Asia. Ambassador Lassen has a Master’s degree and a Bachelor’s degree (Business and International relations) from Copenhagen Business School.

In conjunction with her residency at the American University of Beirut (AUB), Ambassador Lassen is a Weatherhead Center Fellow at Harvard University.

At both Harvard and AUB, Christina Markus Lassen will conduct research on the Arab uprisings and their implications and consequences for relations between the Arab world and outside actors.

Ambassador Lassen will give a public lecture, interact with students, and participate in other IFI activities during her visits to AUB’s campus.

End Press Release