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Chairman Adnan Kassar - Opening Speech

Adnan Kassar Edifice for Arab Economy

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His Excellency President of the Council of Ministers Mr. Najib Mikati, represented by His Excellency Minister Mohamad Safadi, Excellencies, Ministers, Ambassadors, Friends and Colleagues,

In my name and in the name of my brother Adel, we have the pleasure to open our conference by welcoming you.

His Excellency President of the Council of Ministers Mr. Najib Mikati, has kindly granted his patronage to our conference but could not join us being retained by the Parliamentary Session that is held today. His Excellency Mr. Mohamad Safadi, Minister of Finance, is with us representing Prime Minister Najib Mikati.

We welcome you all, and thank our distinguished speakers. His Excellency Mr. Riad Salamé, Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon, and our leading international personalities Mr. Helmut Maucher, Mr. Jean-René Fourtou and Mr. Philippe de Fontaine Vive.

My good friend, Rahmi Koc, travelled to Lebanon especially to join our conference today. Mr. Koc is Honorary Chairman of the leading KOC Group and is former Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce. Welcome back to Beirut Rahmi Bey!

We are grateful to Dr. Ramzi El Hafez for moderating our conference today.

Dear Friends,

We are gathering at this conference held on the occasion of our Fransabank Group's 90 years anniversary.

90 years, on the scale of a human's lifetime, would be called advanced age. On the scale of the life of an institution like ours; it is definitely, a respectable age, an age of force, of growth, and of aspiring to grow further. Over decades, we have had the time to prove that we are here, that we exist, that we are efficient and necessary, even indispensable, without letting go of any of our dynamism, nor limiting any of our ambitions, but on the contrary, we are progressing with increased strength and momentum.

We have organized this conference, inviting prominent speakers to share with us their knowledge in leadership in international business and finance. They will share with us their secrets for success. The track records of His Excellency Mr. Riad Salame, Mr. Helmut Maucher, Mr. Jean-Rene Fourtou, and Mr. Philippe de Fontaine vive are their best testimonials. I am sure you are as eager, as I am, to hear from them on their experiences and on performing in a challenging world.



But first, allow me to take this opportunity to make brief comments.

In a regional world marked with political uncertainties and a global world faced with economic difficulties, we must recognize Lebanon's comparative advantage and its own secret for success. It is the Lebanese people and their ability to meet challenges with confidence. It is the Lebanese economy and its ability to surmount obstacles with a passion and resilience.

Lebanon has proven to have a superb ability to adapt to changing conditions in difficult times and to safeguard its advantages. Our economy is backed by a strong banking sector that continues to overcome difficulties with success. Here we must recognize the prudent policies of our Central Bank under the wise leadership of His Excellency Governor Riad Salamé.

At 90 years, our Fransabank Group remains young, an active player and one of the pillars driving our country's development and growth.

We welcome and face future challenges with strategy,

We embrace and care for our associates and friends with quality service and support,

We mark our past with knowledge and expertise and

We look to share with you our tomorrow which starts now.

Thank you.
