



Alain A. Bifani

Director General of the Ministry of Finance – Lebanon



Biographical Information

November 2014

EDUCATION

2012- 2014

PARIS I LA SORBONNE, Paris
PhD. Economics.

1992-1994

ECOLE DES HAUTES ETUDES COMMERCIALES, Paris
Business Administration. Major in finance.

1989-1992

ECOLE SUPERIEURE D'OPTIQUE, Paris
Engineering Optics, Electromagnetism & Telecommunications

1986-1989

LYCEE LOUIS-LE-GRAND, Paris
«Mathématiques Supérieures et Spéciales» (Maths & Physiques)

LANGUAGES

Arabic, French, English (trilingual)
Spanish (working knowledge)

POSITIONS HELD

2000 –Present

Director General of the Lebanese Ministry of Finance
Permanent board member of the capital markets watchdog
Member of the Board of the Central Bank (Banque du Liban)
Member of the Higher Court of Banks
Member of the Open Market Committee
President of the National Social Security Fund's Financial Committee
Alternate Governor, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)
Lebanon's Deputy Governor for the Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development and the Arab Bank for Agricultural Development

2004

Member of the Experts' Panel of the International Monetary Fund (Fiscal Report on Standards and Codes in Algeria for the upgrading of transparency and good governance).

2002 - 2003

Chairman of the Deputies of the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development (Group of 24).

2000

Consultant at the United Nations Development Program (Lebanon)

1999 - 2000

Director at Thomson Financial Bankwatch

1998 - 2000

Founder President of Pitch s.a.l. (Lebanon)

1995 - 1997

ABN AMRO Bank (Lebanon / Dubai)
Corporate banking officer

1994 - 1995

Arthur Andersen (France)
Audit and financial consulting for the banking sector

ACHIEVEMENTS

• Strategic Management & Planning

- Managing the Ministry of Finance, including administration, human resources, IT, Treasury, taxes, national budget, commitment control, public expenditure, public accounting, and public debt, including issuing Eurobonds, swaps & portfolio risk management.
- Management during crises (political assassinations, capital outflow, destructive war and blockade, civil unrest, and institutional paralysis).
- Oversaw the modernization plans for the Ministry of Finance toward an efficient, effective and transparent organization.

• Organizational reform

- Reorganized the General Directorate of Finance
- Successfully introduced the Value Added Tax in Lebanon (2002), restructured the tax administration and introduced a function-based organization in 2003 by creating the large taxpayers office, salaries and wages Dept., and the Taxroll Dept., introduced a research and tax policy unit, initiated a full review of Lebanon's tax system (2011), implemented e-taxation (2012) and e-filing (2013).
- Initiated the merger of the LTO and the VAT Directorate.

- Initiated and implemented new procedures for Quality Assurance Systems and Total Quality Management
- **Legal Reform**
 - Drafted and/or contributed to major laws, such as:
 - Insider Trading (2000)
 - Securitization (2001)
 - Social Security (2004)
 - Pension reform (2005)
 - Bankruptcy (2005)
 - Offshore (2007)
 - Tax Procedure Code (2007)
 - Capital Markets' Watchdog (2010)
 - Organic budget law (2011)
 - Public Debt Directorate (2011)
 - Higher Council for the Debt (2011).

ASSOCIATIONS & AWARDS

Consistently awarded highest evaluation rating by the Central Inspection Board.

2012

President of CREDAF (The Association of the Francophone tax authority in the world).

2007

Winner of the United Nations Public Service Award in the category of "Improving Transparency, the Delivery of Services" for "Taxpayer Service".

2005

Decorated by the Republic of Lebanon for exceptional services rendered: Commandeur de l'Ordre du Cèdre.

2002 - 2004

Member of the organization committee and head of the financial committee of the Arab head of States summit, the Francophone head of states summit, the Francophone summit for the youth and sports, the Arab Women summit and the joint Arab Finance Ministers/ IMF meeting.

2004

President of the "Colloque du Trésor" (for the francophone countries) in Beirut.

2002 - Present

Member of the World Association for Debt Management.

OTHER ASSIGNMENTS

2010

La Sagesse University, Beirut
Investment Strategy professor, EMBA level

1995 - 2002

Université Saint-Joseph, Beirut
Finance professor (senior, masters, and “DESS” levels), Faculty of Economics
Strategic Management professor, Faculty of Management

1996 - 1997

L’Orient-Express
Responsible for the Economics section

1995 - 1999

The Lebanon Report
Member of the editorial committee

Various other publications and studies.
