



**OECD-BANQUE DU LIBAN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCIAL EDUCATION:
BUILDING FINANCIALLY EMPOWERED INDIVIDUALS**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

**THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
BASIL FULEIHAN INSTITUTE**



AND

**THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND HIGHER EDUCATION**



20-21 October 2010, Beirut

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES – SESSION III

ANTOINE WAKIM

Board Member at the National Social Security Fund in Lebanon

Mr. Wakim is a leading expert in the actuarial field. He began his career at Allianz SNA in 1967. Mr. Wakim held several positions in Allianz SNA between 1973 and 1987. Then, he served for 20 years as a CEO of Allianz MENA Holding Group.

Currently, he is Board Member at the National Social Security Fund in Lebanon.

He is also Board member in Allianz SNA Lebanon, in Allianz MENA Holding: Bermuda, in Bemo bank Lebanon, and in Actuscope-actuarial product development& systems.

Mr. Wakim has followed his actuary studies in University of Lausanne, Switzerland (1967). He got his AMP from INSEAD in 1978. He is also member of the Swiss Association of Actuaries (SAA) and the International Association of Actuaries (IAA) since 1969.

DIANA CROSSAN

Retirement Commissioner, Retirement Commission, New Zealand

Diana Crossan has been the Retirement Commissioner since February 2003, a part-time position she was appointed to after working extensively in the private and public sectors.

In her role as Commissioner, a key focus for Diana is lifting the financial knowledge of New Zealanders “from age five to 105”, says Diana.

The Commissioner’s other responsibilities include providing independent, impartial advice to the Government regarding the effectiveness of New Zealand’s retirement income policies, and overseeing legislation regarding retirement villages.

During her time at the Retirement Commission, Diana has overseen many innovations, including the expansion of the Commission’s flagship website, Sorted.org.nz, and a long-term strategy to have personal financial education taught in all New Zealand schools.

Diana came to the Retirement Commissioner role after a varied career that began with 13 years as a probation officer, following her graduation from Otago University and the University of Wales.

Since then she’s filled senior roles in the State Services Commission, the Ministry of Education and the Department of Justice, and was involved in setting up the electricity State Owned Enterprise that became Contact Energy. She spent some time as the General Manager of the Clyde and Roxburgh hydro dams.

After working as a management consultant, she joined the financial services company, AMP. That took her to the United Kingdom in 2000, where she led a team charged with changing the distribution system in AMP-owned financial services companies.

Diana is on the board of Refugee Services, Aotearoa, New Zealand, and was the Chair of the Advisory Committee for the New Zealand Institute for Research on Ageing, Victoria University of Wellington until it was incorporated into the university’s Institute of Policy Studies in 2009. Diana is a Director of Mighty River Power Ltd and the Chair of Ngāi Tahu’s the saving scheme Whai Rawa Ltd.

MERT DEMIR

Pensions Monitoring Center, Turkey

He graduated as an Industrial Engineer from Bosphorus University, Istanbul. Then he went to the US for graduate studies. He received his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on Industrial Engineering. He taught at the University for 6 years after which he switched to the private pension sector.

He joined the Pensions Monitoring Center on September 2006 and serves as the manager of the Contact Center and Statics/Data Management departments.

About Pensions Monitoring Center: As a requirement of the law no. 4632, Undersecretariat of Treasury authorized the ‘Pensions Monitoring Center’ in order to ensure that the Individual Pension System operates in a safe and efficient manner, and rights and interests of participants are protected. The organization has been setup by the pension companies. It is a joint initiative between the public and private sector.

ROSE KWENA

Head of Corporate Communications, Retirement Benefits Authority, Kenya

Rose Kwena is Head of Corporate Communications at the Retirement Benefits Authority. She is responsible for developing and implementing public education campaigns on the importance of saving for retirement. Previously, Rose worked with Kenya Tourist Board between 2002 and 2008 as Public Relations & Corporate Affairs Manager, where she promoted Kenya as a preferred tourism destination.

Rose also taught Business and Marketing Communications at the United States International University in Nairobi between 2001 and 2002.

Rose is a member of International Business Communicators (IABC). She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations from University of Nairobi and a Master of Science degree in Corporate Communications from Lindenwood University, USA.

IBRAHIM MUHANNA

Chairman, Board of Trustees, Muhanna Foundation

Mr. Muhanna founded i.e. Muhanna & co (Actuaries & Consultants) in 1986. He has consulted 121 Governmental bodies, 37 insurance Companies, and 79 Private Organizations. He also was the chairman & CEO of a UK life & disability insurance company. In 1994 he established The Muhanna Foundation, as a non-profit organization in Switzerland. In 1999 he formed the 1st regional insurance rating agency. Prior to that, he worked in the insurance industry both in the US & Lebanon.

Mr Muhanna holds a host of international qualifications and appointments, including:

1. BS Mathematics & BS Electrical Engineering; MS Actuarial Mathematics 1976 University of Michigan – Ann Arbor – USA.
2. Since 1995 Mr. Muhanna has been a member of the International Actuarial Association (IAA) Council. He is also served as a member of the IAA Executive Committee and is actively involved in other IAA Committees & Sections. For example, he was the Chairperson of the Members Services and the Chairperson of the Steering Committee of the IAA Education Program and currently he serves on its Nomination Committee.
3. The founding member of the IAA Health Section and served as a vice chair until 2005.
4. The vice-chairman of the actuarial technical commission of the International Social Security Association (ISSA).
5. The first Chairman of the Cyprus Actuarial Association, member of the Swiss Association of Actuaries and he is the President of the Lebanese Association of Actuaries.
6. A member of the Institute of Directors (IoD) in the UK.
7. Previous member of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IASI).
8. In 2007, he was awarded "The National Order of the Cedar" by the Lebanese President. The award is in recognition of his great service & devotion to the Nation.

Ibrahim Muhanna published 9 scientific papers. He lectured in Mathematics of Finance, Probability and Statistics, and Operational Research at various universities. He has worked in 26 countries. Furthermore, he was a guest speaker in 520 different conference, seminar & workshop in 47 countries.

Ibrahim Muhanna has consulted/lectured in Algeria, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Finland, Ghana, Greece, Germany, Holland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Iran, Italy, Jordan, Jamaica, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Latvia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Oman, Philippine, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, UAE, UK, USA, Yemen.

Mr. Muhanna provided instrumental advice to various governments while reforming the national healthcare financing structure.

The Muhanna Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of the Actuarial Education in actuarially under developed countries. The Foundation also acts as a forum for discussions of issues relating to Actuarial and Demographic topics in the Arab World. Information could be found on www.muhan.org.

Ibrahim Muhanna likes to be known as a **FUTURIST ACTUARY**.