

Beirut, October 3rd, 2018

For the kind attention of the School Directors

Subject: 1st newsletter related to the Michel Chiha 2019 writing competition

Dear Sir/Madam,

Since its inception in 1954 the Michel Chiha Foundation has been committed to introducing to new generations of Lebanese his concept of Lebanon and as a founding member of the nation, spreading his thoughts and ideas on the nature of modern Lebanon. To this end, the Foundation organizes an annual interschool contest aimed at pupils from 'Seconde, Premiere and Terminal' classes. In 2018, 300 students from about thirty schools took part in this competition.

The yearly chosen topic relating to issues still relevant to this day, is meant to guide students in their research process. The 2019 theme chosen by the Foundation relates to 'citizen and citizenship' and is illustrated hereunder by the following quote from Michel Chiha:

"To strictly abide to our duty as a citizen is one robust resolution we could embrace. What is missing perhaps the most at the moment is a sense of public duty, a feeling for the common interest, an appreciation of community. Whether it is obedience to the Laws, payment of taxes, or civic service in any form, we must submit to the necessary burdens imposed on us by life in society and, at the same time, we must learn to take into account Lebanese characteristics when it comes to this life in society."

January 3, 1945: Citizenship and social duties

On the day of the competition, participants will have one subject that will focus on this year's topic and can choose the language of participation (English, Arabic or French).

Logistics will be the responsibility of the Foundation. The practical details regarding the organization of the competition will be sent to you shortly.

Michel Chiha's books will be made available free of charge and are also available on the Foundation's website:

michelchiha.org

We look forward to your participation in the 2019 competition.

Best Regards

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P.S. Please send us your details (address, telephone and email address as well as the name of the Director or the person at your establishment who will be in charge of this project.)