

## **D-Day for ESCWA Administrative Services Division**

<https://iseek-beirut.un.org/article/d-day-asd>

It is not too often that you find cashiers, clerks and other ‘pen-pushers’ donning costumes and hamming it up on stage during work hours. Yet this is exactly what happened on Thursday 5 February 2015, when staff from the many and various units of the ESCWA Administrative Services Division threw themselves into carnival mode for ASD Day. It was a fine example of lighthearted learning that left everyone with a better understanding of just what ASD and its services do.

Led by Executive Secretary Rima Khalaf, ESCWA staff gathered in the Main Conference Hall, to attend the first ever ASD Day, where ASD Director, David Iyamah, shed light on how the Division delivers on its motto: Quality Services for Programme Delivery.

"ASD is responsible for providing support for programme delivery," said Mr. Iyamah. "Today (ASD Day) is an opportunity for staff to actually meet colleagues that they have never had the opportunity to meet before. The more interactive we are, the better we can provide services. That's the objective of today's event."

Booths on the meeting floor then “opened for business”. In the course of the day, activities took some unexpected twists and turns. Colleagues who usually busy themselves with procurement, IT missions, F10 claims and footnotes transformed into all sorts of personae. Leading the way was the Godfather... the chief of the Budget and Finance Section, no less!

The frolics did not end with the ‘criminal’ line-up from the financial folks. Colleagues from the General Services Section put on a play, featuring a fictional new staff member inducted into the art of acquiring a driver’s license, purchasing a car with diplomatic plates and obtaining

a visa to ... the Moon. There were much more fun and games, with competitions and giveaways, interactive presentations, tours, medical assessments and more by colleagues from the Conference Services Section, the Library Unit, the Joint Medical Services, the Information and Communications Technology Section, the Human Resources Management Section, the Procurement Unit and the Budget and Finance Section and OSLA.

Two roll-ups for Super Staff (gender-balanced with one man and one woman) were created by the design gurus of the Conference Services Section for those hankering after a photograph in heroic form. Nearby, Billy the Security and Safety Section's K9 unit dog strutted his four-legged stuff. Fire safety and hazard control officers in full kit spread the good word about fire prevention at home and in the office.

The day-long event was labour of love and a little fun and games. That it went off so well was exemplary of ASD's mission: to ensure that the mission of ESCWA is accomplished through the delivery of quality services and the optimal use of resources while fostering a safe, healthy work environment for all.