

Editorial

Costa Rica.

I tagged along with Salma and Fadia thinking an opportunity to visit such an exotic place does not present itself too often. I believe I did the right thing (minus the fact that spouses and friends tend to be exploitive and I ended up working for them!). However, I wouldn't have changed a thing since it was just the right mix of productivity and fun.



where Jose Zaghoul (The most down to earth EARTH University president!) sits squarely in the middle! All right, let us face it, we do not have the Pacific Ocean on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other, still, we have the Mediterranean. We do not have volcanoes (I mean the real natural thing and not the political one), still, we have gorgeous mountains.

Just like Lebanon, Costa Rica is a true paradise. In many ways the two countries share a lot of similarities. And if you invoke your Boolean algebra, the two circles intersect with a major overlap



We do not have coffee and banana plantations, still we have some bananas and other plants that seem to contribute handsomely to our economy. However, there is one thing they have and we don't. The Costa Ricans have an acute and heightened awareness of the value of their biodiversity. This is not limited to the scientists in InBIO or EARTH University or even the Ministry of the Environment (all of whom we had very fruitful and eye opening discussions; that is when Salma and Fadia were not sunning themselves on the beach!) but also lay people. This is where IBSAR's mission shines like a beacon in the darkness of our region. If we learn from the Costa Rican experience and achieve, even some, of our objectives we would have positioned ourselves in a regional leadership role, a position AUB is all too well familiar with.



Marwan El Sabban