



**Address by Rev. Fr. Hady Mahfouz, President of the Holy Spirit University of  
Kaslik (USEK)**

**USEK Institutional Accreditation Ceremony**

**December 3, 2012**

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Quality Enhancement and quality assurance have always been a key focus for USEK and an important part of its strategic planning. We believe that this matter cannot be separated from the mission of our catholic university as an institution fully dedicated to the human person. Institutional accreditation is a demonstration of our commitment toward our mission, accountability, responsibility and responsiveness to time and context.

Institutional accreditation that we are gathered to celebrate today is a demonstration of our institutional effectiveness and that is determined by thoughts and believes that I have stressed on in many occasion:

- A belief in the ***Evolution by continuity***. Institutional success is not a snapshot of short term achievements it is a capitalization of a series of successful decisions and actions. And that what I would like to call a tradition of excellence.
- A belief in ***accountability*** at all levels and mainly the president to whom is entrusted the institutional effectiveness responsibility. Accountability is also related the positive balance between the “I” and the “We”. The “I” cannot be fulfilled with the individual commitment to the institution wellbeing and development and vice versa.

- A belief that **governance** issues strongly matter and a fit in context of governance structure is a best guarantee for sustainability, accountability, etc.
- A belief in **innovation** as a driving tool for excellence and accountability. We all experienced that little things sometimes can make a difference for all, if they are undertaken with faith and responsibility...
- A belief in **continuous improvement** as the only way for sustaining excellence. The European institutional accreditation is a step in USEK roadmap toward more international institutional and programs accreditation as a demonstration of excellence...

It was once said “Educational change... is technically simple but socially complex” (Fullan M. 2001) I can guarantee to you it is complex technically but all together we succeeded in overcoming these complexities and it is time for us all to celebrate.

I dedicate the European Institutional accreditation that is awarded to us for 5 years by evalag to:

- First of all students for whom we focus all our efforts to provide them with the best teaching and learning experience and also with the best life experience on campus. I dedicate this success to students’ parents who invested a lot, emotionally and financially for the education of their children...
- To all academic and nonacademic human resources who believes in USEK and shares its mission and committed to excellence in the scope of their responsibilities
- To the Lebanese Maronite Order who encouraged and supported USEK Quality assurance strategic orientation and fully committed to USEK sustainability and success
- To alumni, partners and friends who contributes directly or indirectly in USEK continuous excellence

I dedicate this success to Lebanon who I am sure will return to be the education hub for the Arab world and the middle-east.

I would like to express my thanks and a warm welcome to his Excellency, Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Hassan Diab, for his continuous support to USEK and to his efforts to promulgate new laws for Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Lebanon.

I would also like to add my thanks to evalag expert's team and I welcome Prof. Dr. Brigit Schäßler and Mr. Harald Scheuthle who came from Germany to celebrate with us this important event. I believe that we have benefited in many important ways from this process and we appreciate all their efforts.

This success is for you all, students, alumni, administrators, faculty, community, you earned it... and the best is yet to come...

I will not delve into the details of accreditation

- Evolution in continuity.

Long heritage of the Lebanese Maronite Order (first printing press and practices of higher education and education of

Being accredited from a European agency evalag is also a sign of our strategic points: being totally open to the outside world while remaining ourselves.

I believe a lot, having known many university systems in many countries, that respecting the specificity of each university, in its tradition and evolution, is a must.

- Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- The green University
- Programs, teaching methods, e-learning, international and external relations. Campus development, services (many of you noticed that all the offices related to students services were completely renewed).
- USEK as an oasis in our society.

- Thanks: Most Reverend Father Abbot Tannous Nehme
- Excellency the Minister of Education and Higher Education, Professor Hassan Diab
- Dr. Ahmad Jammal, Director General of Higher Education
- General Assistants of the Lebanese Maronite Order
- All the Evalag board and team, especially Mr. Harald Scheutle, Project coordinator and Prof Dr. Brigitte Schabler, President of the Site visit expert team
- All the USEK board members
- The Quality Assurance and Institutional Effectiveness office, especially Dr. Yahchouchi.