



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

Graduation Ceremony of HEC – Montreal

June 4, 2013

Your Excellency Mrs. Hilary Childs-Adams

Mr. Michel Patry,

Distinguished audience,

It's all about beauty! While I was talking this morning with President Michel Patry, he kept praising the beauty of Lebanon, our landscape and the green spaces in our campus. The first thing that came up to my mind is to let him know how I was, in September 2009 during my first visit to Canada, fascinated and captivated by the beauty of the Fall in Quebec with the enchanting color outbursts in the trees that whisper peace and serenity, and with the warm hues in the horizon that mirror no less than a breathtaking beauty.

Why am I spotting beauty? It is true it was the first topic tackled with President Patry this morning, but it is also true that our belief at USEK is that life is beauty, and forming the human being through higher education contributes to shedding light on the beauty of life. Quite an intriguing task assigned to the university everywhere especially at this time of instability in various regions of the world. We feel now more than ever before that only by

forming well the human being, all the human being in all his or her dimensions, we can stimulate or even generate real beauty and real peace.

I know USEK and HEC Montreal have worked hard for the sake of establishing a successful collaboration. Many meetings were held in the last years; so history has already been made between our two institutions. I am happy we reached an advanced stage of our working together, and I am positive our institutions will keep drawing an ongoing history with various facets always for the sake of beauty.

We are all aware that in the university world, this is a time of significant changeover from the localized conventional higher education to the globally open higher education space. Yet, we also admit that such a transformation is a double-edged process. Universities should create a balance in higher education through what is known as glocalization; they should think globally in a local context and, at the same time, think locally while being universal. This is our daunting challenge for the time being, and this is what USEK is achieving in collaboration with HEC Montreal.

President Michel Patry, I would like to thank you for your invaluable support of this collaboration that bears the fruit of glocalization. I would like to thank also Dean Nehmeh Azoury; had it not been for his dedication and unswerving efforts, this collaboration wouldn't have reached this stage. I would like also to express my deep appreciation to all those who contributed to the success of this cooperation so far, and would namely thank Mr. Hassan Tagvai for his undeniable friendship and support to our Faculty of Business.

To this year's class I would like to say:

This evening you will leave the University with a twofold beauty! One acquired from HEC Montreal and one from USEK. You are all beauty and peace valedictorians of your class. And it is up to you now when you go out there to sow the seeds of this beauty wherever you are in Lebanon or abroad, in your personal and in your professional life. Throughout your enrolment in this program, we have given you some tools which would help you pave the way for success.

I purposely said “**some**” tools not “**the**” tools because success is a comprehensive human project which can be reflected in all sectors of life among which are the academic and professional realms. We have also taught you to achieve what you have started and to trust you can build strongly founded careers. It is your turn now to reflect what you have acquired and most importantly to be up to the beauty of humanity.

Distinguished audience, I believe you can tell now why I started my speech by saying **it’s all about beauty.**