



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

Third Annual Scientific Day

April 26, 2013

Your Excellency Mr. Vrej Sabounjian,

Distinguished International and Lebanese Guests, USEK friends and family,

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome you all here today on this third annual scientific day.

When I first read the theme of the day “Research and Development, when Science Meets Entrepreneurship”, I felt I am encountered with a wide array of core educational concepts that I will not be able to cover in few minutes.

This very theme per se reflects the synergy between science and entrepreneurship and between research and development as it reflects the fruit of these two combinations that is the capacity building of our today’s students **to become resilient thinkers** who are well prepared to face the vexing challenges of tomorrow.

Today, the participants in this event will be given the opportunity to explore the needed means to advance these relationships, to promote them and to consolidate our conviction that science and research, based on sound reasoning, **provide a sound underpinning for entrepreneurship**. It is our academic responsibility to promote scientific research that would

contribute to the development of the individuals, and by default to the development of society and, consequently, that would contribute to global and sustainable development. Furthermore, within a promptly globalizing educational environment, it is also one of our major responsibilities to constantly ponder our scientific performance that would contribute to the capacity building of globally minded students.

I am positive you will have many areas to explore, I am positive you will come up with various recommendations as I am positive this day will be another contribution to the preparation of students to an increasingly interconnected and highly competitive world.

Excellency, you always encourage investors to undertake projects in Lebanon; we always invite our researchers to come up with innovative ideas, throughout their research activities, ideas that would be concretized in the world of industry. Your valuable patronage of this event and your highly cherished presence today are proof of the complementarity of roles between science and entrepreneurship.

This event is taking place thanks to the dedication of Dr. Badih Baz, Dean of the Faculty of Science, and his team who are sparing no effort to ensure the continuity and the success of this science day.

I wish all the participants fruitful discussions, the students a rewarding scientific day and our international participants a most enjoyable time in Lebanon. Thank you!