

**Speech of Fr Hady Mahouz**  
**Seminar: "Lebanese presence in the world V"**  
**April 11, 2016**

Good afternoon,

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome you all to the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) for this important event that tackles the Lebanese presence in the world.

This very concept of "the Lebanese and the world" is not new to us as it started centuries ago, is still a distinguishing mark and pride today, and will persist in the future. This continuous Lebanese presence in the world entails various aspects of movement, interaction and above all, various aspects of life.

How many times do we witness inexplicable movements, subject to different circumstances, maybe ambitions, or social requirements, or even constraints? We just find mysteriously driven movements in various directions, which would later on have substantial impacts on our life and on the course of history.

These actions would contribute to greater interaction between a source and a host environment and would widen the spectrum of development activity, be it economic, social, cultural or simply personal.

These movements might seem inexplicable and spontaneous, yet, we do have a deep-seated conviction that they would lead to a significant change of history, the history of a person, of a family, of a village maybe, and of a society as a whole. It is quite an amazing phenomenon; and examining the various facets of this phenomenon and pondering on its reasons and results through activities such as our event today, would be the optimal way to build on the special history of many individuals and on the collective one as well.

I would like to thank Reverend Father Jean Maroun Mghames, Deputy President for events, for the valuable efforts he exerted to make this gathering a remarkable one. His goodness is clearly reflected in every activity he undertakes and his enthusiasm and dedication are always outstanding. I am so happy that he is an active and dynamic USEK family member. I would like also to extend a word of thanks and appreciation to our distinguished speakers and to the audience and friends of USEK.

I wish you a fruitful and successful conference.

Thank you!