



Welcoming word | Address of the President of USEK

Father Professor Georges Hobeika

LIBNOR & ISO PC 288 Project Committee Meetings

Dinner Reception | July 3, 2017 | Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK)

Mr. Habib Ghaziri, Chair of the LIBNOR Board

Mrs. Lena Dergham, Director General of LIBNOR

Ms. Sunyoung Youn, Secretary ISO PC288

ISO international and national experts

Higher education institutions leaders and delegates

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests,

I am delighted to welcome you all tonight at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), at this reception dinner within the framework of the International Organization for Standardization ISO PC288 Committee meetings for the Educational organizations management systems organized in collaboration with the Lebanese Standards Institution – LIBNOR.

It is a great pleasure to see the Lebanese Government, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and the Ministry of Industry through LIBNOR along with the Lebanese Higher Educational Institutions working together and investing time and efforts in Quality assurance and enhancement. USEK has always been a strategic partner of national quality initiatives and recently in the development of the project of law on the creation of a National

Agency for Quality Assurance and also through the Quality Assurance Committee in the Universities Association of Lebanon.

A challenging truth is that the education world is becoming complex, competitive, stimulating and changing. In his book “*The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*”, Thomas Friedman’s idea comes as an extension of his earlier works: The world is not only “flat”, levelled by globalization, it is now also “fast”. It is now fast because power has shifted from the inside constituents to the outside stakeholders. The institution has to respond on timely manner to the expectations and power of students, quality assurance bodies, higher education authorities, etc.

ISO PC288 and LIBNOR are now joining the forces for Higher Education Quality enhancement and labeling.

I feel very proud as USEK President as throughout the years, USEK has realized many wonderful accomplishments.

USEK, a mission-driven Institution, is achieving distinction in globalizing the university by complying with international standards. The University has put great efforts in different evaluation and accreditation projects. These efforts resulted in the completion of a three pillars accreditation:

The University has earned the **Institutional accreditation** that started with an evaluation conducted by the *European Association of Universities* (EUA) and then the European Institutional Accreditation and Reaccreditation by the German agency EVALAG.

USEK also achieved several **Programs’ accreditation**:

- 9 Engineering and Computing Programs are accredited by ABET Commissions and soon additional programs will be subject for site visits: civil engineering, sciences and nursing;
- The Faculty of Business & Commercial Sciences at USEK was informed in February 2017 that they are formally eligible to pursue accreditation by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB);
- The EVALAG expert panel for the Humanities and Social Sciences Programs Accreditation has conducted an assessment site visit to USEK in February 2017 and last week, we have received the Evalag Board positive decision conferring the international accreditation label to our 8 humanities and social science programs.

As for the **Students’ Services** level: USEK became the first university in Lebanon and the region to gain the UK-MATRIX accreditation for its student support services.

Quality assessment and enhancement are now embedded in our institutional culture and on-going process that never stops at USEK.

We are not just looking for labels and trophies: We are simply serving our mission to provide high quality education to our students for a great future. And that's what we call "caring". Quality should be served with love. As Aristotle said: *"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all"*.

For the moment, we are committed to offer you quality time, quality food, and quality friendship.

I wish you all a fabulous evening.