



**Speech of the Usek President Fr. Professor Georges Hobeika
for the Opening Session of the
ABET Accreditation Seminar 2017 – First MENA region edition**

Dr. Ahmad Jammal, Director General of Higher Education in Lebanon,
Dr. Joseph Sussman, Chief Accreditation Officer and Chief Information Officer at ABET
Dr. Winston Erevelles Adjunct Accreditation Director, Engineering at ABET
Members of the Academic and Research Council of USEK,
Distinguished Participants from Higher Education Institutions
USEK Faculty and staff,

We are gathering today to launch the ABET Accreditation Seminar 2017 – First MENA region edition, which means that we all share the same belief in Quality and Excellence in Higher Education. This belief, at least from our side, urged us to work on strengthening our procedures of self and peer evaluations for continuous improvement, and on giving special attention to our faculty professional development, either by encouraging their participation in national or international conferences, trainings, courses and certificates, or by inviting the world's talented and experienced professionals to them on campus. The success of these actions, lies in the enhanced students learning experience that we are actually perceiving.

Here, I would like to thank all the dedicated persons who worked hard to achieve our success stories in this frame:

- Dr. Georges Yahchouchi, the Provost of USEK,
- The team of the Quality Assurance and Institutional Effectiveness Office leaded by Miss Nathalie Bouldoukian
- The USEK accreditation committees,
- The Deans and Faculty,

All my appreciation also goes to Prof. Ahmad Al Jammal for his full and continuous support to our University and to all the projects and activities we undertake to improve the quality of the education we deliver to our students.

My gratitude also to the accreditation agencies that believed in us and gave us the chance to prove our commitment to quality in education. In fact, USEK never skimped on resources to get evaluated. Thanks to all the evaluations we have been and are still carrying we have a long tradition for making improvements; as a result, all the academic regulations we are currently adopting. These regulations bear witness to our deep commitment to making improvements as well as the institutional and programs accreditations we have.

On the top of the accreditation agencies, ABET, the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, whose members volunteer to evaluate academic programs for the only purpose of providing help for programs' enhancement. USEK has currently 9 Computing and Engineering programs accredited by ABET, and 3 programs will shortly follow. It is the occasion to say how much the ABET accreditation process impacted our internal procedures, regardless the disciplines and program levels; more, it made a huge change in our mindset.

I am very pleased to welcome today, Dr. Sussman and Dr. Erevelles who will be conducting this seminar and I am sure we still have a lot to learn from there wide experience.

I am also happy to welcome all the academic figures here present and to see that the culture of evaluation and continuous improvement is unceasingly growing and gaining a substantial place in the academic world.

It is said in **The 9 Cardinal Building Blocks: For Continued Success in Leadership** book:

"If EXCELLENCE is one of your values, not only you self-critic and evaluate your performance consistently, but you BEG others for honest feedback..."

Wishing you a fruitful Seminar and the achievement of the expected outcomes,

Thank you

