

**Celebrating the 8 Accreditation Awards from Evalag for Humanities  
and Social Sciences programs**

Word of President Fr. Prof. Georges Hobeika  
*November 13, 2017*

Excellency,  
Reverend Fathers,  
USEK officers, Deans, Faculty, staff, students  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are celebrating today a key milestone; the success of acquiring the EVALAG Accreditation for our eight Humanities and Social Sciences programs. USEK has strong commitment to liberal education in the fields of Theology, Philosophy, Social Sciences, Letters, Literature, History and Psychology. This is a celebration of more than 200 years of the OLM's commitment to knowledge, ethics, benevolence, dedication in Humanities and Social Sciences.

In 2017, EVALAG, notorious German Quality assurance agency, accredited our programs. This is a definite proof that getting older does not mean stop being innovative and modern. It is through our Humanities and Social Sciences education, we shove towards securing our students with the spiritual and moral values, cultural pluralism and communication skills for their personal and professional growth. Therefore, the impact of the accreditation and quality commitment is not limited to the students of those eight programs but all our students' community through the General education framework. As Lowell, the Former President of Harvard, said: "the best type of education in our complex modern world aims at producing men who know a little of everything and something well".

The accreditation of our humanities and social sciences programs is a strategic orientation for the continuous elevation of quality and excellence at USEK. In this, we are also sustaining our mission: the provision of a university education within a context of Catholic faith and values.

Our graduates over the years have been engaged in jobs from different backgrounds. No matter what was their area of study, it was their moral values and ethics that assisted in formulating their personality and career path. They have a basis, a framework of values, to guide them in working out what was the right thing to do!

It is true that USEK is modernizing its education by adding newly demanded programs and professional majors, but, it is certainly loyal to its initial roots and mission, whilst providing a unique learning experience to students in humanities, social sciences and liberal arts.

And Liberal Arts education is the cornerstone for the students' prosperous future and the key to handle the world's uncertainties. As Franklin Roosevelt said: "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future".

Ladies and gentlemen, that is fundamentally what USEK's education is about: "Building our Youth for the Future".

Thank you EVALAG for being fully engaged with USEK in its accreditation journey. Thank you for the accreditation commission headed by the Provost. Thank you dear deans, Father Jean Reaidy and Professor Nicole Chalhoub as well as faculty and staff of both academic units for all the efforts you have employed to reach this successful moment.

Looking at the journey you have travelled, I would like to point out that you are all achievers; and your accomplishment deserves praise.

A lot can be said about the importance and significance of accreditation, but I'm quite confident that there's no need to count them now after you have experienced its worth and values.

Let us celebrate this success and many to come!

Have a good evening everyone.

Thank you.