



**Address of President Father Professor George Hobeika**

**Signing Ceremony of the MOU between USEK and LAU**

**December 4, 2017**

Dr. Joseph Jabbra, President of the Lebanese American University,

Distinguished Academics: Vice-Presidents, Assistant to the President and Deans at  
the Lebanese American University

USEK Academic and Research Council,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to address you today on an occasion that lays a cornerstone for partnership in Higher Education, and I would like to sincerely welcome at our campus, a genuine friend of USEK, President Jabbra, and also, acknowledge this memorandum of understanding between the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik and the

Lebanese American University as a significant step forward for a long term partnership.

This agreement is a substantial milestone in our ongoing collaboration.

For years of dedication and devotion to students and for years of commitment to the enhancement of the Lebanese higher education sector, LAU and USEK have been pioneers in promoting innovation and improving the quality in teaching, learning and community service.

It's been said that: **“Collaboration and innovation are at the heart of some of humankind’s greatest moments of progress”**, and it is my firm belief that they will continue to be so, trusting that what is true about the humankind is equally true of institutions.

This initiative of signing the MOU between our two universities responds to the real need to increase bilateral academic exchanges, and is part of a shared vision for educational cooperation. I am very confident that we, all present in this room, share the same feeling of excitement and optimism when we think of all the rewarding possibilities that can come about as our two universities enter this partnership.

I say this, as we are very mindful of LAU's reputation of academic excellence and its strong commitment to create an even stronger international academic presence.

Likewise, USEK, over the past years, has earned its own place by providing high quality of education for our community, many of whom now hold leadership roles in our country and around the world.

The 21st century will present new and unknown challenges and opportunities. And I will quote an old African proverb to affirm that no single university, no matter how large or well endowed, can address future challenges by itself:

**“If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”**

In this era of globalization and interdependence, cooperative partnerships with other institutions of academic excellence is not an option anymore, but it became a necessity. And what if this partnership is presumed between universities of the same country, sharing same goals, same vision and same purpose?

Both of our institutions have achieved remarkable things in the past, it is because we have always understood the importance of building connections to the wider world. We have shown the will to establish the strategic partnerships – both here and abroad – that allow us to confront some of the most pressing challenges. The fact of accepting that partnerships are essential to our work requires both humility and vision. And both of our visions meet for continued excellence.

Both willing to invest the maximum resources to enhance knowledge and willing foster wide-ranging research efforts to meet new challenges, maximizing on new opportunities for the benefit of our students, our community and mankind in general.

And together, we have come a long way. Now is the right moment to strengthen our cooperation and join forces to establish a platform that facilitates communication, sharing of best practice, identification of synergies and promotion of initiatives between faculty members, students and officials of both institutions.

The signing of this Memorandum marks the consolidation of a true partnership. We must seize the opportunity to harness research initiatives that produce new synergies, and add academic value for both LAU, and USEK in the years ahead.

And with much openness, good will, clear ambitions and a strong commitment to work together, I look forward to taking the next steps towards our common goal of promoting collegial relations and academic cooperation towards a better future for both institutions, students, faculty members and community.

Thanks to all who thrived on making it happen!

\*\*\*\*\*Thank You\*\*\*\*\*