

Address of Fr. Talal Hachem
Graduation Ceremony for the Executive program of Mr. Carlos Ghosn
May 21, 2021

Good evening everyone!

- It is really wonderful to be celebrating, this evening, an additional achievement and an additional milestone in the life of a group of people who have decided to be lifelong learners, constantly **nurturing** their success.
- Our gathering this evening is but a clear **resolution** that despite the difficulties surrounding us, we decide to be motivated, to work on ourselves and sharpen our skills, and eventually **to move forward.**
- This executive program at USEK, which is a joint venture between Carlos Ghosn and our School of Business, came at a time when everybody needed a break from the current global economic and health situation. It came at a period when everything around us seemed to be on hold, yet we decided to consider this time as an opportunity and to prepare ourselves to what would come next.
- I would not be unveiling a secret if I say that this approach is not new at USEK; this dynamic and proactive approach is the norm at our University. As a matter of fact, just this year USEK marked its journey by great achievements. I will just name a few:
 - USEK has been ranked by the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings that assess the performance of universities against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in terms of research, stewardship, outreach, and teaching. I am proud to say that we ranked:

- Top 1 in Lebanon in the No poverty Goal which is based on research on poverty and on supporting students and local communities in need.
 - Also, top 1 in Lebanon in the Affordable and Clean Energy Goal that also measures the university's research related to energy, its energy use and policies, and its commitment to promoting energy efficiency in the wider community.
 - We also ranked 2nd in Lebanon by Scimago Institutions Rankings that measure the university's **research performance, innovation outputs and societal impact**.
 - And of course, not to forget our Green and Eco-friendly behavior that was translated by USEK maintaining its ranks for the fourth consecutive year as the **Most Sustainable University in Lebanon** by Greenmetrics.
- Obviously, another achievement at USEK for this year is **this executive program**, a success story that is based on a three dimensional **will**:
 - The will of Carlos Ghosn to put his life experience, his success stories as well as his lessons learned in the spotlight to benefit others.
 - The will of USEK to have a flagship **unique** program that would have an impact on businesses and individuals.
 - And the will of a group of people who decided to take their careers to the next level, to make a step further and try to make use of the current challenges, to build a more solid profile, and to acquire new approaches and sharpen what they already know.
- I would like to thank “Mr. fix it all”, as he was described, Carlos Ghosn for dedicating his time and his expertise to the service of both young talents and executive people who take success as their omnipresent target.
- Carlos we are very happy and very proud to have you as a member of our family, your efforts and your support are highly appreciated by the entire USEK community, and I am sure that the end of this program is only the start of a solid collaboration and more activities to come.

- To the certificate holders, I would like to say that the journey you experienced with Carlos Ghosn will no doubt be an added value to your career track. I know you have all already paved the way for a successful professional path, but the tips, the recommendations and the insights of a top-notch business legacy, and a business mind *par excellence*, will keep echoing in **your** mind while you make decisions and you “digest” problems you might encounter.
- I wish you the best of luck in your future activities and I am sure you will be key players in every endeavor you undertake.
- Well, while many people choose most of the time the easy way, obviously I cannot say you chose the hard way, but rather to advance your careers, you chose the USEK and Carlos way! In other terms you chose the “**real life**” way, and to my knowledge, it is the most effective and efficient way!

Thank you!