

President's Speech

USEK RESEARCH & INNOVATION DAY 2022

JULY 5TH, 2022

Good morning everyone!

I am glad to see you all here for this Research and Innovation Day organized by our Higher Center for Research. I would like to welcome you all and especially, Ms. Tamara El Zein, Mr. Jean Noel Baleo, Mr. Antoine Samarani and all our guests.

Research and Innovation: two BIG words that obviously complement each other.

In fact, research is the means and innovation is the end.

Today, the challenge is not to conduct research but rather to conduct innovative research that would have an impact, a positive impact, on our direct communities and on the society at large.

And when we link innovation to research, we do not mean only practical or what we know as applied research, but innovation is the core of both basic, pure, or fundamental as well as applied research, both interdependent and representing essential drivers of innovation.

Well, the latest crises the world has been witnessing have put so much at stake, but at the same time, they provided an opportunity; an opportunity to delve deeper, to investigate more, to question everything in order to gain a better understanding and most importantly in order to find solutions... not any solutions but the right ones.

And here comes research, innovative research, to find the right solutions for the complex problems of our society. And here comes the role of universities that have always been the engine driving change in society.

Nous faisons de la recherche à l'université parce que nous croyons que nous pouvons toujours avoir un avenir meilleur, parce que nous croyons que nous pouvons aller de l'avant. En d'autres termes, nous menons des recherches qui améliorent nos vies et mènent à de nouvelles perspectives et

horizons. Et nous sommes fiers de former les prochaines générations de chercheurs, qui poursuivront ce parcours dans le milieu universitaire et pourquoi pas dans d'autres milieux.

De nos jours, la concurrence entre les universités du monde entier est à son comble, notamment pour trouver les ressources nécessaires pour faire avancer la recherche et retenir les talents. Au Liban, nous manquons de ces ressources et nous essayons de trouver des partenaires parfois avec succès mais aussi avec échec ;)

However, as I said at the beginning, the crises have provided us with opportunities, and at USEK, we have decided to explore these opportunities, to encourage our faculty members, and to promote research and innovation... and that's the main objective of our event today.

Our Higher Center for Research, chaired by Professor Walid Hleihel, whom I thank along with his team and all the people who were involved in the preps of today's event, our HCR has set a clear strategy to promote research among our students and faculty members, and I must say that this strategy started to bear fruits.

I am sure the HCR, through different partnerships, local and international ones (CNRS, AUF and others), will maintain this momentum and will meet the strategic goals it has set forth.

Before I conclude, I would like to say to the poster presenters, I wish you success in your research, and keep up the great work...

To the awardees today, congratulations, and keep in mind that your challenge is now bigger...

To the non-awardees, we want to see you on stage in the next edition of this event...

Thank you and I wish you all a fruitful Day...