

**Word of Rev. Fr. Talal Hachem**  
**Launching of the USEK Skills Development Center**  
**November 8, 2023**

- Good morning everyone!
- It is a great pleasure to be welcoming you all here at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) for the launching of the Skills Development Center (SDC).
- I would also like to greet those who are following us online.
- Your presence today either in person or remotely is a great sign of your support to and your engagement with our vision.
- USEK has always been committed to
  - not just imparting knowledge
  - but also to molding
    - visionaries,
    - innovators,
    - and leaders.
- And our SDC, the core of our gathering today,
  - Is a testament to this commitment
  - It is a bridge between academia and the dynamic demands of the global workplace.
- **Why a Skills Development Center at USEK?**
- Well, the idea of the SDC stemmed out of **a need**
  - First, the need to respond to a national priority by training our youth for different types of jobs and optimizing their employment opportunities at both the local and international levels.
  - Second, the need to adapt to a world where technology evolves at a full speed and to equip trainees with skills that are not just relevant today but also in the decades to come.

- In other terms, we came up with the SDC idea to forge a future that empowers
  - not just our students
  - but also the wider community, instilling in them **not only knowledge** but also the practical skills needed **in a rapidly evolving global market.**
  
- In the landscape of modern education, the Skills Development Center stands at the forefront, equipping our community with a wide spectrum of capabilities
  - ranging from AI, which is reshaping our future,
  - to essential practical skills such as PV Installation, which is instrumental in driving sustainable energy solutions.
  
- These diverse educational streams converge at the heart of the Center's mission, which is **to provide comprehensive skill development that meets the needs of today's market and tomorrow's innovation.**
  
- The Center aims also to become
  - a cornerstone of professional development
  - and a driver of economic growth
    - while encouraging the beneficiaries of its services to emerge **not as job seekers but as job creators,**
    - and, therefore, having a positive impact and contributing to sustainable development in Lebanon and beyond.
  
- Finally, the Skills Development Center
  - symbolizes **our promise to offer not just education, but targeted skill empowerment for all;**
  - it opens doors to new opportunities for every aspiring mind in our society,
  - and it reflects our commitment to ensuring that individuals from all walks of life can harness their potential and contribute effectively to our community.
  
- Thank you again for being with us today and I am confident that the skills nurtured in our SDC will ripple and scale up to shape **a better world for All.**