



**Address by Rev. Fr. Hady Mahfouz, President of the Holy Spirit University of
Kaslik (USEK)**

**The closing ceremony of the International Master of University Cooperation for
Peace and Development**

June 11, 2012

Your Excellency Mr. Giuseppe Morabito

Your Excellency Mr. Adnan As-Sayyed Hassan

Major General Paolo Serra, UNIFIL Head of Mission and Force Commander

Professor Manuel Castello, Coordinator of the Master at La Sapienza University of Rome,
Professor Massimo Caneva, Professor Ennio Cardona and Professor Giovanni Vaggi representing
the Italian Universities, distinguished guests, dear friends and students,

About two years ago we were gathered here at this same place to launch the Master of
University Cooperation for Peace and Development. So far we have graduated forty peace
actors who will have the responsibility to continue what we have started and make a concrete
change in the society.

A culture of peace can only prevail when the people in charge and the various stakeholders in
the society as a whole combine efforts to address global problems, when they acquire the
needed know-how to resolve these problems, and when they work incessantly for the
advancement of the society and the consolidation of human values. Such a global endeavor

requires a systematic education that would pave the way for peace and consequently for development.

The fact that universities have always been in a position to unswervingly influence the society at large, beyond their direct vicinities, imposes on us quite an important role to put our capacities and knowledge in function of the society in order to achieve such an education. La Sapienza University of Rome, the University of Pavia, the University of Palermo, the Lebanese University and the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik have decided with the support of the Italian Embassy in Lebanon through the Cooperation Development Office, to optimize their efforts in order to raise the awareness of future generations on the importance of building a well-balanced society that would respect every person and the whole person.

We must admit that this program is a step forward in overcoming the challenges that lie ahead of us and in training talents that are looked-for in the society today.

That is why I would like to thank His Excellency Mr. Giuseppe Morabito, friend of USEK, for his precious support in sustaining this program, His Excellency Mr. Adnan As-Sayed Hassan, President of the Lebanese University that decided to move along the way with us throughout the implementation of this program. I would like also to extend my thanks to the Master deans and coordinators, and to the Italian and Lebanese professors who all spared no effort in imparting quality education and valuable outcomes. Your efforts have tremendously increased the importance of this Master.

Dear students, your role is now beyond what you have learned. You have to put in place the right goals to become peace and development ambassadors and leave your marks wherever you go. It is time for you now to be the catalyst for change and to maximize the potential of peace in the world.