



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

**Corporate Governance across Ethics, Culture & Citizenship:
What to give and what to expect**

April 14, 2014

Good morning,

It gives me an immense pleasure to see such an international gathering that will ponder **Corporate governance across Ethics, Culture and Citizenship**. The topic of this conference is quite evocative and is laden with theoretical as well as practical baggage, on one hand, and on the other hand, it carries a great weight of well identified corporate rules and unidentified, yet well-established, “beyond-rules”. However, one common denominator governs the relationship between these rules, **that** of ethics and transcendence-driven decisions that would elevate the human activity in any business realm; this very human activity that is meant to serve the common good and the human dignity.

It is up to you scholars and academicians to see how to tone these rules to better serve an empowered society by the book **and also beyond the book** away from rigid considerations

and under the umbrella of ethics. This was expressed by His Holiness Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation the “Joy of the Gospel” when he said “Business is a vocation, and a noble vocation, provided that those engaged in it see themselves challenged by a greater meaning in life; this will enable them truly to serve the common good by striving to increase the goods of this world and to make them more accessible to all” (57) (end of quotation).

I know in the coming two days you will be studying governance topics from various perspectives, analyzing time-honored principles, new trends and best practices. But I am also fully aware that your ultimate goal would be to raise awareness on ethics and ethical paradigms that must shape the world of governance in general, and the corporate world in particular, always for the best of the person and leading for an enriched culture and robust citizenship “making it possible, as per His Holiness also, to bring about balance and a more humane social order” to the world (57).

I would like to say that this initiative wouldn’t have been possible had it not been for the **great** efforts of a **great** team marked by dedication and headed by a highly dynamic, and also **great**, Dean, Professor Nehme Azoury, my heartfelt thanks to you and to your team for always being pioneering in tackling issues of common interest. I hope this conference will come up with fruitful recommendations and will yield to the establishment of another cornerstone of a sound governance marked by ethics and elevated human dignity.