



جامعة بيروت العربية  
BEIRUT ARAB UNIVERSITY

President of Beirut Arab University, Prof. Amr Galal El-Adawi's Speech  
At the Gala Dinner

**Faculty of Architectural Engineering**  
The International Conference:

*Rethinking Architectural Education: Towards a Better Practice*  
9/3/2016

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Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Evening

It is my pleasure to welcome you all again to Beirut, with a specially warm welcome to this dinner, organized in honor of our guests. I am glad that the organizers of the conference have chosen March to hold this event, for it is that time of the year when the weather in Lebanon is just right. With nature shedding the snows of winter, it is also the time to enjoy the wonderful touristic attractions that should not be missed. I strongly encourage you to complement your fruitful academic endeavors at the conference with some precious sightseeing of world famous places such as Jeita Grotto and the ancient city of Byblos, to mention but a few.

An architect by profession and passion, I also invite you to have a look at the architecture Beirut has to offer. Ancient buildings, that stand witness to a rich heritage, survive amidst buildings of modernity. This tapestry of architectural styles and periods makes the city a natural museum for the art, vision and works of an endless list of prominent architects.

We all know that building spaces, are parts and parcels of our daily existence. It is only when we feel comfortable in our skin, that we can function properly, and it is only when we feel at home in our environment that we will live happily. For didn't Churchill once state that **"we shape our buildings; thereafter, they shape us"**?

So allow me to welcome you all again and wish you a successful conference. I hope you enjoy your dinner and bon appétit.

Thank you.

LEBANON  
P.O. BOX 11 5020  
RIAD EL SOLH 11072809  
bau@bau.edu.lb  
www.bau.edu.lb

BEIRUT CAMPUS  
TEL: +961 1 300110  
FAX: +961 1 818402

DEBBIEH CAMPUS  
TEL: +961 7 985858  
FAX: +961 7 985060

TRIPOLI CAMPUS  
TEL: +961 6 218400  
FAX: +961 6 222800

BEKAA CAMPUS  
TEL: +961 8 542051  
FAX: +961 8 544051