



## Opening Speech on Quality Assurance Workshop

Implementation of a Self-Assessment Process at Higher Education Institutions

Organized by AUF, DGHE, BAU

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His Excellency Minister of Education and Higher Education Mr. Marwan Hamadeh  
HE Regional Director of AUF (Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie) in the Middle  
East Mr Herve Sabourin  
HE Director General of Higher Education Dr. Ahmad Jammal  
Representatives of the participating universities  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to BAU's Main Campus in Beirut. We are delighted to host the workshop on quality assurance entitled:

"Implementation of a Self-Assessment Process at Higher Education Institutions". I would also like to welcome all the participants who joined us from various higher education institutions in Lebanon.

My thanks are due to the Minister of Education and Higher Education for his patronage and support of these activities, and to the AUF for their cooperation with the Director General of Higher Education in Lebanon to organize and finance these series of workshops.

The Lebanese higher education system is increasingly influenced by globalization, particularly as related to graduates' competitiveness on the international labor market.



The quality assurance of higher education can be defined as a means to verify that academic standards derived from the organization's mission have been defined and achieved in line with the corresponding international standards, and that the quality of teaching and learning, research and community services fulfill the various stakeholders' expectations.

Therefore, quality is a key element not only for accreditation, but also to ensure better opportunities for future generations. This will help higher education institutions in Lebanon to compete with their counterparts regionally and internationally.

In Lebanon, quality assurance and accreditation procedures are still limited to the traditional mechanisms of licensing, auditing and recognition by the Technical Committee and the Equivalence Committee.

Thus, there is an urgent need to enhance the concept and culture of quality, as well as to establish quality assurance frameworks, which play a major role in improving the performance of higher education in Lebanon. This is compatible with the strategy of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, in particular the establishment of a national body for quality assurance. It is also in line with the efforts of the Universities Association of Lebanon and the support of the European Union through the funding of many Tempus and Erasmus+ projects.

Meanwhile, relevant effort has been exerted by some institutions which established internal quality assurance units and obtained accreditation from international bodies in the United States, Canada and Europe.



In this respect, BAU has been committed since its foundation to promoting quality education. We continuously look to improve the academic and administrative services by consistently upgrading them to conform to international standards. In this regard, the Academic Development and Quality Assurance Center and the internal quality assurance units at all faculties were founded. One of BAU's main achievements was earning the international institutional accreditation from FIBAA in 2015 as well as international accreditation for its various academic programs as follows: Architectural Engineering by RIBA in 2012, Communications & Electronics Engineering and Computer Science by ABET in 2013, Dentistry by ADEE in 2014, Pharmacy by CCAPP in 2015, Physical Therapy by WCPT in 2016, Business Administration by FIBAA in 2015, and Law & Political Science by FIBAA in 2016.

In addition, we have participated in several relevant national and European projects as well as the World Bank Governance project, and are willing to continue as active partners in any future event in this respect. It is worth mentioning that the first national workshop on quality assurance in Lebanon was held at Beirut Arab University on 24/3/2007 in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Beirut.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

The presence of experts and people from different backgrounds with their varied ideas and experiences adds to the success of this workshop.

I look forward to seeing positive outcomes from this event and hope you will all gain the utmost benefit.

Thank you.