

Dear Colleagues,

It is in our great pleasure to welcome you all at USJ, as we are hosting the 21<sup>st</sup> conference of the Lebanese Association for the advancement of Science (LAAS). The topic for this year's conference will be **the scientific and technological progresses in the perspective of "Horizon 2020"**: Moreover, this year, 2015, USJ will be celebrating its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary under the following moto: "together for building the future".

Nowadays, Academic Research has become both a necessity and priority not only in Lebanon but also all over the world; we have witnessed significant efforts made by all Universities in order to encourage research studies and develop strategies that contribute well in the improvement of higher education quality and researchers training.

It is important to mention, that organizing seminars as well as carrying out "big" projects are not our only main challenges, but the ability to consolidate expertise, resources, skills and efforts made by researchers would be our main challenge as well. As a result, mutual benefits, synergy and cooperation can rise between all Lebanese Universities to reach an international recognized research level full of success and productivity.

In order to reach such a goal, we should be encouraging exchange and collaboration between different Universities and different researchers as well ; Both, the number and quality of joined publications reflect this issue. Research teams must be open one to the other in order to ensure smooth flow of knowledge and cooperation. In this frame, we would be considering our assembly these upcoming days so we all ensure our contribution in the continuing science advancement.

We hope that the following meetings would be a nice opportunity to experience collaboration between different teams of researchers and an occasion to share knowledge and experience.

These conferences will bring together major Universities and researches in all fields from the country and from the entire region to become the major academic research event for all.

I want to take the opportunity to raise my gratitude towards the advisory, scientific and organizing committees for they worked hard to hold this 21st conference in accordance with the highest standards of selection for a better quality of interventions.

Finally, this year we are celebrating also the fiftieth anniversary of the Lebanese Association for Advancement of Science, fifty years of donation and fifty years of support to the academic life, knowledge and research...