Welcome Note  (By Farouk Merhebi – EHSRM Director)

Dear Readers,

Congratulations to AUB and to the EHSRM team for winning the Green Mind CSR Award for the hazardous waste management program. This is a well-deserved achievement that we are all proud of. It is a long awaited, merited recognition of EHSRM’s green efforts to maintain a clean and safe environment. AUB has always been and will always be a pioneer in reducing the cost of environmental degradation and in promoting sustainable and GREEN development.

Remarkable recycling results were achieved through the 3 REVA machines installed at AUB and AUBMC cafeterias and CHSC since end of January 2014. AUB recycled 48046 bottles and cans until end of April 2014. This is a great achievement that shows our commitment to improve AUB’s recycling program through innovative ideas.

A new campaign, the Red and Blue campaign, will soon be launched, in coordination with Sukleen, across AUB. Sukleen will be offering, free of charge, red boxes and containers to collect glass, cans and plastics and blue boxes and containers to collect paper and cardboard. Sukleen will collect all the recyclables on frequent basis to reduce the storage of recyclables, one of the main problems hindering recycling on campus.

Article of the Month  Green Mind CSR Award

The Green Mind Award is an annual event that aims to encourage Green best practices and to honor commitment towards sustainability and protection of the environment in the Middle East and North Africa Region. It awards the best green achievements in different categories, one of which is the Green Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). This specific award is given for companies which have initiated a green campaign, project or activity in support of the environment and made a green achievement that sets an example to follow for other arising corporations.

EHSRM, on behalf of AUB, applied for the Green CSR Award competition to promote its full-fledged comprehensive hazardous waste management program. AUB follows international standards, and allocates, on a yearly basis, significant resources for the treatment and shipment of hazardous waste. AUB aims to be a leader and acts responsibly in recognizing the need to ensure the health and safety of its community and the environment.

The process of achieving the award passed through several stages. Among 204 applications evaluated by the Jury, AUB was shortlisted and became one the 3 finalists retained under the Green CSR Award competing against Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry and K. Raheja Corp., India. A public voting campaign was initiated for 10 days and accounted for 20 percent of the total scores. AUB, with the remarkable support of its community, closed the voting at 97.3% (highest percentage of votes in the competition). The vote was then followed by a Jury Deliberation and final presentation for each project.

The Award was presented to AUB during the “Greenest Ceremony” that was held at the Casino du Liban on April 3rd, and was broadcasted on LBCI TV station on April 22nd 2014, coinciding with the Earth Day.

Congratulations again and again for AUB and we all look forward for more great Green achievements.

Think Green

1. Running a PC on sleep mode conserves a considerable amount of energy: a) True b) False
2. The modern word “green” has its root in a word meaning “to grow”: a) True b) False
3. Idling your car (“N” Drive) when you are stuck in traffic will not affect much the use of gasoline: a) True b) False

Answers are on page 2

Green Facts

- Garamond font uses the least amount of printing ink amongst the commonly used font styles. It is the most cost-effective font style for printing.
- Every ton of paper that is recycled saves 17 trees.
- A photocopier left on over night uses enough energy to make 5,300 photocopies.
- The average 10 minutes shower takes 150 liters of water. Switching to a low-flow showerhead can save 55 liters of water during the 10 minutes shower.
**GREEN FIGURES**

The wattage needed to produce 1600 lumen is about 5 folds higher in traditional incandescent bulbs than in compact florescent (CFL) and light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs. The difference in wattage is due to the loss of energy in the form of heat which may reach 90 % in traditional incandescent bulbs.

The LED and CFL have a long life span, as compared with traditional incandescent and halogen incandescent bulbs. LED and CFL can last as long as 20,000 hours and 10,000 hours respectively; whereas the life span is only 750 hrs for traditional incandescent bulbs and 1000 hrs for halogen incandescent bulbs. However, there is still a big disadvantage for using LED bulbs as the unit price per bulb far exceeds that of other bulbs types.

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**Answers to “Think Green”**

1. **b) True.** A PC on sleep mode uses 5W of power, whereas it needs around 100W when left on screen saver.

2. **b) True.** The origin of the word “green” is the German word “grün”, which means “to grow”. The word has been related to many environmental activities from the fact that many plants are green.

3. **b) False.** Idling the car uses twice as much gasoline as driving. Stopping and restarting your car, when it is to stay idle for more than one minute, uses less gas and emits less CO₂ than idling it.

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**EHSRM in Action**

- **The Environmental and Chemical Safety Unit** conducted laboratory inspections in Chemistry, FHS & Agriculture; conducted training sessions on chemical handling, waste management of hazardous drugs for Iraqi pharmacists, and on safe handling of chemotherapy drugs; prepared guidelines for the removal of asbestos water tank in DTS and for the prevention of slips & trips; prepared a chemical handling policy for OR; carried on the baseline assessment on healthcare waste management at AUBMC; and supervised the casting and encapsulation of three concrete asbestos blocks that were sent for proper disposal.

- **The Health Physics Services Unit** followed up on the license and shielding design of the cyclotron facility; reviewed the radiation safety policy of the Radiation oncology department; provided training session to Cardiology; initiated a new record keeping process for radioactivity users and new electronic record keeping process for the unit; finalized the license of Blood Bank by the LAEC and MOPH; performed dose mapping of the blood irradiator in blood bank; participated in the JCI rounds; and performed leakage testing in the Radiology department of the Kessrouane Medical Center.

- **The Life and Fire Safety Unit** carried on the testing and commissioning process of the safety related systems/features in the Faed Irani Oxy Engineering Complex; reviewed several materials submittals and conducted site inspections in both the DTS renovation project and the MAB project; completed the annual life and fire safety report which was presented to the FMSC; assessed life and fire safety features in the Kessrouane Medical Center and issued relevant comments; and reviewed 7 in-house renovation projects at AUB and AUBMC.

- **The Occupational Safety Unit** conducted a facility tour and safety round in the Sawwaf building and reported the findings; participated in the JCI facility rounds five day survey and in the FMS document review session; and conducted chemical exposure assessment to PLM staff.

- **The Risk Management Unit** responded to many inquiries related to the prevalence and statistics of needlestick and sharps injuries among AUBMC staff; worked on data analysis regarding incidents occurrence at AUB Campus; and provided training session to new AUBMC employees.

- **The Sanitation and Biosafety Unit** participated in the JCI rounds at AUBMC including the facility tour, the infection control system tracers and the HAZMAT plan tracer; conducted HAZMAT training sessions for AUBMC employees; conducted biosafety laboratory inspection visits and waste baseline assessment rounds at AUBMC; conducted N95 fit testing for the Nursing and Pharmacy staff; participated in the rounds related to recycling at AUB; and participated in wellness fair to promote recycling.

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**Latest Activities**

**Mike Georges Rebeiz**

*BT in electronics (1995); TS in electronics (1998)*

Mr. Rebeiz joined EHSRM in April 2000 as the Life Safety and Hygiene Specialist. Mike undertook several courses and training sessions related to first aid, emergency response, occupational health & safety, fire safety, and hazmat, and completed a Course for OHST (Occupational Health & Safety Technologist) from Minnesota Safety Council (2005).

Mike is responsible for conducting general safety inspections of laboratories, events, workshops, construction sites, and storage facilities, responding to emergencies and spills, observing the annual testing of fire alarm systems and inspecting fire equipment, and participating in the implementation of the Hazardous Waste Management Program and the Asbestos Abatement Program. Mike also follows up on and investigates incident reports, contributes to the development of preventive measures, contributes to students and staff training, and assists in the implementation of the Safety Policy and regulations.