The launch of PRO-GREEN professional diploma in green technologies
January 8, 2015
Remarks by Dean Makram Suidan

Your excellency Mr. Omar Hamzah, Cultural Attaché of Egypt; EU representative Dr. Alexis Loeber; Director General of the Lebanese Ministry of Higher Education, Dr. Ahmad Jammal; President Lisa Anderson; President Peter Dorman, honorable participants; ladies and gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the launching of the Online Professional Diploma in Green Technologies in the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at AUB.

The U.S. National Academy of Engineering identified the Grand Challenges of this century. They were classified into fourteen categories with the first five focused on the water-energy nexus. Providing safe and secure energy and safe and plentiful water while preserving energy and water resources for future generations is a must.

Meeting the increasing demand for energy and clean water is a challenge not only for Lebanon, but also regionally as well as internationally. This is driven by the increase in population coupled with modern living standards that result in increased demands for energy, water and a place to live. The American University of Beirut, the American University of Cairo and the Lebanese American University through a tempus grant from the European Union have formed a consortium offering a joint professional post graduate diploma program in green technologies. This diploma is offered in three specializations; energy, buildings, and water. The consortium, along with their partner European Institutions supported this effort starting with content development and ending with the establishment of user friendly IT platforms that facilitate the offering of the degree online for wider outreach.

The target beneficiaries of this project and program are working professionals in fields related to engineering, architecture, science and information technology who want to further develop skills in the growing sector of green energy.

The launching of this program is timely as the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture is moving forward in establishing new degree programs that cross the boundaries of engineering disciplines in order to advance research and scholarship. The project takes us a step further to transfer this new knowledge to practice. We launched this year a new bachelor of engineering degree in industrial engineering and now we are awaiting approval of new master and PhD programs in biomedical engineering jointly with the faculty of Medicine. Our proposed program in Petroleum Engineering is undergoing University review,
and we are also preparing for a new program in “Energy and Materials” to meet the challenge of providing sustainable, affordable and reliable energy.

Finally, we are very proud to launch this program for the first time with the Munib and Angela Masri Institute of Energy and Natural Resources. This institute serves as an interfaculty coordinating unit at AUB. I hope that this program will lead to more collaboration between the partner institutions.

Finally, I would like to thank the EU for their generous grant to support the Pro-Green program development, the partner institutions, and the IT and Registrar Teams for their work in support of the development of the e-learning platform for the degree.