

For Immediate Release



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AUB: Rabi Mohtar assumes his new position as the New Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences

Newly appointed Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at the American University of Beirut (AUB), Dr. Rabi Mohtar assumed office earlier this month in line with AUB President Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri message to the community last August announcing his appointment as the New Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences (FAFS).

“I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Rabi Mohtar as the new Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS), effective January 2018. Dr. Mohtar succeeds Dr. Nahla Hwalla, whose eleven years of leadership as Dean of FAFS has been noteworthy for numerous academic, administrative and strategic accomplishments”, the President wrote in his message to the AUB community.

Dr. Mohtar is a TEES (Texas Engineering Experiment Station) Endowed Professor at Texas A&M University, College Station, USA. He is a member of the faculty in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering and the Zachry Department of Civil Engineering at TAMU (Texas A&M University), and Adjunct Professor at TAMU-Q and at Purdue University. Dr. Mohtar coordinates the TAMU WEF (Water Energy Food) Resource Nexus Initiative (2015).

Dr. Mohtar has received more than \$12M in funded research grants to address global resource challenges such as the development of the Water-Energy-Food Nexus framework linking science to policy, characterization of soil-water medium using thermodynamic modeling, efficacy of non-traditional water using physical-based methodologies; and applications for sustainable integrated water management. He has over 80 peer reviewed articles and more than 200 published scientific and policy articles. He has participated in, presented at, or organized nearly 300 technical sessions, conferences and workshops, both nationally and internationally. Dr. Mohtar has supervised over 55 graduate students, hosted over 30 postdoctoral and visiting scholars and worked on research and training in over 15 countries.

Dr. Mohtar is the 2015 Ven Te Chow Memorial Lecturer of the International Water Resources Association, a Distinguished Alumni of the American University of Beirut (2014), and recipient of the ASABE (American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers) Kishida International Award (2010). Dr. Mohtar has served on the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Councils on Water Security and Climate Change (2009-2014), and is an advisor to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) Momentum of Change, World Water Council and the OCP Policy Center. Before joining the faculty at Texas A&M University, Dr. Mohtar served as Founding Executive Director of the Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute at the Qatar Foundation (2010-2014) and inaugural Director of Purdue's Global Engineering Programs (2008-2012), where he was also co-founder of the Division of Environmental and Ecological Engineering.

In a first comment on his appointment, Mohtar said: "Water, Energy and Food are the primary resources needed for human life. They are highly interlinked and their long term access and availability are being threatened by climate change, human population and governance challenges and in particular in the Arab Region. I am delighted to be working with FAFS and AUB colleagues on research, education and engagement activities that help the Arab region achieve higher securities in water, energy and food resources."

AUB President commented saying: "The Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences was founded in 1952 and has made innumerable contributions to the health and well-being of Lebanese and Arab Society. We are confident that under Dr. Mohtar's leadership, and with FAFS' excellent and dedicated faculty, students and staff, much can be accomplished to further advance the mission of this Faculty as a transformative difference maker for our peoples."

ENDS

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 130 programs leading to bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full-service 420-bed hospital.

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