

For Immediate Release



## Students showcased their creativity in developing sustainable solutions during International Biodiversity Day at AUB

Beirut, Lebanon- 1/06/2011 - Ibsar, or the Nature Conservation Center for Sustainable Futures at AUB, held its fifth annual "International Biodiversity Day at AUB" (IBDAA) exhibition on May 20, 2011.

IBDAA 2011 was held in collaboration with Olayan School of Business at the American University of Beirut and under the patronage of The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the lower campus, facing the Faculty of Agriculture.

Around 300 students participated in this event through posters and other displays.

In past years, students have showed their creativity and imagination in IBDAA posters, finding scientific and environmentally-friendly solutions for things as diverse as shoe odor, fruit preservation, and energy savings.

Among this year's attention-grabbing projects were:

A biodegradable aerial forest container from carob and paper instead of plastic; a globe-like container that allows households to turn their organic waste into compost after mixing it with coffee grinds; studies on the antibacterial properties of fig leaves and the water-retention of cactus; a forest fire retarding system; and solar-powered desalination system among others.

Agribusiness students also joined in with business plans for eco-friendly products, such as a detergent made from halawa root, pine oil, cellulose, and glycerol.

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 600 full-time faculty members and a student body of more than 7,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the 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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