



## **AUB Education Department trains public and private school teachers**

Friday, November 5, 2010

Following a two-decade-old tradition, the Department of Education at the American University of Beirut held a series of eight training workshops for teachers of various school subjects ranging from language theory and practice to educational psychology during the month of October. The teachers came from private and public schools from both Beirut and other regions of Lebanon.

Three of the workshops dealt with teaching English as a foreign language, one focused on reading in Arabic, another on integrating cabri-geometry software in the classroom, and the others concentrated on elementary and early childhood education.

The last of the workshops, entitled “Creating and Implementing Standards-Based Instruction in the English Classroom,” conducted by Education Department Chair Ghazi Ghaith, clarified the standards of teaching English as a Second Language proposed by the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). The standards focused on three broad goals: English for communication, English for academic purposes, and English for appropriate cultural and social use. The workshop discussed the extent to which these standards are applicable to Lebanese schools.

All the workshops emphasized the important bridge between theory and practice and offered participants an opportunity to design and implement lesson plans, “taking into consideration their classroom and school context,” Ghaith explained.

Ghaith studied the readiness of the participants in the workshops to implement what he called “instructional innovation” in their classrooms.

Over the years these AUB workshops have benefited all parties involved, as the Education Department has accumulated experience and developed a system to design such projects and implement them.

The Department of Education has also been coordinating similar projects across Gulf Cooperation Council countries and in other parts of the Arab world.