

AUB takes part in conference on quality in higher education

Friday, October 29, 2010

The American University of Beirut (AUB) advocated the importance of self-imposed quality evaluation procedures and support for research among universities in Lebanon during a conference on higher education in Beirut. Organized by the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Montpellier (CIHEAM) and QuaRES with support from the National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the Faculty of Agriculture of the Lebanese University on October 21-22, 2010 at the College of Higher Education of Business, the conference tackled issues related to quality maintenance in the higher education field in Lebanon and abroad.

AUB Provost Ahmad Dallal outlined during the opening session AUB's efforts in devising and implementing its own quality assurance programs in the absence of foreign accreditors to evaluate the standard of academic performance in universities in Lebanon. Highlighting the role of research in ensuring academic excellence, Dallal spoke about the central role the Office of Grants and Contracts at AUB has played in assisting full-time faculty to solicit external research grants. The provost also spoke about the importance of ethical research in Lebanon and related issues such as research integrity and copyright protection.

AUB's Professor Mohamad Farran from the Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences was part of the organizing committee in his capacity as an AUB faculty member, a member of CIHEAM and a member of the CNRS Administration Board. Professor Farran stressed the importance of collaboration among universities in Lebanon in all fields of higher education and applied research in order to meet the research priorities set by the CNRS.

The conference featured plenary sessions and workshops with speakers from higher education institutions in Lebanon, Egypt, France and Switzerland. It provided a platform for exchanging ideas and discussing common plans for quality assurance in higher education and research across the Mediterranean.