

For Immediate Release



Annual AUB fair exhibits school students' science, math and technology projects

Beirut, Lebanon- 30/04/2012 - More than 350 students from 31 schools all over Lebanon participated in the 18th Annual Science, Math and Technology Fair on April 28-29, 2012 held at the American University of Beirut.

Organized by the Science and Math Education Center (SMEC) in the Department of Education and the Education Students Society (ESS) at AUB, the fair provided schools with the opportunity to share scientific, mathematical and technological projects with their peers from other schools.

The aim of the fair is to encourage and reinforce schools' efforts in developing students' scientific and mathematical inquiry and critical thinking skills, providing a relevant hands-on out-of-class dimension, promoting creativity, initiative and independent thinking and encouraging school/parent/student involvement in the learning process.

"This year we have 31 schools participating in the fair," said assistant professor Rabih El Mouhayar, member of SMEC and advisor of ESS. "We are in particular grateful to all the teachers who helped and encouraged their students to work on and design their projects."

All in all, there were 180 projects and each was judged twice, with the assistance of 75 people going through the judging processes. The criteria used included relevance, creativity, reasoning, clarity and effectiveness of the presentation, the extent to which the project reflected the student's own work and group work.

The schools were divided into kindergarten, elementary, intermediate and secondary groups with the projects divided among science models and demonstrations, science research, math--real world model or demonstration, math--real and abstract problem investigation, technology models and demonstration, and technology invention.

“We had to choose some projects for the first, second, and third prizes, but we believe all those who participated deserve to be rewarded, hoping that they found pleasure in thinking of an idea, designing it and bringing it into reality,” said El Mouhayar. “This is in fact our purpose, not only declaring winners but also spreading the joy of learning and discovery.”

Winners were announced at the AUB Assembly Hall on Sunday April 29 and first-prize winners included Amjad High School, Al-Iman School, Rawdat El-Iman School, Al-Khawthar Secondary School, Montana International College, Salah Eddine Educational Center, Hariri 3 School, CTI, National Protestant College, Sagesse High School, Universal College Aley, Al-Abrar Educational Center, Dhahran Ahliyya School Girls, International College Ras Beirut, International College Ain Aar, Iman Pilot School, Broumana High School and Dhahran Ahliyyah School (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia).

Sarah Jane Ghraizi, president of Education Students Society, also distributed special prizes (medals and/or certificates) to a number of participants.

For more information on the fair:

<http://www.aub.edu.lb/FAS/SMEC/Pages/Science,Math,andTechnologyFair2012.aspx>

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 about 8,000 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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