

For Immediate Release



Beirut: 26-9-2016

Second International ASHRAE Conference at AUB

The American University of Beirut (AUB) hosted the Second International Conference of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating & Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). This two-day conference is entitled: “Efficient Building Design – Materials and HVAC Equipment Technologies (ICEBD-MET2)”. It brought together a large number of experts, companies and students as well as foreign delegations. It aims to highlight the principal role of the building and construction sector in combating climate change via the adoption of designs jointly involving peaceful technology with the use of natural resources.

The conference was organized by AUB and its Munib and Angela Masri Institute of Energy & Natural Resources, with ASHRAE’s Lebanese chapter and international leadership.

Both the conference’s scientific and organizing committees were headed by Dr. Nisrine Ghaddar. The conference program included five addresses by internationally renowned experts, and 12 presentations by companies active in the building and refrigeration field. Moreover, 34 research papers featuring suggestions and ideas by researchers are to be discussed.

Dr. Ghaddar was first to speak in the opening ceremony of the conference

After welcoming the audience, she said that it was time to separate the cooling and drying needs using hybrid systems. She also spoke about the intelligent and optimized concepts for air-conditioning and energy storage systems.

Next to speak was Professor Saleh Zein, representing the Lebanese branch of ASHRAE. He addressed the negative and destructive effects of cooling techniques currently in use.

Dr. Walid Chakroun representing the President of ASHRAE, said that the Arab countries should resort to the latest natural techniques which use technology as a means to preserve climate and nature, and to stay able to adapt.

The fourth speaker was Dr. Alan Shihadeh, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture at AUB. He said that the university adopted energy conservation and research development strategy some time ago. He added: "Our University is a leader in the region, and we

hope that this trend in the field of energy will continue in an atmosphere of intellectual and academic openness and diversity”. He said that AUB is actively involved in the development of programs and infrastructures that provide professionals with what meets market requirements.

The fifth speaker was Dr. Omar Masri, representing the Masri Foundation. He promised to continue supporting and enhancing the academic and professional cooperation and interdisciplinary research in the areas of energy, natural resources and the environment. It is to be recalled that the Masri Foundation has awarded nearly a million dollars to 60 researchers from five faculties and 11 different departments in AUB.

AUB Acting Provost Dr. Mohamed Harajli was next to speak, representing AUB. He praised all the participants’ efforts to ensure the success of this international conference and welcomed all who striving to make a difference in this domain.

Dr. Mounir Hamzeh, representing the National Council for Scientific Research, gave the final address of the opening ceremony. He lauded the conference being held against a backdrop of international problems and global warming, which threaten the whole world every day.

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For more information please contact:

Simon Kachar
Director of News and Media Relations
Mobile: 03427024 Office: 01374374 Ext: 2676
Email: sk158@aub.edu.lb

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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