

2007 is your 20th anniversary, my beloved NDU! 2007 is the 20th anniversary of all those who belong to NDU!

Twenty years of hard work and success in the history of NDU! Twenty years of dreams and realities, twenty years of hopes and achievements, twenty years of growth, twenty unforgettable years in the life of NDU! Good memories and sometimes bad ones! The great will transformed the undefeatable obstacles into steps easy to overcome. The following words of Booker T. Washington summarize those years: "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which one has overcome while trying to succeed."

Though two decades are not a major concern in the life of universities, yet for NDU its first two decades cannot but be likened to the first two years in the life of a human baby. Constant impressive development! NDU has been exponentially rising; its programs in seven faculties successfully has reached a coverage of over 90 different degrees, its community has significantly expanded and its building premises have been greatly extended. As a matter of fact, the historical relocation from the old campus to new magnificent, attractive, and beautiful buildings have formed the major accomplishment of these two decades.

Today is the beginning of another twenty years. Today, a couple of questions have to be put forward about what is next, that is, how are the next twenty years going to be? What is going to distinguish and mark our next years? What are the steps to be taken to achieve the declared goals of the next period? Indeed, in this year, NDU is entering a new era in its history; NDU is undertaking a new process of development. Developing a strategic plan, NDU is preparing for the accreditation process.

This new approach involves all members of the NDU family. This new task is in need of all the efforts of NDU members. The positive participation of each one of us at NDU leads to the success of this endeavor. Indeed, this action cannot be but a team work and its results are inevitably going to affect each and every person at NDU. Again, each one of us should seek how he/she can rightly contribute to a successful process.

A right contribution is related to, and starts with, basic questions such as: What is a university for? What sense does it make to you? Where do you belong? What does it mean for you to be at NDU? Etc. These questions really call on us to a deep reflection.

NDU... Twenty more years are coming up for you... twenty more years of success!

After all, success is ours if only we believe in it, it is ours if only we believe in the future, if we plan for it and remain faithful to our realistic objectives.

Fr. Walid Moussa
President