

President's Address to NDU Alumni in Dubai & Abu Dhabi*

Welcome to all!

On this occasion, I wish to address all NDU graduates residing in the UAE, and hopefully next time I would be present with all of you in person. I convey the greetings of NDU administrators, faculty and staff to all present at this gathering organized by the Alumni Affairs Office (AAO).

When we first established the Alumni Affairs Office about one year and a half ago, we had in mind the goal of continuous communication with graduates, wherever they may be - in Lebanon or elsewhere - because we consider graduates as an vital part of NDU. Mr. Simon Abou Jaoude was deemed the best person to handle this mission.

Until recently we have defined NDU's community as students, faculty, and staff. Is this all there is to our community? No, I must add, with full confidence, that you, our alumni, are a vital part of our community. From the moment you enrolled as an NDU student, you became part of our University community, and you remain so today. You now have an even more crucial role to play as you move on in life in continued pursuit of your aspirations.

Permit me to place on record that one of the things that make NDU a distinguished institution nowadays is partially attributed to its graduates who are spreading its name wherever they are. The world is meeting NDU through you and thanks to the image that all of you are portraying to the world. I assure you that everyone at NDU is working hard to move on with progress so that this university can keep up with the demands of higher education, especially now that we have initiated the Accreditation Project. We have many challenges. Our dream is big. Those who do not have the courage to take risks will not achieve anything.

All of you, be it in Dubai or Abu Dhabi, carry the name of NDU and of Lebanon and I hope that both names will remain placed on high pedestals. We should put our words into actions. Lebanon is passing through trying times. We need men and women who are resolved to change the tides for the better. Stand up and be counted.

To end, I would like to thank all those who have organized this gathering. Hopefully, such gatherings would be held again in Lebanon or elsewhere where NDU graduates are present. I also convey my appreciation to the United Arab Emirates and its generous people. Whenever you come to Lebanon, do not forget to pass by NDU. We are waiting for you.

Fr. Walid Moussa, MMO

* *The address was conveyed in the form of a video displayed at the Alumni gatherings in both Dubai and Abu Dhabi.*