

## **Mechanical Engineering International Conference 2011**

*Welcoming Speech by Fr. Walid Moussa, President*

*June 13, 2011*

Distinguished Guests,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all at Notre Dame University – Louaize and to this *International Conference on Advanced Research and Applications in Mechanical Engineering*. We are deeply proud to jointly organize this activity with Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, USA.

This international cooperation is an achievement of what we strive to carry out at NDU. It is an expression of a dimension of our mission in this globalized world. It is in fact a constituent of our global responsibility.

At NDU, we seek academic excellence, and nowadays, international exposure of faculty and students has become an essential component of excelling academically.

This participation of prominent international speakers in this conference will immensely contribute to our academic atmosphere. Indeed, your experience and knowledge, honorable and distinguished guests, will also enrich our cultural diversity and strengthen it academically. It is in fact a scientific cooperation in a

cross-cultural context. Allow me to express my sincere appreciation for your presence in Lebanon and at NDU in spite of the unsettled circumstances in the region.

Dear Guests,

With no doubt, the development of mechanics has contributed throughout history to the betterment of different aspects of the daily life. For instance, the improvements in the field of mechanics led to the industrial revolution of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which caused a turning point in the human history and marked the beginning of a new era.

Today, we are enjoying the discoveries of people who worked hard for the enhancement of life conditions. Many times, we unfortunately take things for granted. Nevertheless, this dedication for the welfare of humanity has never stopped. Developments in the field of Mechanical Engineering have always continued to take place. Our conference today is a step forward on this long journey.

I'm not going to talk about the "why" and the "what" of this conference, indeed this I would leave to our guests, speakers and participants, to explore and share with us.

However, I will simply underline another dimension of NDU's mission which is

commitment to the community. One aspect of this engagement is to cooperate with the industry for a better world. This cooperation between university and industry entails mutual benefits and is expressed in university research contributing to the development and enhancement of the industry, and industry supporting university research, providing feedback and assessing market needs; thus, together developing new approaches and strategies for better quality with lower cost. This collaboration is in fact a must.

Although university and industry differ in the nature of their activities, yet they share objectives they seek to achieve. Serving the community and looking after the welfare of human being are common objectives university and industry should work jointly for their attainment.

Honorable Guests,

To conclude, I would like to thank all people involved in the preparation and organization of this great event; the Organizing Committee, the Editorial Board, and all speakers. As well, I would like to thank above all Dr. Ahmad Ezzeddine, Associate VP for Educational Outreach at Wayne State University for his tremendous support and Dr. Nabil Chalhoub, co-chair of the Conference and the President of “American

Friends of NDU” Organization in Detroit, Michigan, in which context this initiative was conceived.

Finally, I wish you all success in this conference and let it be the beginning of a series of international conferences in cooperation with all our universities.

Enjoy your stay!