Introduction to the Open Ceremony of AAS Conference

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• We are back in Beirut to target higher education reforms. We’re not giving up, no matter what, unless we see a progress of higher education in term of quality and relevance in teaching and research, to produce the intended-outcomes of entrepreneurs and innovators to put back the Arab world on the right track toward rich human capital and knowledge-economy.

• First of all, I wish to thank Prof. Elias Baydoun and the secretariat of AAS, for an excellent work they’ve done in organizing this conference, and I wish to thank you all for your participation and delivery of papers, which will I am sure lead to a fruitful dialogue and discussion. Also, I wish to thank the co-sponsors of this conference as University of Petra, Philadelphia University, UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut and Springer-publishing for sharing with us the task of finding ways and means for a better higher education in the Arab region.
• Papers presented will be peer-reviewed and edited for the publication of 2018 Springer-book of 23 chapters. Last year conference entitled “Arab Universities: An Urgent Need for Change”, is in the final stage for publication by Springer, and I am asking the authors in this conference to speed up pace and finalize editing their chapters for the 2018 book, not later than December 30th, of this year. So, when you go back please get-to-work.

Dear Colleagues,

• The Arab world is in a mess, it needs an immediate reforms particularly in education. It has to catch up with new trends in teaching/learning and pedagogy. We need quality and relevance education leading to enlightenment, critical thinking, solving problems, igniting enquiry and the analytical minds for intended-learning-outcomes, ethics, entrepreneurship and innovation.

• We’ve got to deliver the bright future generations to get us out of this mess.

• Quality and relevant education is the key and the road map to unlock and unleash the potential of the youth.
• We’ve got to move forward to new orbits of knowledge through creativity and R&D.

• And we have to march in higher education among equals to meet the challenges Arab society is facing.

• I shall be looking forward for your delivery at this conference, and wish you a fruitful conference.

• Thank you.