

**Welcome address for Pharmacy Workshop at FU Berlin
in the framework of DAAD study trip to Germany**

Dear Prof. Mueller, dear students,

It is a pleasure to welcome you at FU Berlin. In the name of the International Relations Office (IRO) at AIU and its team, I would like to take the opportunity to give you **short briefing about the international activities of Arab International University.**

The latest **success** of the International Office in **acquiring grants for AIU** is getting into life by you. The application for this DAAD study trip was written by the team of the International Office in **close cooperation with Prof. Mueller and Prof. Keck** and the team at the Pharmacy faculty of AIU. You see what great success such team work approach generates, **side effects** are established, like the **announcement by Prof. Keck at “Kooperation International”**, and how much you as students have learned, and keep learning the next days.

This DAAD study trip is the second one acquired by the team at the International Office. In **August 2011, 15 students of the Civil Engineering Faculty** visited **HTWK Leipzig and Bauhaus University Weimar** in Germany. An outcome of these workshops is the cooperation with HTWK Leipzig in the framework of the **“Structural Engineering Master”**. AIU will send in **October 2012 for the first time 7 students** to participate in this Master program. The students of AIU get the first year of this Master recognized due to equivalencies in the Bachelor program at AIU. They have to study half a year courses at HTWK Leipzig, write half a year their Master thesis and get a **Master degree issued by HTWK Leipzig**. In the moment the International Office of AIU is implementing this program together with the team at the Civil Engineering Faculty.

Moreover in March 2011 the International Office acquired a **DAAD Study trip to Syria**. 15 students of **Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design, Halle-Wittenberg, Germany** visited our university and worked together with our **Arts students**. This **photography workshop** produced, beside the intercultural dialogue, an **exhibition** which was shown **at AIU, the Goethe Institute in Damascus and our German partner university.**

Other DAAD projects acquired by the team at the International Office are in the program schemes:

- **Double Degree**
- **ISAP**
- **Higher Education Dialogue with the Islamic world.**

The team of the International Office developed together with the team at the Quality Assurance Office and the Business Faculty the **curricula, regulations and diploma supplement** for the **Bachelor double degree in “International Business Administration”**. The four years Bachelor was supposed to start in October 2011, but had to be postponed due to the actual weather conditions in Syria. The idea of this **240 ECTS Bachelor** program is, that the German students study two years in Syria and the Arabic students study 2 years in Germany. One module is dedicated to learn the Arabic respectively German language. Our German partner, **Martin-Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg** is looking forward, like AIU, to start this program as soon as possible. The **DAAD will financially support this double degree for up to 7 years.**

Another project together with Martin-Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg is the DAAD ISAP project. **ISAP - International Study and Training Partnerships** supports student and staff exchange at the Business Faculty. The DAAD is providing financial support till 2013 in this program structure. **This DAAD Double degree program and ISAP program with our partner in Germany are the only once supported by DAAD in the Arab World.**

At our ICT faculty the IRO team acquired a **preparatory measure** to establish an application for a 3 years project together with **TU Berlin, Tishreen University** in Syria, **PSUT and Mutah University in Jordan. The 100% financed by DAAD workshop** is granted and will take place in **September 2012 in Jordan** and is currently in the preparation phase.

On the **European level**, AIU is taking part in **two TEMPUS projects**. These projects are for the first time managed directly from Syria. The coordinator is Damascus University together with the IRO team of AIU. In **“Skills and Career Centers – Pathways to the Labour Market”** the European Commission supports the **establishment of these Centers at all 5 public universities in Syria and 3 private universities**, including AIU. The Career Center team at AIU conducted recently a **24 Business Camp**, which is a best practice example adapted by **Lund University, one out of 3 European partners** in this project. The interdisciplinary student group of AIU and IUST had 24 hours to solve cases provided by the Syrian labour market. The

activity conducted in a hotel in Damascus was a great success. We are working in the other TEMPUS project **“Accreditation – Pathway to Quality Assurance” together with 3 European Universities and 3 Accreditation bodies on program accreditation**. The team at the Faculty of Civil Engineering is preparing a Self-Assessment Report, like the other pilot faculties at 7 different Syrian universities. We hope in 2013 to get the study program at our Civil Engineering Faculty accredited by **ACQUIN**, which would be the first study program in the Arab World accredited by a European agency. The IRO team was writing the applications for these two projects and acquired only in this projects **1.4 Million Euro**.

Recently the IRO team included the Arab International University in **6 Erasmus Mundus – Lot 2 applications**. We are 5 times a full partner and once an associate partner. The Lot for our region included in each application **10 Universities from Europe and 10 Universities from Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and/or Palestine**. **FU Berlin and AIU are partners in the application submitted by Università degli Studi di Pavia, Italy**, maybe the next project our institutions are working together in. In July 2012 the European Commission will grant 4 projects with a budget of about **4.3 Million Euro each**. AIU is an all applications which included Syrian universities and is looking forward to support with this project scheme student and staff exchange as well as full scholarships for Master and PhD’s.

After this short overview I am able to present you as Vice President for International Affairs and Research, I would like to come back to our workshop/ DAAD study trip. It is an honour for us as AIU to be able to work together with well-known institutions in Europe like **FU Berlin**, which recently is granted the title as excellent university by the German government, and **University of Applied Science Kaiserslautern**. In this framework I would like to take the opportunity to especially thank Prof. Mueller for his effort to make this workshop happen and **Dr. Aiman Hommos**, which had the lion part in organizing the whole event in Germany in close cooperation with **Miss Fusshoeller from DAAD**. Without motivated people like Dr. Aiman, international work and activities like this DAAD study trip would be impossible.

Thank you very much