

Your Excellency the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Distinguished Guests

Noted Participants

Dear Colleagues

It is with great pleasure that I stand here today to welcome you to the campus of the university of Jordan and to wish you success in your presentations and deliberations throughout today's sessions and activities.

The idea of devoting a day to Tempus is an excellent idea. I think that I speak for many in this hall, if not all, when I say that we in this part of the world have responded warmly and enthusiastically to the invitation to join the Tempus program. We all believe, I think, that Tempus itself and the opening of Tempus for MEDA countries is an important development. There are real opportunities for those who join and real advantages.

For higher education institutions in Jordan, the region and the globe, quality is a crucial matter. Since the very start of higher education itself, but especially beginning with the latter part of the twentieth century, quality has been of utmost importance. For us at the University of Jordan quality thinking, quality planning, and implementation of quality measures are placed on the top of our priorities. We have been involved, and deeply so, in the introduction, implementation, and evaluation of quality mechanisms and measures for sometime now.

Our enthusiasm for Tempus stems from the basic fact that it rhymes well with our quality efforts and quality strategies. That is why when the opportunity was offered to us to join the various Tempus projects and the various consortia, we joined without hesitation.

We have been involved in a number of Tempus programs for more than a year and a half now. We hope to be involved in more Tempus programs. And we are

committed to the full completion and success of the programs we have been, and are, involved in.

Having said this, however, I must also say that we want our involvement in Tempus to be both effective and beneficial. For it to be so, it has to be both active and interactive. It is a mistake, I believe, for us to be mere followers, respondents or implementers. We need to be more conscious and more assertive in terms of our role and our perspective. Universities all over the world share many similar challenges, problems, aspirations and dreams. But institutions have their own regional, national, and individual peculiarities, commitments, responsibilities and distinct features. An involvement in Tempus has to reflect positively on at all of these levels. But an involvement in Tempus has also to guarantee us tangible benefits and measurable advantages. It is time, in other words, now that we are deeply engaged in Tempus to do some real cost-benefit analysis, and to look at the anticipated results more critically and carefully, hoping that such an analysis and such perusal will augment, not undercut, our benefit from Tempus. I am sure that in your deliberations today you will have the chance to address this challenge. The purpose of the Tempus day is to present what has happened so far (and what will happen in the foreseeable future), but its purpose is also to evaluate and assess.

I welcome you again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you, and wish you the best of luck..

Abdullah Al-Musa

UJ President

Tempus Day Remarks

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