

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to have you with us today.

First let me brief you about the Jordan National TEMPUS Office. The Office was established in March 2004 after the approval of the Council of Ministers, with a generous grant from the European Commission, and the kind hosting of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. The Office is engaged in the following activities, among others:

- 1) Facilitate implementation of projects.
- 2) Overcome any obstacle the projects may face.
- 3) Monitor the progress of on-going projects.
- 4) Assist institutions and faculty members in issues related to TEMPUS programs and activities.
- 5) Liaise with local authorities regarding TEMPUS projects.
- 6) Liaise with the European Commission Delegation and European Cultural Attaches/Development Officers in Amman regarding on-going and future projects and other activities.
- 7) Assist the European Commission in projects selection.

The program of the National TEMPUS Day was carefully designed to provide you with up-to-date information and advice on the following:

- (1) Submission and selection process of the Joint European Projects and others.
- (2) The Bologna Process, which is changing the structure of the Higher Education system in Europe.
- (3) Current TEMPUS projects that are being implemented with Jordan's participation.

We hope this will help you make better project proposals in the future, which will enhance the probability of success of your projects. The TEMPUS day also gives you the chance to network, and it is a golden opportunity for you to get the answers to your queries directly from the experts who came from Brussels in Belgium and Turin in Italy, especially for this occasion.

For us, at the National TEMPUS Office, besides our main goal of assisting you, we aim at making the TEMPUS projects involving Jordan more and more competitive, which will enhance the quality, and will in turn contribute to the on-going process of the higher education reform in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. As we will see in my presentation later today, TEMPUS projects are making good impact on the higher education system.

Please allow me to express our sincere thanks to the following:

- (1) His Excellency Dr. Isam Zabalawi, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research for patronizing this Day, and also for his continuous support to the National TEMPUS Office.
- (2) His Excellency Dr. Khalid Toukan for being with us today.
- (3) The University of Jordan for hosting this Day.
- (4) Dr. Omar Shdeifat, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Higher

Education and Scientific Research, for his unlimited support to the TEMPUS Office.

(5) People from outside Jordan who are joining us today, and in particular Ms. Rita Szettele (came from Italy), Mr. Gilles Rebattet (came from Belgium), Dr. Todor Balabanov (Austria), and Mr. Holger Hoff (Germany).

(6) Dr. Ali Matar, who responded to our request to be the Master of Ceremony in this Day.

(7) The team from the National TEMPUS Office, namely: Ms. Sana' Farraj, Mrs. Sahar Dana, and Ms. Haneen Al-Bitar, and the counterpart team from the University of Jordan who worked very hard on all the details of this day.

Finally, our most sincere and warmest thanks to all of you who came in your holiday from universities, ministries, embassies, and other organizations to participate in this activity.

Before I close, I would like to express our deep gratitude to His Majesty King Abdalla, II, for his clear vision and wise guidance about all issues in Higher Education. Thanks also are extended to the Jordanian Government, and especially the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Ministry of Planning, for establishing the TEMPUS Office, and to the European Commission for their generous grants to the projects.

Thank you so much again, and we wish you a pleasant and useful day.

Professor Ahmad Abu-El-Haija

Coordinator, National TEMPUS Office