

Second National Tempus Day, 2nd October 2005
Speech of the National Tempus Office Coordinator,
Professor Ahmad Abu-El-Haija

Your Excellency Professor Khaled Toukan, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Professor Hisham Ghaseeb, President, Princess Sumaya University for Technology

Honorable Guests,

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

- (1) Overview of the Tempus programme - Application and selection process.
- (2) Latest developments regarding the Bologna process, which is changing the structure of the Higher Education system in Europe.
- (3) An overview of the Erasmus Mundus programme, which provides scholarships for the Master's degree for students and good opportunities for faculty members.

- (4) Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in Technical Development and Demonstration (RTD): Presentation of Ongoing and Future EU Research Programmes
- (5) Overview of Tempus Projects in Jordan
- (6) Opportunities for bilateral cooperation between Jordanian institutions on one hand and European institutions on the other hand.
- (7) Advice on how to prepare a successful TEMPUS proposal, provided by several experts in the Tempus programme.

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 Europe 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. This will enhance the quality, and will in turn contribute to the on-going process of the higher education reform in Jordan. I must inform you that the percentage of projects that were selected for funding for the last Joint European Projects round was 3 out of 21, which is about 14%. This is very bad news to those whose projects were not selected, but this also means that excellent projects were not funded and hence only the cream of the cream was selected. Of course, this was due to the limited funds available to Jordan.

Besides its other activities, the NTO has made excellent efforts over the past 12 months towards the promotion of the Erasmus Mundus program. A total of seven students from Jordan have obtained scholarships during the academic years 2004-2006, in addition to one scholar who is a faculty member at one of the public universities. These scholarships are open to international competition, without any quotas to countries. Hence securing eight positions to Jordan out of 35 positions obtained by 13 Arabic countries, is an excellent example of the efforts that we made in disseminating information about Erasmus Mundus program to our academic community. Jordan clearly obtained the highest number of Erasmus Mundus scholarships given to any Arabic country, exceeding the scholarships obtained by other countries that have much more population. In general, it is to be emphasized here that TEMPUS projects are making good impact on the higher education system in Jordan.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

- (1) His Excellency Dr. Khaled Toukan, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research for patronizing this Day, and also for his continuous support to the National TEMPUS Office.
- (2) Princess Sumaya University for Technology for hosting this Day.
- (3) Dr. Mohammad Shishani, the Master of Ceremony.
- (4) The team from the National TEMPUS Office and the counterpart team from Princess Sumaya University who worked very hard on all the details of this day.

Finally, our most sincere and warmest thanks to all of you who came from different parts of Jordan to participate in this activity.

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