

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
والصلاة والسلام على سيد المرسلين،
وبعد

**Ms. Irene Mingasson, Charge d'Affaires of the
European Delegation in Amman**

**Professor Ahmad Abul-Haija, Head of the National
Tempus Office**

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

**It is my honour and privilege to represent H.E Prof.
Walid Maani, Minister of Higher Education on the
official launch of Tempus day**

**It is always a great pleasure to take part in launching
the activities of Tempus Day, which has become an
important annual event. Every year, the National
Tempus Office in Jordan holds this Day under the
patronage of the Ministry of Higher Education and
Scientific Research and in cooperation with the
European Commission Delegation in Amman.**

**It is a Day which serves many purposes. On the one
hand, it is a valuable chance for those at our higher
education institutions who still know little about
Tempus, to know more about it, and to make use of
the many opportunities available through Tempus.**

It is also a precious chance for our institutions and their representatives to meet each other, and others from abroad, in order to do some networking in preparation for new Tempus projects. Furthermore, it is a rare annual chance during which a number of Tempus projects, are evaluated in an attempt to learn lessons for future involvement, capitalizing on the successes and avoiding the flaws.

It is important to stress that Tempus projects imply serious commitment on part of all the partners involved, and all of those partners need to do their homework, and live up to their commitments. This means that if some projects do not yield the expected results, it is not because these projects are not themselves good, but because some members have failed to live up to the expectations, or they didn't prepare carefully the recipe for success.

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, which fully supports the National Tempus Office and Tempus projects in general, is immensely pleased that our universities are taking an active part in the Tempus scheme. We are proud that Jordan's record in the region, with respect to participation in Tempus, is quite strong.

We believe that an active involvement by our universities in the Tempus program serves many functions. First of all, a university actively involved in Tempus will contribute to bettering quality throughout the institution, for there is a very strong relationship between Tempus and quality

enhancement: the quality of academic and service programs, as well as the quality of university management or governance.

Additionally, an involvement in Tempus contributes to the enhancement of the international networking, international links, and internationalization of our universities.

As is well-known, quality and internationalization are a priority for us at the Ministry, and we see it as a priority for our higher education institutions. We are proud of the achievements of our universities. Over the years, they have done a lot to make themselves competitive and excelling. Their excellent reputation is well-deserved. But their reputation and standing will be a lot stronger with the strengthening of their international connections and cooperation.

Tempus, of course, is part and parcel of the Bologna Process, which we are also doing our best to benefit a lot from. Since 1999, our European neighbors have done a lot by way of improving their higher education. Since we are also doing a lot to improve our higher education sector, we are planning to learn from all experiences in the world, including the experience of the Bologna Process. Our encounter with the Bologna Process shows that there is, in it, a lot of relevance for us. We plan to capitalize on this relevance in the days to come.

Rest assured that we in the Ministry of Higher Education are intent upon empowering our

universities and supporting them to become even more competitive and excelling. We see the Tempus Day as a venue for such empowerment and such support.

Finally I would like to convey H.E. Prof. Walid Maani apologies for not being able to attend this day as he has to attend to some very urgent matters and also would like to extend to you his very warm welcome. H.E requested me to express, on his behalf, our thanks and gratitude to the European Union for their support of higher education in Jordan, and the university of Jordan for hosting this event.

We wish the participants a great success throughout today's sessions, and thank the organizers of the event for their highly-appreciated efforts.

Thank you all, and God bless you.