



Embajada de España

Beirut

**SPEECH BY H.E. THE AMBASSADOR OF SPAIN TO
LEBANON, MR. JUAN CARLOS GAFO, AT THE
OPENING CEREMONY OF TEMPUS PROJECT-
TLQAA
UNIVERSITY OF BALAMAND
JANUARY 26TH 2012**

**HIS EXCELLENCY DR. HASSAN DIAB, MINISTER OF
EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION,**

**HER EXCELLENCY MS. ANGELINA EICHHORST, HEAD OF
THE EUROPEAN DELEGATION IN LEBANON,**

**HIS EXCELLENCY Dr. EL-SAYED HUSSEIN, PRESIDENT
OF THE LEBANESE UNIVERSITY**

DEAR FRIENDS,

Thank you for inviting me to share with you this ceremony. As a credible and trustworthy Member State, Spain is an active part of the EU policies and is fully involved in cooperation programs that the Union is carrying out in Lebanon, of which TEMPUS is a good example.

It is a pleasure for me to know that two Spanish institutions, the University of Alicante and ANECA, are among the partners

in this project. I sincerely appreciate the presence of the Director of ANECA, Ms. Zulima González, together with Mr. Rafael Llaborí and Ms. Vanessa Duclos.

Ten years have already passed since the creation of this National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation. In fact, one of its main functions is to support the countries of the Mediterranean Basin through quality assessment projects in Higher Education. It also contributes to the establishment of quality assurance standards in higher education, strengthening the universities' internal systems of quality assurance and supporting the creation of quality assurance and accreditation agencies in the region. In a word, to reach the level of excellence President el Sayed Hussein has just mentioned.

That is the reason why it has been selected to be part of this project for the creation of a sister institution in Lebanon, a Lebanese Agency for Higher Education Quality.

My congratulations to all the stakeholders: First, to the EU, to the rest of the Member States involved, and in particular, to the University of Balamand and Tempus Office in Lebanon. I hope that, in short, the "T" of "Towards" would be left behind and the "Lebanese Quality Assurance Agency" would soon see the light.

Juan Carlos Gafo