
**Speech of the Rector of Antonine University Father Michel Jalakh
MOU signature between UA and IMA
29 November 2018**

Dear Mr. Gaby Lahoud, President & Global Board Member of IMA Lebanon Chapter,
Dear Mr. Rishi Malhotra, Manager of the Academic & Community Relations at IMA- in the MENA region,
Dear Mr. Sarkis Sakr, President of the Lebanese Association of Certified Public Accountants (LACPA),
Dear Dr. Roger Louffi, Advisor to the director general, Lebanese Ministry of Finance and researcher in accounting and audit,
Dear Dr. Georges Nehme, Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration,
Dear Colleagues, Students and Friends,

Welcome to the Antonine University for the signing of an important Memorandum of Understanding between two poles for excellence: The Faculty of Business Administration and the prestigious Institute of Management Accountants.

This event is of particular importance since we are talking about two reputable entities, which roles go beyond their institutions to support the national and global societies in a very challenging world. While good education is the backbone of students' future and success, good management of finances is its spinal cord as we keep together the central nervous system of our societies.

I see our partnership under the core values of our University: Truth, Excellence, Ethics, Dignity, and Diversity. While our students will learn from worldwide experts the needed skills for management accounting, we will ensure that our programs will meet the highest standards of quality in terms of experiential learning and outcomes.

I am confident that the scholarships IMA is offering today will yield to a good return on your investment with the Faculty of Business Administration. This collaboration will put even more pressure on our students and faculty members to represent their University and the IMA Institute with high professionalism.

I will end up my word with a thought from Einstein: "The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking".

So, dear students, be ready to move out of your comfort zones, and make the best of this experience. Do not be afraid to think outside the box of the Lebanese system. Do not be afraid to be creative yet respecting standards of ethics; to be excellent in what you do even if you are criticized because quality is in the details; to tell the truth in all what you find and achieve, but always in a positive and constructive manner helping others to find solutions that can help them succeed with dignity in their businesses.

Thank you and may God bless you all.