
**Speech of the Rector of Antonine University Father Michel Jalakh
Open Day for Telecommunications
09 April 2019**

Honorable Guests,
Dear Colleagues and Students,

It is my pleasure to welcome you today at the third technology event organized by the Faculty of Engineering at the Antonine University.

The field of technology and telecommunication at our University is of great interest for us as we strive to nurture creativity and innovative minds in the young generation who, more than ever, need to be motivated with positive and constructive thinking. However, we are confident that, with dedicated and proactive researchers and professors, the Faculty acts as an engine for development in the world of digital technology and artificial intelligence in Lebanon. With a solid academic reputation, our Faculty of Engineering succeeded in recruiting the highest number of students in telecommunication programs in Lebanon, which puts on our shoulders even more responsibility for the future of our youth.

Undoubtedly, through Telecommunication, borders disappear. Telecommunication opens new horizons and allows us to dream with open eyes about disciplines we once thought were out of reach in a small country like Lebanon. Talking about "Space and Astronomy", "Vehicular Communication and Embedded Systems" and "Large Scale Networks" when we barely have access to electricity can seem somehow mirthful but, at the same time, it is challenging and we like to face challenges and overcome them.

A crucial aspect for us is to still remember that, in the Cloud, Aerospace systems and others, the human side is always present with human beings, and not only abstract clients, using services. What comforts us are the motives behind visions and missions leading the institutions. These missions meet the Antonine University's in its commitment for the development of a better world bestowing the needed knowledge, expertise and ethical values in young people, cultivating in each one of them the passion to grow into qualified men and women at the service of our society.

In a very competitive market, the experts and partners' interventions today are of extreme importance to rethink new opportunities for graduates looking at different areas such as air traffic and road safety, system design, automation, or the world of 5G. These and other topics will definitely help higher education institutions and enterprises look after new profiles for Telecommunications engineers in the next decade.

I wish you ALL an excellent journey with national and international leaders and innovators. Build on it, strengthen ties, build partnerships, and mostly, Carpe diem... Enjoy the moment!