

## Press Release

# IBDAA

### *The International Biodiversity Day \* At AUB*

*The United Nations proclaimed May 22 the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. In December 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted 22 May as IBD, to commemorate the adoption of the text of the Convention on 22 May 1992 by the Nairobi Final Act of the Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity.*

In 2002, AUB faculty created ibsar<sup>[1]</sup> based on the belief that human beings are entrusted with nature in order to coexist with it, benefit from it, and conserve it for future generations. Today, ibsar is an interfaculty research center dedicated to biodiversity research, development and knowledge dissemination. It aims to instill more interdisciplinary academic interactions that expand into innovative ways to promote nature conservation, expand on nature based economic opportunities, and endorse sustainable utilization of nature.

On May 22, ibsar holds its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual event, IBDAA – *International Biodiversity Day At AUB* – which constitutes an opportunity for AUB students to present and share their projects in biodiversity conservation. This event is aimed at engaging students through interdisciplinary research approach thus highlighting how we use nature in sustainable ways. On this day, 200 students will display their works in an open air forum at AUB. The event will take place between 15:00 pm and 18:30 on the lower campus next to the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS). Students will explain their works to their peers, AUB faculty, staff, and upper administration, as well as members from the private and public sector. Moreover, this year's IBDAA is part of the official presidential inaugural month of AUB's President Peter F. Dorman.

What is the form of the final product? Student contributions include demonstrations, models, posters, and artistic descriptions of their research findings. Contributions include but are not limited to natural products for personal and home use, 'green' products, alternative energies, creative writings, artistic expressions of nature, studies describing biodiversity, nature, and habitats, as well as various aspects related to the environment.

IBDAA's advisory committee members will rely on their expertise, business panache, critical insight, and established connections to guide the organizing committee in the choice of the winning projects. Their suggestions and peer reviews are aimed at enabling students to improve and develop even further in their research and presentation skills thus encouraging young scholars to be inventive and original, and to believe that someday their ideas can materialize into projects and eventually go beyond the university walls.

Members of the advisory committee for this year include Dr. Riad Dimechkie (Director of the Executive MBA program at AUB), Dr. Nabil Fahed (Treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, owner of FAHED Supermarket [is this how it appears; all in upper case?], Lebanon), Dr. Fadia Homeidan (Director of the Office of Grants and Contracts, AUB), Mr. Ricardo Karam (TV host, CEO of RK Productions, Lebanon), Dr. Nivine Salha (Chair of the Fine Arts And History Department, AUB).

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<sup>[1]</sup> Our mission is 'to promote the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity (biological diversity) in arid and Mediterranean regions by providing an open academic platform for innovative research and development. The center's vision is 'for societies to become guardians and primary beneficiaries of biodiversity in the region'.