

For Immediate Release



Supported by RYMCO and Bank Audi

AUB research van to study pollution in a one-year project

Beirut, Lebanon- 6/12/2010 - A new environmental study which aims at monitoring the air pollution caused by traffic near residential areas in Beirut will be launched by AUB's Atmospheric and Analytical Laboratory (AAL), with the support of Rasamny Younis Motor Company (RYMCO), and Bank Audi sal-Audi Saradar Group. The launching will be made on Thursday December 9, 2010, at 11 am in a press conference in West Hall Common Room.

The speakers in the press conference will be: AUB Provost Ahmad Dallal; Najat A. Saliba, a specialist in air pollution and associate professor at AUB's chemistry department; RYMCO's CEO Abdo Sweidan; Ibrahim Salibi, assistant general manager and head of corporate and commercial banking at Bank Audi sal. The press conference will be moderated by AUB's director of development, Salma Oueida.

A first of its kind in Lebanon, this project will measure real-time Particulate Matter (PM) pollution in traffic generated by biogenic and anthropogenic sources, among which vehicles are major contributors.

The project will employ a Nissan Urvan van, which will be used as a research vehicle and equipped with a real-time measuring device installed on a special stand. The device will electronically send its measurements to the computers of the project research team. The collected data will be studied to understand and assess air pollution sources in Lebanon.

The van, exclusively offered by Nissan for this project, will travel on both sides of the roadway connecting Beirut to Jounieh for one year starting on Friday December 10, from 7:00 am to 10:00 am and from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

An AUB driver has been detailed to this project.

A development of the Nissan Caravan, the Urvan is a multi-purpose transporter vehicle which has proved very popular in fire and emergency departments in various countries. It has evolved through four generations. It is roughly five meters long, two meters wide and two meters high.

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 600 full-time faculty members and a student body of more than 7,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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