

For Immediate Release



AUB to reveal findings of a research study on the impact of climate change on water scarcity, agricultural output, and food security

Beirut, Lebanon- 04/04/2014 - The Climate Change and Environment in the Arab World Program at the Issam Fares Institute for Public Affairs and International Relations and the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences at AUB, in collaboration with the American University of Cairo (AUC) - Research Institute for Sustainable Environment and the Columbia University Middle East Research Center (CUMERC) - Institute for Sustainable Development Practices will be presenting the findings of a research study on “**The Impacts of Population Growth and Climate Change in Lebanon and Egypt on Water Scarcity, Agricultural Output and Food Security,**” on Wednesday April 9, 2014 from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm at the **IFI Building Auditorium (near the Green Oval).**

The Middle East and North Africa region is facing evident changes in climate and population size. These changes are translated on the ground by signs of water scarcity, water pollution, desertification, salinization and sea level rise. The impacts of climate change and population growth on water and agriculture in the region were addressed in a joint project between AUC, CUMERC and AUB, funded by USAID/FHI360. The study revolves around special case studies taken from Lebanon and Egypt, in order to diversify the causes and conditions that are pressuring the water and agricultural sectors. The importance of the study is its significance to the current climatic changes and water security problems the region is facing by providing recommendations towards better suited policy options.

The findings will be presented by:

Diala Al-Dabbas, manager of the Institute for Sustainable Development Practice at the Columbia Global Center-Middle East, who works with a diverse number of Columbia University schools, faculty and staff to develop and implement research and academic programs in the fields of sustainable development, public health, entrepreneurship, and economics, among others.

Richard N. Tutwiler, professor and founding director of the Research Institute for a Sustainable Environment at AUC, is an applied anthropologist specializing in rural development and natural resource management with over 30 years of research experience in the agricultural sectors of the Middle East and North African countries. He served as Director of the Desert Development Center from 2001 to 2013 at AUC.

Nadim Farajalla is an associate professor of environmental hydrology at the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences and the Faculty Research Director of the Climate Change and the Environment in the Arab World Program at IFI, AUB. He received his PhD in Environmental Engineering from the University of Oklahoma, USA, in 1995. Prior to joining AUB he had served as Senior Scientist at Stone Environmental, Inc., USA and as Senior Environmental Engineer on major environmental and infrastructure projects at Dar al-Handasah (Shair and partners), Lebanon.

Note: Event will be in English

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For more information please contact:

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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 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,500 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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