

For Immediate Release



AUB invites students and professionals to apply to regional awards for sustainable construction

Beirut, Lebanon- 08/11/2013 -The American University of Beirut has been selected to host the Regional Awards Ceremony of the 4th International Holcim Awards for Sustainable Construction, which will be held in Lebanon for the first time since the awards were created. Architecture Professor Howayda al-Harithy will head the jury of the regional awards competition for the Africa-Middle East region.

To launch the awards in the region and explain application procedures, AUB, in partnership with Holcim Lebanon, is hosting on Thursday, November 14, Brinda Somaya, an award-winning architect and urban conservationist, who will present three decades of her work in rural and urban India, sharing her experience with sustainable development and urban conservation. Among the awards she has won is the *UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage award* for the restoration of the St. Thomas' Cathedral in Mumbai. Additionally, Benedikt Vonnegut, CEO of Holcim Lebanon will overview the procedures for applying to the Holcim Awards competition.

The lecture will take place at the Engineering Lecture Hall in the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture from 5 to 7pm.

About the Holcim Awards for Sustainable Construction

The 4th International Holcim Awards is now open for entries for projects and visions in sustainable construction. The Holcim Awards promote innovation in sustainable construction through five regional and one global competition. A total of \$ 2 million in cash prizes will be distributed to the winners at both levels.

Each region will get three winners, who will then compete in the global competition.

The competition seeks leading projects from architects, planners, engineers, designers and builders that showcase sustainable responses to technological, environmental, socioeconomic and cultural issues with contemporary building and construction. The competition seeks leading projects from industry professionals and spirited ideas from the "Next Generation" that contribute to sustainability within architecture, building, civil engineering, landscape and urban design, as well as construction materials and technologies.

The competition is organized by the Holcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction to raise awareness of the important role that architecture, engineering, urban planning and construction have in achieving a more sustainable future – and to globally encourage critical interdisciplinary and long-range perspectives. As such, sustainable construction is "building in a way that is socially, economically, environmentally, functionally and aesthetically balanced to meet today's needs and to conserve resources for future generations."

Online registration is possible until March 24, 2014 at www.holcimawards.org

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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 8,000 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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