



Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences

GCHERA 2015

1. Presentation of the event

1.1. Overview

GCHERA 2015, a first in the Middle East

GCHERA, the Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences was founded in 1999 by the presidents of three universities:

- Kiev University (Ukraine)
- University (Germany)
- Iowa State University (USA)

This confederation was conceived as a global association for the purpose of:

- Developing a global system of cooperation in higher education and research in agriculture ;
- Strengthening the influence of the agricultural universities worldwide by developing a collaboration with international organisations and companies.

Since its foundation, GCHERA represents a network of more than 400 institutions of higher education in agriculture around the world.

Every two years, a congress is organized by the country that assumes its Presidency:

- 1999-Amsterdam (Netherlands)
- 2011-SanFrancisco (United States)
- 2003-Kiev (Ukraine)
- 2005-Hangzhou (China)
- 2007-SanJose (CostaRica)
- 2009-Nairobi (Kenya)
- 2011-Beauvais (France).

The Congress 2009 having seen the election of Philippe Choquet to the presidency of the confederation, the organization of the congress 2011 was therefore expected in France, hosted by the Institut Polytechnique LaSalle Beauvais, of which he is General Director. From 27 to

29 June 2011, Beauvais held a conference on the theme: “Universities of Agriculture, entrepreneurs of the sustainable development in rural areas”.

GCHERA 2015

In October 2012, the GCHERA Council meet at Punta Del Este, in Uruguay to examine the applications submitted by countries willing to receive GCHERA 2015.

After deliberation, the Organization of the Congress 2015 was granted to Lebanon and more particularly to the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK).

USEK chose the theme: *"Universities' Global challenge: Nutritional Security and Environmental Sustainability for Human Health"*.

1.2. Objectives

The Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) is seeking to achieve specific goals among which:

- A valorization of GCHERA Association with its target audience, with the massive participation of rectors and deans of agricultural and life sciences universities worldwide
- A valorization of USEK with peers, agricultural faculties, life sciences universities and research institutes, on the national and international levels
- An assertion of the dynamism of the institution and its international reputation
- A joint reflection on the role of universities (in life and environmental sciences) in addressing the challenges of global change and guarantee the right to food and access to natural resources.

Date

25th -26th June, 2015

Place

Amphitheater John Paul II: Opening Session and Musical Concert.

Auditorium Jean El Hawa: the 25th -26th June 2015

Conference Room: 25th-26th June 2015.

1.3. Program

The faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences will strive to offer an attractive program for a diverse public, mainly foreign, and enhance the appealing feature of the event, which will also include free and festive time (with the organization of one or two evening events) to promote the contact and networking of participants .

Structured in two days, the congress program will be designed to promote a brainstorming on the role of the universities in Life Science and Environment in order to face the challenges of global change and to guarantee the right to food and the access to natural resources.

Four plenary sessions each of an hour and a half, will take place in the morning of the 25th and the 26th of June. These plenary sessions will involve University representatives from around the world.

The work will continue in the afternoon where parallel sessions will take place, involving teachers-researchers on various themes.

All the presentations will be compiled in a booklet, distributed to participants during the Congress.

Program summary

- 4 plenary sessions;
- 6-8 parallel sessions;
- A forum at the esplanade of the building E for 2 days (stands);
- 3 breakfasts;
- 3 dinners;
- A touristic program;
- 2-3 parallel meetings (to be confirmed later on):
 - June 25th : Executive Committee of GCHERA
 - June 26th : General Assembly of GCHERA

2. Organization of the manifestation

2.1 Means

Emphasis will be placed on the low cost of registration, the proposed facilities (accommodation at low cost on the campuses and hotels close to the USEK, shuttles or taxis from the airport) and proximity to Beirut. Instantaneous translations will also be planned during the Congress.

In the continuity of this strategy, a dual marketing-communication will be implemented upstream of the event:

- Communication on the international level, relying on university networks identified previously to help disseminate the information among their members. A bi-monthly newsletter will be set up to account for the preparation of the Congress.
- Institutional communication with potential partners of the event.

2.2. Promoters of the Conference

Institutions

- Lebanese University
- Saint-Joseph University (Lebanon)
- American University of Beirut (Lebanon)
- Agricultural Research Institute of Lebanon (LARI)
- FAO
- Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture
- Lebanese Ministry of Higher Education and Research
- Lebanese Ministry of Industry
- Lebanese Economy and Trade Ministry
- Lebanese Ministry of Public Health
- National Council for Scientific Research (NCSR)
- Industrial Research Institute of Lebanon (IRI)
- Association of Lebanese Industrials

Worldwide Universities Network

- Association of Arab Universities
- A.P.L.U. (Association of Public and Land Grant Universities) - United States
- ICA (Association for European Life Science Universities) – Europe
- AGRINATURA (the European Alliance on Agricultural Knowledge for Development)
- AGREENIUM (public scientific cooperation), France

Enterprises

List of companies collaborating with the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences of USEK and with colleague universities.

Financial partners and sponsors

To be specified later.

2.3 Satisfactory Survey

A satisfactory survey will be prepared. It will allow a qualitative assessment of the event (make interesting contacts, discover USEK, etc.).