

Your excellencies,

Honorable guests,

Dear professors and students,

Today, we recall the launch of this University as a fruit of a partnership between the governments of Germany and Jordan in 2005 in response to the personal wish and initiative of HM King Abdullah II during his Majesty's visit to the German Chancellor accompanied by HE Minister of Higher Education at the time, Dr. Khalid Touqan. We express our gratitude and congratulation to His Majesty on the occasion of graduating the first batch of this University. "Affluent rain starts with one drop" as per the Arab proverb.

Under the Patronage of HE Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Minister of Education, Prof. Dr. Walid Maani; we are celebrating this joyful occasion today and we thank and appreciate his patronage of this ceremony and his active role in the Advisory Board of TAG-College before assuming his ministerial position.

We are also celebrating together with the Chairman of the Jordanian Nuclear Energy Commission, HE Dr. Khalid Touqan, to whom we express our appreciation for sponsoring the opening of TAG-College on February 27, 2006, and his support throughout his term in office as a Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Minister of Education.

Three days ago I delivered a graduation speech at Shenyang Normal University in China before six thousand graduates at the University's celebration hall. Today, in this first graduation ceremony for post graduate students at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business of the German Jordanian University, we celebrate the first batch of Master's degree graduates. Although we are still novel, the giant Shenyang Normal University invited us to establish an office within its campus and to have joint programs, which we proudly welcomed.

I would like to thank the President of the German Jordanian University, Dr. Labib Khadra and the Board of Trustees headed by HE Dr. Fayez Khasawneh for embracing, supporting and guiding our College. Dear Brother, Labib, you have been the best partner in our journey and have made our College a model of government-private sector partnership. Through our partnership, we thank the governments of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Germany for their support.

I also thank their Excellencies, the members of the Advisory Board for their endless contributions and for leading the College to become an example of quality at the highest international levels to meet our motto: "Where the Gifted Become Leaders".

To the Executive Director of TAG-College, Mr. Bassam Abu-Ghazaleh, its Dean, Dr. Hisham Gharaibeh, the Senior Advisor, Dr. Edward Gress, the honorable professors and the College staff I say: May Allah bless you all and thank you for achieving the high status for Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business and for instilling in its graduates the highest standards of education to face this world with confidence, and to contribute to its progress and development. You met our final objective of having a college for excellence. I promise you, our dear Minister, the patron and tutor; and the founding Minister, the members of the Advisory Board and the students, to maintain this high ranking status and this quality of education.

Today we celebrate and tomorrow our College, at its own discretion and initiative, will undergo an education quality assessment program by the Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA), Zurich – Switzerland as part of our concern to continue our journey of excellence.

I assure our dear graduates that there is a job for each of you, if you wish, in our organization. I congratulate you and your parents for your success; and would like to tell you that fortune is determined by effort and the future is owned by those who make it; so, make your own future.

Finally, knowledge is like an island in the sea of the unknown. The wider this island of knowledge gets, the longer its borders with the unknown become. Likewise, we are; the more knowledge we possess, the more we realize how little we know of the unknown. That is the greatness and beauty of science; it's endless. The more we learn, the greater our need to learn becomes.

Thank you.

