

## **Adaptive Leadership in Higher Education/ Palestine**

**Eurie Speech – Dalal IRIQAT- Arab American University- Palestine**

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On behalf of the Arab American University and higher education institutions in Palestine, I would like to first thank the organizers of Eurie 2020 for the success in bringing under one roof hundreds of European, Asian and Western international universities for the purpose of engaging, discussing and coming up with ideas and networks that guarantee universal values for higher education.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished audience, it is necessary for any organization to consider leadership as a basic requirement in its path to prosperity, this also applies to higher education institutions and more urgently when it comes to Palestine.

Palestinian higher education suffers from the Israeli occupation and its limitations on the ground, Palestine doesn't suffer lack of human resources or brains, Palestine might face some set backs in its financial resources, however it is the Israeli visa and mobility restrictions that hinder our capacity to compete internationally, it is the Israeli limitations that stand as a major obstacle in our strategic planning to rise and become more visible and effective internationally.

We had realized that education is our way out. And today ladies and gentlemen, I want to introduce the term adaptive leadership in higher education.

Adaptive leadership in higher education in Palestine doesn't mean in any way to cope with the Israeli occupation and its racist policies that hinder the universal

human right to education, Israeli occupation policies that restricts access to education and deprives thousands from the right of traveling abroad for education. To constructively deal with the Palestinian reality under occupation, Palestinian higher education institutions are expected to exercise an adaptive and creative leadership. Where all terminologies of innovation, entrepreneurship, robotics, STEM or STEAM, artificial intelligence, Virtual Exchanges and Webinars need to be part of the way of thinking for leaders in Palestinian universities.

Leadership in Palestinian universities require new set of skills that are specially tailored to an environment full of urgency, high stakes, and uncertainty.

Palestinian universities need to foster adaptation, helping students develop the “next practices” that will enable higher education in Palestine to thrive in a new world order, even as they continue with the best practices necessary for current success. Higher education in Palestine needs to embrace disequilibrium, keeping people in a state that creates enough discomfort to induce change but not so much that they fight, flee, or freeze. Higher education in Palestine needs to generate leadership, giving students at all levels the opportunity to lead experiments that will help them adapt to changing times and penetrate a bright future.

To counter reality under occupation, we at the Arab American University, here an after AAUP had adopted an internalization strategy that envisions AAUP to be the hub for international higher education in Palestine; the VP office of international relations in cooperation with the VP office for Planning are working to connect AAUP with an adequate number of higher education and research institutions around the world to buttress the Arab American University strategic goals of: Excellence of education; applied and engaged research and; strengthen its community outreach. AAUP aspires to be the leader and host of International

Academic Excellence in Palestine.

### **It is part of AAUP Mission**

To serve higher education in Palestine with global standards through establishing joint programs, offering dual certificates and enhancing cooperation in research and mobility with credible international universities. In addition to serving international students and researchers through offering a hub for the international academic network.

**AAUP is guided by a number of VALUES such as:** Academic Excellence, International Cooperation, Global Standards, Academic Liberty, Credibility, Creativity, Innovation, Team work and Strategic Thinking.

The university stands as the bridge to the international academic programs and different respectful universities around the globe.

Palestinians in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Jerusalem, live under the Israeli occupation and are deprived from basic human right; most important of which is education and mobility, for this majority of the Palestinian young generation who are deprived from their right to travel and study abroad, the Arab American University is committed to providing them with the latest academic programs on the international scene, the AAUP will help them think out side the box through hosting professors, securing students' exchanges and guaranteeing joint seminars, workshops, and research programs by enhancing e-learning in Palestine.

In cooperation with the offices of the President, VPs, and deans, the office of International Relations will be responsible for initiating and bridging relationships

with the different international universities and reputable academic institutions.

The Arab American University is proud to mention that in the past couple of years we established more than 20 solid cooperation agreements with universities around the globe and mainly in Europe.

The AAUP enjoys a number of joint MA and PhD programs, we offer Executive joint degrees with distinguished universities. In addition to other programs that host international professors regularly, we are fond of international exchanges, academic and scientific research and finally joint conferences.

Our cooperation had reached the most distinguished universities like Sorbonne in Paris and Fredreich Schiller in Germany, Indiana/Pennsylvania in the US and we aspire to build more through Eurie.

Cooperation with Erasmus office and through its different programs had facilitated our mission tremendously in that regard. And through Eurie I am inviting all interested partners and members to visit our booth, learn more about our programs and let us establish new channels of cooperation on higher education level as we all serve to produce high universal standards for students to acquire somehow what I would like to call a universal identity to higher education graduates.

Talking about Leadership in education, once must conclude by mentioning how Educational leaders are committed and dedicated to positively influencing the learning and achievement for all students.

In Palestine, the Arab American University is committed to positively influencing the learning and achievement for all Palestinian and international students.