

Professor Labib Khadra,

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh

Members of the Board of Trustees of the German Jordanian University,

distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me a great pleasure to witness the opening ceremony of a new building of the German Jordanian University, which will accommodate a Business College named after its sponsor, Talal Abu Ghazaleh.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh, we are very grateful to you for this important support to the German Jordanian University. Thanks to your generosity, the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh College of Business as part of the German Jordanian University will now be located in one of the finest and most representative buildings in town.

Jordan does not dispose of crude oil and only of very few other natural resources. But there is a blessing in this disadvantage because it has driven the country to

develop other assets – namely the most valuable resource of all human societies: brains.

The partnership between the Talal Abu Ghazaleh Group and the German Jordanian University is a good example of how cooperation between the private sector and a public university can work in practice. It strengthens the links between economic sectors and university research and development programs – as it was required by the newly published “National Agenda”.

It is my firm conviction that by sponsoring the university, or by sponsoring individual students, companies will invest in the future of this country and also in the long-term growth of their own undertakings.

For the German government, the German Jordanian University is one of the most important projects in the field of higher education worldwide. As the new German Foreign Minister (Steinmeier) confirmed

during his recent visit in Jordan, we will continue to support the project.

Allow me once again to refer to the National Agenda: The Higher Education sector in Jordan – so it reads – must meet the requirements of the knowledge economy. It should focus more on the technical teaching and it should increase the involvement of the private sector in reform programs and curricula to meet market needs.

Ladies and Gentlemen, with the German Jordanian University, we are right there.

So I would sincerely like to congratulate Mr. Abu Ghazaleh for his strategic vision to invest in one of the most dynamic university projects in the region.

I wish the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Business College a very good start in the new university premises.