



Water, Energy and Environment Center



“Climate change: Current Status, Challenges and Future Directions”



Under the patronage of the University of Jordan president, Prof Ekhlaiif Al-Tarawneh, the Water, Energy and Environment Center (WEEC) in collaboration with the Embassy of France in Amman, organized a workshop entitled “Climate change: Current Status, Challenges and Future Directions” in Thursday December 3rd 2015. Many academics, governmental and industrial players were gathered in this workshop including the CEO of Total in Jordan, Dr. Adil Oureaguli, the CEO of Cement Lafarge, Mr. Amr Reda and the technical advisor of the minister of environment, Mr. Raouf Dabbas, in addition to many students from the University of Jordan. The Honorary guest of the workshop was Mr. David Bertolotti, the ambassador of France in Jordan.

The workshop started by planting the olive tree of climate change by the University President and the Ambassador of France, which was a great gesture toward stopping the negative impact of climate change. Then, Dr. Mohammed Rasool Qtaishat, the director of WEEC took the guests on a tour around the GREED AWARD posters competition, which is a part of the University of Jordan activities in encouraging the students’ innovation (Made in UJ project). The competing projects aimed primarily to reduce the output of many industrial waste and residues of human consumption and environmental pollution. The guests were very impressed by the students’ research and efforts.

In his welcoming speech, Prof Tarawneh stated that this workshop was held at the current time to coincide with COP21 that is currently held in Paris, which reflects the commitment of Jordan to cope with the current problems and to provide effective solutions in order to achieve a sustainable development.

He added that climate change is no longer a long-term threat, it is a reality, and a sign of what we will be facing in the future, and many countries should take the advantages of the technological development and scientific breakthroughs as well as the continuous support from the developed countries such as France support, and that to find an efficient and costly-wise ways to meet the challenges of climate change, which contributes to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions without damaging economic growth.

He recalled the word of His Majesty King Abdullah II COP21, "We cannot address the problem of climate change in isolation from other challenges, as any geographical area or any sector cannot protect itself from the challenges of the climate change."

Prof Tarawneh also said that the university of Jordan seeks to contribute effectively to His Majesty the King of Jordan cooperation in this area for a better future for our people, and the peoples of the whole world by working closely with the Ministry of Environment, the Embassy of France, the local community and the private sector in order to promote a more balanced and integrated approach to mitigate the effects of climate change.

For his part, Mr. Bertolotti, The ambassador of France in Amman, said that the fight against global warming requires collective efforts from all the key players, including the academic researchers, the private and the governmental sectors. Moreover, Mr. Bertolotti announced during his speech that a joint Master degree program concerning "Water and Energy" in collaboration between the University of Jordan and (AgroParisTech) will be launched soon. This proposed master degree program will aim to support the strategies of facing the environmental, water, and energy issues.

Mr. Bertolotti added that the government of France has advised the academic sector to address the climate change problem, as a result, the French universities are contributing to a large extent in rising the awareness about the problem, and he referred to the academic sector who provides an open scientific base for both French and English languages to researchers on climate change and global warming.

The ambassador called to the adoption of appropriate agricultural cropping patterns for carbon capture as one of the successful solutions in the face of global warming, which is proven by the research institutes in France, where they were able to measure the emissions and develop the storage of greenhouse gases in the soil which is cultivated in the tropics.

He said that there were 39 large French group joined the COP21 in the last few days, where they ago to the statement of commitment to embrace the aspirations of the world in the fight against climate change and be dedicated to \$ 45 billion until 2020 for industrial developmental projects and researches in the field of renewable energy, along with 78 companies that have signed the Geneva statement in November 23.

The Director of Water, Energy and Environment Center at the university, Dr. Mohammed Rasool Qtaishat briefed about the achievements of the University of Jordan to face the climate challenges and to fight against the global warming.

Qtaishat pointed out the university's preparations to launch a joint master's program in water and energy cooperation with the (AgroParisTech) and aimed to produce a qualified generation in the scientific process and to address environmental, water, and energy issues which are roiling the world.

Tarawneh and the French ambassador gifted the honorary awards to the winners of “The Green Award competition “for the “made in the University of Jordan” projects.

Students, Leen Abu Zer, Mariam Syriane and Dina Al-Absi were the award winners for their project of recycling cigarettes to produce anti-corrosion materials.

Activities of the workshop completed with the speech for each of the Jordanian Ministry of Environment advisor, the President of the company Total, and Chairman of Lafarge. This was followed by an open circular meeting between the guests and the audience to reach an optimal ways and means to combat the climate change.





