**Prof Omer Maaitah** the project coordinator explain the project to the audience in Arabic and English. The Prof Maaitah speech is

Honorable Professor President of Mu'tah University,

Distinguished Guests and Dear Colleague

It is a great pleasure to extend to you all a very warm welcome on behalf of Mutah University.

First and foremost, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your presence in this Opening Ceremony as the gateway to the initiation to the JOB\_JO Project.

As we can clearly see these days and with the forced migrations that swept through Jordan as a result of the surrounding conditions, the international relations balancing, and the conflicts in the region, most countries in the world, particularly in the third world, are suffering from a sharp rise in unemployment, low wages and increasing poverty.

It is known that the growing number of graduates, as well as the saturated public sector's inability to absorb the increased number of job seekers and the private sector policy in hiring qualified candidates with high skills and qualifications are all factors that created very difficult job opportunities. Therefore, all our national institutions as well as Higher education institutions are important part of the solution to our current difficulties. It is now our responsibility to graduate creative, innovative, critically thinking and responsible students needed for the economic growth and sustainable development capable of making difference with knowledge and science.

It is axiomatic however that the world's largest economies are unable to generate enough job opportunities to absorb the large number of young people qualifying from institutions of learning very year in the public sector. Therefore, we should work hard drawing on other appropriate sources an creating a true partnership with the private sector through providing quality higher education for all to match the needs of the public and private sectors towards enhancing graduates’ employability and reducing youth unemployment.

This initiative, the JOB\_JO Project, came in line to the words of His Majesty King Abdullah II during a visit to the Badia region in 2014 emphasizing the importance of improving educational services in the area, and linking university specializations with labor market needs to ensure that graduates get jobs after finishing their studies and stressing the major role of higher education institutions  to help local society address the problems of unemployment, poverty and empowerment of women.

The aim of the project is to teach and train unemployed graduates for work and innovation in the remote areas of Jordan (Ramtha and Mafraq represented by Jordan University of Science and Technology, Karak represented by Mutah University and Tafila University , and Ma'an university and Aqaba represented by Jordan Univesity Aqaba Branch) to be requalified for more job opportunities by offering services such as training courses, skills and communication workshops, as well as support entrepreneurships and initiatives brought by the community. JOB-JO is an initiative brought together by universities in the South of Jordan lead by Mutah University, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, Jordan / Training Directorate and the Municipality of Karak  as well as European partners to promote youth employment and reduce poverty in Jordan’s remote areas which will empower economic and social aspects of these communities as well as provide women more opportunities for success

Dear President, Distinguished Guests and Dear colleagues,

One of the  key areas for action to produce good urban planning in any country is continuous working  to create work opportunities and investments in areas away from the capital cities , and to reduce migration from remote areas by creating a competitive advantage of having qualified and skilled university graduates which is a key for sustainable development and growth.

The University of Mu'tah is very proud of this project that aims at addressing these important and serious issues in the country in line with His Majesty's reform vision at the economic and social spheres. I would like here to mention His Royal Highness the Crown Prince visits and tours across Jordan's institutions stressing the importance of tackling youth unemployment and activating labour market projects for young people for the sustainable development and growth of the country.( It is worth mentioning here the speech of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein Bin Abdullah recently delivered to the students of Al Hussein Bin Talal University in Ma'an emphasizing the important role of the youth and his call for continuous development ).

 In conclusion let me avail this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to our President for his efforts to alleviating the difficulties and opening all the horizons for the success of these projects. I also would also like to thank our partners at the participating universities for their efforts to make this day a success.

Thank you all. .

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