

IBDAA¹

The International Biodiversity Day* At AUB

** The United Nations proclaimed May 22nd the International Day for Biological Diversity (IBD) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. In December 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted May 22 as IBD, to commemorate the adoption of the text of the Convention on May 22, 1992 by the Nairobi Final Act of the Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*

On May 18, 2012, Ibsar, the Nature Conservation Center for Sustainable Futures at the American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon, held its 6th annual **International Biodiversity Day At AUB (IBDAA)**. Over the semester, faculty members prepared their students for IBDAA by planning a class project that gave students the opportunity to address biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization from various angles, and develop a new understanding of the subject as they enrolled in a problem solving, critical thinking, and decision making process.

More than 150 students from diverse disciplines displayed their works in an open air forum. Students explained their projects to their peers, AUB faculty, staff, upper administration, as well as members from the private and public sectors, with some of these members acting as IBDAA jurors. Student projects included demonstrations, models, and posters of novel natural products for personal and home use, marketing campaigns for these products, creative writing, artistic expressions of nature, and studies describing biodiversity and habitats.

IBDAA jurors relied on their expertise, business panache, and insight to choose the best projects in the following categories: Business Planning, First Stage Inventions, Product Development, Nutrition/Public Health, Arts, and Research.

The winning teams in each category were officially recognized and awarded certificates by the University Provost. Each of the six winning teams shared a prize of 1,000 USD.

About Ibsar

Ibsar, Nature Conservation Center for Sustainable Futures at the American University of Beirut, was established in 2002 as an interfaculty research center dedicated to biodiversity research, development and knowledge dissemination. Ibsar serves as a platform for innovative research in biodiversity that expands economic opportunities and promotes sustainable practices.

¹ IBDAA in Arabic means creative excellence



Student Projects



IBDAA 2012 Winners