The resource unit for students with disabilities at Bethlehem University, that was supported by BASR and the Finnish Federation of the Visually Impaired (FFVI), was officially inaugurated on 23rd March 2012. The resource unit is fitted with several up to date equipment, software and optical devices to facilitate access to information and study materials for students with visual impairment.
The opening ceremony began with a speech by Brother Peter Brey, Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University, in which he thanked the FFVI and BASR for their vital support and emphasized the right of students with disabilities to have equal opportunities and access to quality education en par with their peers.

Mr Erkki Suorlahti, Senior ICT Supervisor - Head of the ICT Department at FFVI, highlighted the importance of establishing such a resource unit for students with visual impairment to enable them to access information which would provide them with the independence needed to progress in their education.

BASR’s Director of Program Development, Miss. Rima Canawati, shared her experience with the audience as a person with visual impairment and as an alumni of Bethlehem University. Miss. Canawati pointed out the challenges she faced as a student with visual impairment due to lack of accessible materials and updated software and assistive devices. She also commended the good will of the management of Bethlehem University to develop support services for their students with disabilities and provide them with equal opportunities for quality education and personality development.

“Having this resource unit made studying easier. It now depends on me to have the results I desire” said Osayd Salah, a sophomore Social Sciences student.

At the end of the ceremony, Ms. Sandra Ma’aya – responsible for technical assistance at the
resource unit- gave an explanation about all the available equipment and devices at the unit for students with visual impairment.