

CEBC

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2007



Issue 15

NOT FOR SALE

TRADE MISSION 2007

ALSO INSIDE

- CANADA & EGYPT IN COLLABORATION
- ITIDA SECURES THE COUNTRY'S PLACE UNDER THE IT SUN
- COOPERATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN NTI & CANADIAN TECHNOLOGY FIRMS



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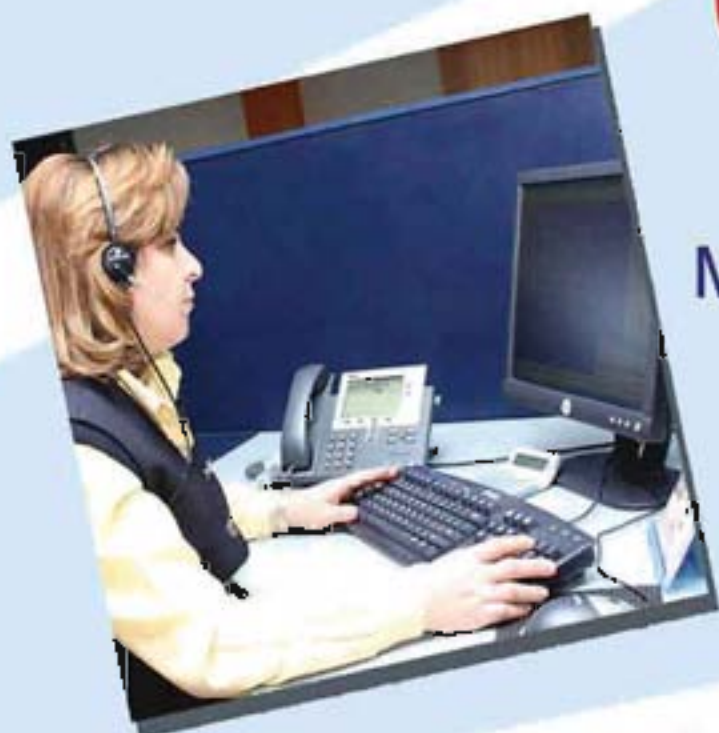
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FOR A SENSE OF PRIDE

It warms my heart to have this periodical chance to address our respected readers and to convey our activities, share our aspirations, and communicate the message of Canada Egypt Business Council (CEBC)

This issue is primarily concerned with our biggest ever business mission to Canada with H.E. Dr. Tarek Kamel, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, at the helm of it.

Kamel presided the (CEBC) delegation that encompassed over 75 prominent Egyptian entrepreneurs, bank officials as well as top officials from the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (NTRA), Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) and the Egyptian National Postal Organization (ENPO).

Apart from being a mean of bolstering bilateral ties and discovering new business horizons, the mission stands out as a dedicated effort to stress Egyptian potentials and merits. This collective effort heralds our perseverance to engage global partners and to reach various markets.

In my humble opinion, the mission reflected an approach that depended heavily on engagement with different segments of the Canadian society. Our meetings with governmental officials, businessmen, community leaders, and media were not only successful but also essential to hand out the true picture of Egypt as a land of unlimited business opportunities.

Our mission was overwhelmed with a sense of dedication and perseverance with the aim of clarifying Egypt's status as regional key player and her merits and potentials as an economic force.

The signing of several agreements and a number of memorandums of understanding stressed the interest of both sides to foment bilateral relations and widen the scope of mutual understanding.

In a turbulent world, Egypt enjoys a great deal of political stability and peace. In addition, Egypt has an indisputable competitive edge on an international level; good trade relations with all its neighbors in the region and the rest of the world. Businesses can thrive and expand in the stable Egyptian political atmosphere, without any unnecessary risk to investments.

The constant reminder of Egypt's position in the region serves as a base to attract the attention of investors to the huge possibilities of investing in Egypt especially with the right legal framework in place.

We look forward to our next mission and we would like to thank all our members and especially those who participated in our successful mission to Canada.

Motaz Raslan
CEBC Chairman



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ABOUT US



MISSION STATEMENT

CEBC is a non-governmental organization whose primary function is to enhance bilateral relations between Egypt and Canada in all sectors.



PURPOSE

Our core objective is to highlight investment opportunities for entrepreneurs in both countries.



ACTIVITIES

Established in 2002 CEBC has made tremendous progress.

CEBC committees prepare position papers and analyses of business and political trends for 17 different industrial sectors.

One of our distinctive activities is the exchange of Business Trade Missions between Egypt and Canada and vice-versa.

To understand more about the range of services we offer please visit our website at:
<http://www.canadaegypt.org>.

Do you have a feature suggestion?
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MINISTER OF HEALTH AND POPULATION Details the Ministry's Strategy in an Event Hosted by **C.E.B.C**

In a developing country of more than 72 million people, when a minister of health speaks, people tend to expect a whole sum of troubles, aches, and indicators of misery. But that was not the main trait of the event hosted by Canada Egypt Business Council with H.E Dr Hatem El-Gabaly, Minister of Health and Population as a distinguished Guest speaker.

The Minister who enjoys the advantages of being a doctor and a businessman did not delve into hackneyed stories concerning the health sector in Egypt, but what he did was more like detailing a picture that is not awfully bright but it is surly going to be with putting the right plan to work.

El-Gabaly started out by stating that Egypt faces a number of obstacles that can delay the development of the health sector. He argued that "the social security system is weak. About two thirds of the population pays for their medical treatment out of their own pockets".

The Minister did not miss the opportunity to acknowledge that getting a quality medical service in Egypt is not an easy task, though it did improve a lot in the past 40 years.

Laying out what can be described as a stark comparison, El-Gabaly said that 90% of birth operations in the cities are conducted under a doctor's watch, while this percentage does not exceed 40%

in the countryside or rural areas.

Pointing out the achievements, Dr. El-Gabaly said that Egypt accomplished a lot in the last 50 years in the field of general health. The life expectancy at the beginning of the 60s of the last century was 41 and 43 for men and women respectively, now it is 69 and 71 respectively.

In a moment of pride, well earned off course, El-Gabaly mentioned the latest State of the World's Mothers Report that lauded Egypt for being second only to the Czech Republic in saving the lives of children under 5.

Egypt has achieved an impressive 68 percent decline in child deaths in the past 15 years.

Investments in health services for mothers and children have helped improve care for pregnant women, made childbirth safer and increased the use of family planning services. As a result, thousands of children's lives have been saved.

Putting a grim face, El-Gabaly admitted that huge efforts are needed to increase Egypt's ability to fight cancer and said that 66% of breast cancer cases are discovered in the third or even the fourth stage compared to an outstanding 9% in America. The Minister mentioned the mobile units that tour various Egyptian cities carrying breast check devices to help women detect the disease and collect a database.

He noted that "besides the weakness of the social security system in Egypt and unjust division of the medical care service around the country, the medical sector suffers from poor quality"

The Minister also addressed the medical skills issue and stressed that the nursing sector needs a great deal of attention.

Dr. El-Gabaly outlined a strategy that is in the process of application and said that the Ministry is applying a new rational policy that depends on using 80% of the Ministry's resources to develop the primary medical care.

He said that the Ministry, trying to improve this kind of service, is currently working according to a program that was recommended by the World Bank and the USAID titled "Family Medicine System". He said, hopefully, by 2010 Egypt will have a very strong infrastructure in the medical sector.

As for the nursing issue, the Ministry is reshaping and transforming the nursing schools into technical institutions and cooperating with a British university

and 20 hospitals to enhance the effectiveness of the nursing skills.

Tackling the issue of bureaucracy, he said the ministry is revamping itself in order to become a planner and an observer to oversee the performance of the many medical units and to decrease its staff (750 thousand).

Dr. El-Gabaly stressed that Egypt is going through a transitional period in which the economy is turning into a free one and noted the "social changes" that normally accompany such a change.

He stated that 39 million people, (54% of the population), have social security, but the current system was not well planned for when it was first devised.

Two surveys were made in less than one year showed that less than 35% of Egyptians are satisfied with the current social security system, while 59% do not approve it, the Minister said.

According to the surveys, there are two main problems in the system, the first one lies in the local clinics, in which the doctors could examine up to 15 cases per hour. The other problem is the quality of the medicine which is a source of conflict with producer companies.

Finally, the Minister stated that the new social security system will be applied by 2011 and would serve all Egyptians. According to Dr. El-Gabaly, the Egyptian family would pay 10 pounds monthly for the care of all its members and that such a system would include rich and poor alike.



Distinguished Guests



**Dr. Osama El Baz, Mr. Fouad Sultan,
Mr. Amr Mehana, Dr. Adly Hussein**



**Mr. Hamed Fahmy, Mr. Magdy Zied,
Dr. Safwat El Nahas**



Mr. Saad Hagras, Eng. Motez Raslan, H.E. Dr. Hatem El Gabaly, Dr. Ahmed Barada



Distinguished Guests



Dr. Madyha Khatib, Dr. Hala El Saeed, Mrs. Noha Barada, Mrs. Lila Darwish, Mrs. Nagla Zekry

SAFWAT EL SHERIF

The Constitutional Amendments Reflect Political Maturity and Everybody is a "Green"

Renowned for his political career and service as a minister, Safwat El Sherif, the outspoken head of the consultative council and the Secretary General of the National Democratic Party said, "the constitutional amendments made by President Hosni Mubarak are unprecedented and reflect political maturity".

In an event hosted by CEBC, El Sherif noted that the "N.D.P" has done his homework and studied the constitutional amendments initiative thoroughly long before it was relayed to the public and the People's Assembly.

In an assertive tone, El-Sherif pointed at various political developments in Egypt and said that history will always remember the 2005 initiative,

which opened the door for a free and multi-candidate presidential elections. He contended that the move was a key to all reforms, political and economic, ever since.

The distinguished guest praised the initiative as a mean of opening the door for serious political participation, exchange of power, and empowering parties to have a bigger role in the Egyptian political arena.

El Sherif stressed that President Mubarak kept his promises during his last presidential campaign, and proposed the constitutional reforms for the sake of a more democratic Egypt.

He, the president wanted to empower the parliament, the parties, and the government even if that comes at the expense his own power as

the president of the republic, El Sherif added. He stressed that the president had a vision to strengthen the power of the two legislative councils.

El-Sherif quoted the President while saying "Egyptians are embarking on a new era of life due to those amendments which have gained legitimacy out of the free will of the Egyptian people and are opening the doors for more work to develop Egypt's constitutional structure".

El-Sherif said "when the first articles of the constitution were pondered upon, people who wrote it down were called the "council of the naughty", or the "council of damned", today we call them the council of wise men".

It is the constitution that gives us the right to dream, to use

logic and to find out the realities of our country and the neighboring countries in order to adapt to a world that is always looking for more prosperity, he said.

When asked about the second article of the constitution which is about the Islam being the source of legislation and that there might be contradiction between the article and the principle of citizenship, El Sherif said that the second article of the constitution has not been amended.

He added that "when we speak about the amendments, we should agree that they were much needed, and that the president made a promise that the second article is not to be touched"

El Sherif stressed that there is no clash between the principle of citizenship and the second article. He elaborated that citizenship has been well defined and the definition states that there are no racial or ethnic or religious discrimination among the citizens of Egypt.

He also indicated that according to Islam all citizens have the right to choose their religion, and that Islam is not a oppressive religion.

He pointed to article 40 which stipulates that all Egyptians are equal in front of Egyptian law regardless of religion and color, which neither conflicts with the second article nor the principle of citizenship. El Sherif said that freedom of faith and the freedom of worship had been guaranteed by the Egyptian constitution.

As for empowering women and augmenting their participation in political life, the former tourism and media minister said the constitutional amendments are supporting female representation.

Concerning the heated debate on article 88, which tackles judiciary supervision over the elections, El Sherif said that the amendment was not devised to alienate the judiciary system from the supervision that would guarantee the integrity of the electoral process.

In a cynical tone against critics, El Sherif said a party would be "idiotic" and a "failure" if it thought it could come up with a system that would manipulate the results of the elections against the will of the people.

According to El Sherif, the amending this article would put an end to the delays that ballot stations often witnessed and would also preserve the status of judges in the eyes of citizens. He also said that the judiciary will still have supervision over the elections but not inside the ballot stations.

He added that discussions over the amendments showed that there is an agreement on 82% of the amended articles and that the discussions were concerned with their wording not their essence.

In a green finish, El Sherif said that no one opposes the necessity of protecting the environment as stipulated by article 179.



H.E. Dr. Safwat EL Sherif with Some Members of the Egyptian Share Council



CEBC Members



Discussion between Members



Mr. Abdallah Kamal, Eng. Motaz Raslan, H.E. Dr. Safwat EL Sherif, Mr. Maged El Menshawry



Dr. Mandy Abdallah, H.E. Mr. Samir Zuber,
H.E. Mr. Adly Hussein, H.E. Dr. Safwat El Sherif,
H.E. Mr. Philip MacKinnon



H.E. Dr. Safwat EL Sherif with Members

C.E.B.C HOSTS

A Debate on the Implications of the Constitutional Amendments on Political and Economic Development

In rare political debate, three prominent figures representing leading Egyptian political parties took part in a seminar organized by C.E.B.C. to discuss the implications of the constitutional amendments on political stability.

The purpose of the seminar was to shed light on the political and economic dimensions of the political reform process.

Dr. Mohamed Kamal, head of the education committee in the ruling National Democratic Party N.D.P., was a leading participant in the seminar and represented his party during the discussions. Dr. Kamal graduated from the faculty of political science, Cairo University and had his PhD from America.

Another leading figure was Dr. Refaat El Saied, the leader of the Tagammu "gathering" party, which was established in 1976.

Dr. Monir Fakhry Abd El Nour, the secretary general of Al-Wafd party, also participated in the seminar that proved to be an important one for the various opinions and positions that were manifested through its duration.

The seminar had its heated moments especially when the attendees discussed the issue of citizenship which was portrayed by Dr Refaat El Saied as a poetic notion in the minds of politicians and need a lot of work to be implemented on the ground.

On the other hand, Dr. Monir Fakhry Abd El Nour said the political stability paves the way economic development and that distributive equality would

ensure political stability. He added that the current economic map shows that Egypt had made great achievements.

According to Abd El Nour the exchange rate is stable, the trade balance is improving, the balance of payments has annual surplus of no less than 3 billion pounds and Egypt has an increasingly cash reserve, which exceeded 400 million dollars according to last month statistics.

Reflecting on the Egyptian political scene, Dr. Mohamed Kamal hinted that Egypt needs strong political parties that are capable of producing solutions to the problems facing the country. He said that most of those who criticize the government or the ruling party do not have such solutions.

He said that political development cannot be separated from economic development, and that we shouldn't concentrate on economy and neglect politics. "The economic development realizes stability which is a prerequisite of democracy", he said.

He stressed that economic development creates the middle class which is the base and the pillar of democracy in any country. He said that Egypt witnessed numerous political and economic developments over the last 3 years. He stressed that the constitutional amendments were, in part, the outcome of the ideas presented by the opposition parties and considered by the N.D.P.



Mr. Essam Reffat Managing Editor Al Ahram Al Ektosady, Eng. Motaz Raslan CEBC Chairman, Mr. Mohamed Kamal Member of the NDP Policies Secretariat, Mr. Refaat El Saeed Head of the Egyptian Tagamos Party, Mr. Monir Fakhry Abdel Nour Secretary of the Wafid Party



CEBC Council, Mr. Farid Mansour, Mr. Mohamed El Hamamisy



Mrs. Sanna El Banna Member of the Egyptian Shura Council, H.E. Ambassador Nohad Abdel Latif, H.E. Ambassador Philip MacKinnon



Mr. Fathy Sakr, Mr. Fathy El Sebsay, Mr. Saeed El Alfy, Mr. Hisham Khalil, Dr. Osama El Baz, H.E. Ambassador of Morocco, H.E. Ambassador of Canada



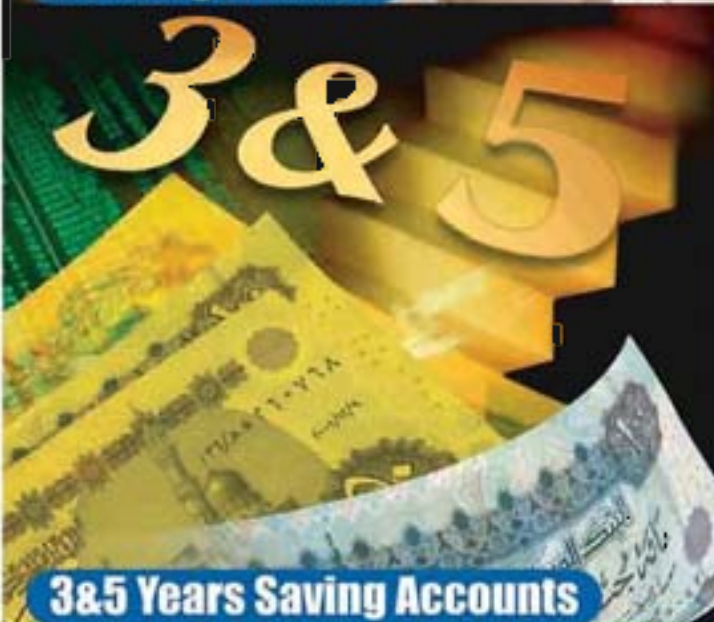
Mr. Emad Taymour, Mr. Hamed Fahmy, H.E. Ambassador Nohad Abdel Latif, Mrs. Sanna El Banna Member of the Egyptian Shura Council



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CANADA & EGYPT IN COLLABORATION

Canada Discovers a World of Possibilities in the Egyptian IT Industry

H. E. Dr. Tarek Kamel, Minister of Communications and Information Technology announced that the communication and information technology sector has contributed 25 billion pounds to the Egyptian national income within the last 18 months.

He also stressed, during a conference held by the Canada Egypt Business Council "C.E.B.C" in Toronto with the Egyptian community in Canada, that Egyptian - Canadian relations are exceptional and that Egypt is very much keen on developing them.

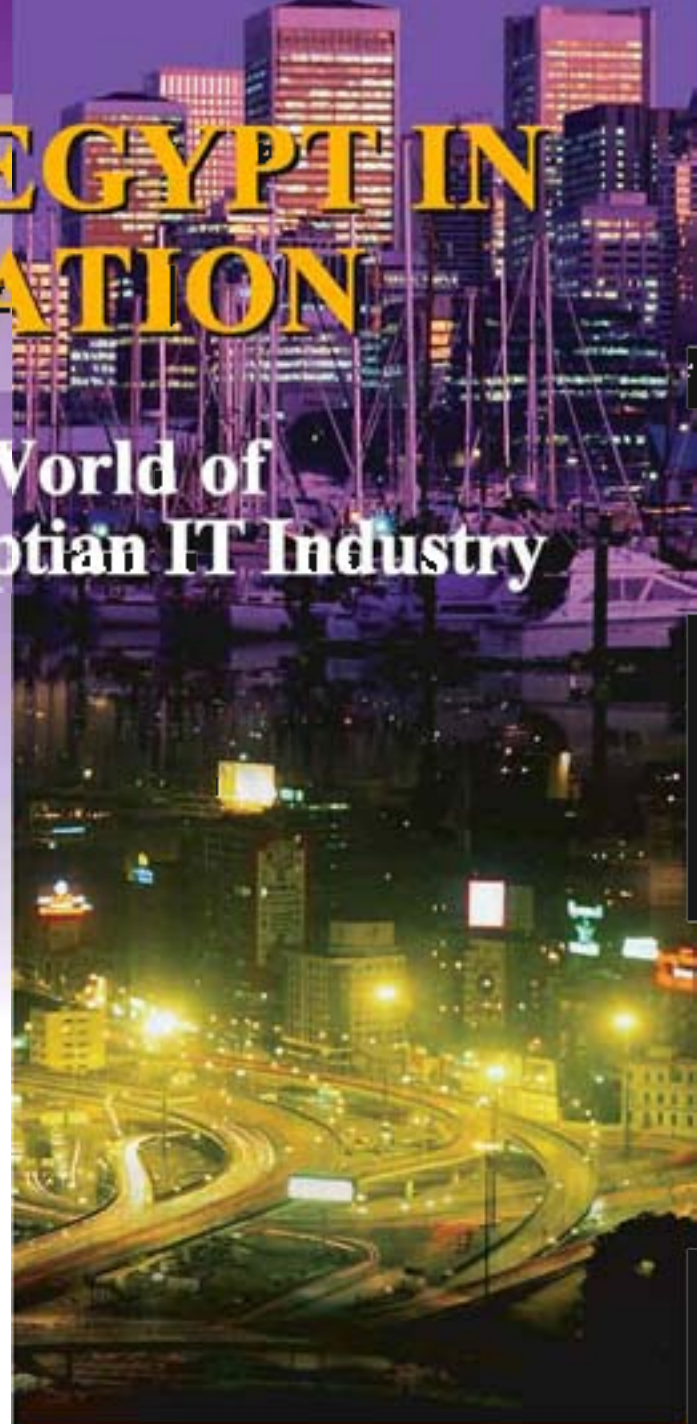
He acknowledged that commercial exchange between the two countries amounts to only 500 million dollars which is far less than the two countries' ambitions.

At the conference held during the first day of the council's annual commercial mission to Canada, the minister said that the economic reforms in Egypt wielded great results in the communication sector, confirming that the number of mobile phones users jumped to 23 million which is higher than the global standards.

The foreign investments in Egypt had risen from 400 million dollars in 2003 to 10 billion dollars at the end of the current fiscal year, according to Kamel.

The Egyptian official said that Egypt is witnessing a great social and economic reform which will help developing many sectors such as education, health, transportation and housing.

He added that the private sector will build three thousand schools and rent them to the government.



In the field of information technology, Kamel said that the number of high speed internet subscribers has risen to 400 thousand people, and is still witnessing a rise. "There is a plan to reduce the price of the monthly payment of high speed internet from 95 pounds to 50 pounds a month." He said.

Kamel said that annual investments in the field of mobile phones by the three companies (Vodafone, Mobinil, and Etisalat) had risen to 7 billion pounds.

During the meeting Mr. Mohamed Omran CEO of the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA), spoke about the agency and the means of boosting bilateral corporation between Egypt and Canada in the field of information technology.

Mr. Amin Khairuddin Chairman of the Board of Directors of Technology Development Fund spoke about the technology services confirming that the annual exports of the industry will reach 1.5 billion dollars in 2010.

Dr. Rafik Guindi, the associate Professor at Nile University, spoke about the opportunities of sharing experiences and how it would affect the university. Mr. Akil Beshir, CEO of Telecom Egypt spoke about the role of his company in developing the Egyptian IT industry and the services it offers to the Egyptian community. He explained Telecom Egypt's role in establishing the Egyptian institution of the technological education, which is a nonprofit institution.

Beshir said the Nile University is the first project with such many participants, in which the Egyptian government offered the land of the project in 6th of October city. He also called for the Egyptian community in Canada to participate in this important social institution.

Dr. Ziad Bahaa El-Din, Chairman of the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), also spoke during the conference about the atmosphere of investments in Egypt, confirming that the investment field is developing in what he described as an "institutional" way in Egypt.

He said that the Egyptian government established a ministry of investment, and

there a number of significant reforms concerning taxes, customs and banks. Bahaa El-Din also said that there is a monetary policy to deal with the inflation and to pull Egypt out of the international money laundering list.

He added that a law was established to protect the intellectual property, one to protect competition and another one is under way to deal with bankruptcy .

Conference was attended by the Egyptian Ambassador to Canada Mahmoud El Saeed, General Counselor Wafaa El-Hadidi and Consulate General and Chairman of the Canada Egypt Business Council (CEBC) Motaz Raslan.

Mahmoud El Saeed said that CEBC under the leadership of Mr. Motaz Raslan, Chairman of Canada Egypt Business Council, had a great role in encouraging bilateral corporation between Egypt and Canada in all fields.

Raslan spoke during the conference saying that the mission which is headed by Dr. Kamel and Dr. Bahaa El-Din made very important talks in the technological city "Waterloo for research" in Toronto.

He added that the members of the mission made bilateral talks with the Canadian businessmen in Toronto before the delegation left heading to Ottawa.

In an unperceived move the Interior Ministry sent Colonel Naser Dorgham, head of the nationality department, as a special envoy to meet the Egyptian community in Canada and to take a close look at their problems.

Dorgham said that ministry is about to establish a new passport that contains a smart chip with all information in it including the fingerprints and the eye print to make it easier for the Egyptian citizen to travel.



EGYPT IS ON THE MOVE

I TIDA Breaks the Molds to Secure the Country's Place under the IT Sun

Aiming at advancing and nurturing the IT industry in Egypt, Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) was established in 2004 to act as the developer and promoter of the Egyptian IT industry. Relying on unequivocal governmental support, ITIDA utilizes a vast array of advantages and privileges bestowed on Egypt and synchronizes public and private efforts in order to place the country high on the global market' scale.

Eng. Mohamed Omran, ITIDA's executive president, reflects on these privileges by saying: "Our infrastructure is second to none. The first of a series of 'Smart Villages' opened near Cairo last year, bringing together state-of-the-art facilities in terms of buildings, technology and connectivity. We'll develop a string of such villages across Egypt over the next five years".

ITIDA employs such privileges and advantages to serve its objectives, which include regulating the activities of e-signature services and other activities in relation to e-transactions and the IT industry. ITIDA also encourages and develops information and communication technologies to maximize opportunities for exporting ICT services and applications.

Armed with commitment and insight, ITIDA manifests its perspective with a number of programs carefully designed to enhance the Egyptian Information Technology Industry and to promote Industry/Universities collaboration, through linking academic research with industry and market needs. These collaborative research programs are bringing value to IT companies, universities, researchers and the ICT community. The programs include product development

CEBC In focus

projects, advance research projects, student graduation projects and summer training projects.

Through its Intellectual Property Rights Office (IPR), ITIDA aims at ensuring an effective enforcement of the Copyright Law by fighting piracy and sanctioning all infringements in order to guarantee an efficient protection to computer programs and databases. The Office also raises awareness and understanding of intellectual property rights among the software community, as well as the general public. In addition, the Office actively cooperates with different bodies concerned with the intellectual property rights on both national and international levels. The IPR Office administers the deposit of computer programs and databases and provides licenses for reproducing and translating computer programs and databases for educational purposes. Furthermore, the Office provides mandatory permission to practicing activity to software enterprises.

Through its active participation in various international fairs and conferences, ITIDA not only presents the true image of Egypt as an emerging ICT giant, but also supports dozens of Egyptian SMEs to participate in such international events.

The agency is committed to building and developing the capacities of Egyptian companies while eyeing the target of increasing exports. The newly devised IT Industry National Strategy relies on the efforts exerted by ITIDA as one of the main players in executing the strategy.

In the words of Omran, "ITIDA sits at the heart of the public/private partnership that is driving the development of Egypt's contact centre and Business Process Outsourcing industry (BPO). For the inward investor it is a conduit to our country's resources and to government support. It is staffed by people who, like myself, have had extensive experience in international business and understand the challenges intrinsic in sourcing services or establishing operations in new markets"

In order to stimulate the IT local market and respond to a fast changing global industry, ITIDA adopts a flat lean dynamic structure, adheres to the utilization of the public-private partnership model and resorts to regional and international cooperation whenever possible. ITIDA is a self sustainable entity that will utilize any surplus to empower the IT industry and raise the awareness of the whole society of the benefits and inevitability of the use of ICT for the advancement of the socioeconomic welfare of the whole community. Attracting foreign direct investments to the IT industry and maximizing the exports of IT services and applications are the primary goals embraced by ITIDA aiming at positioning Egypt as the main hub for the region's Information Society.

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THE VISIT OF THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION TO CANADA

Minister of Communications and Information Technology Dr. Tarek Kamel initiated Canada's mission agenda by holding a conference with the Egyptian Expatriate community in Toronto during which he shed light on the latest developments in Egypt's ICT sector, besides presenting possible opportunities for investment.

The mission aimed at promoting ICT trade relations with the Canadian government and private sector, as well as with the Egyptian expatriate community in Canada in the field of ICT.

The delegation visited three of Canada's key cities: Toronto, the country's largest city, Ottawa, the capital in the Ontario province and Montreal, in the Quebec province. Through arranged meetings with a selected number of leading Canadian ICT companies, such as Nortel and RIM (Blackberry), the mission promoted the Egyptian government's incentive packages to invest in Egypt.

The delegation furthermore explored collaborative possibilities with the Canadian government officials in the areas of ICT policies, technology development and ICT for Development. In addition, the Egyptian ICT expatriate community was informed of cooperation opportunities with the ICT sector in Egypt, especially in technology development and Nile University.

The mission was jointly organized by the Canada Egypt Business Council (CEBC), the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA), the Egyptian Embassy in Canada and the Canadian Embassy in Egypt.

Co-organizers include the Canada-Arab Business Council, the Toronto Trade Center, the Montreal Trade Center, and the Canada Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

Announcement

**CEBC is Cordially Inviting you to Attend an Agriculture Seminar
with H.E. Minister Amin Abaza
Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation**

**Topic
"Harvesting Egypt's Future"**

**Moderated by
Mr. Magdy Mehana
Al-Masry Al Youm Senior Columnist**

**Date: September 10th, 2007
Venue: Cairo Marriott Hotel
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Time: 19:00 pm**

**For More Information Please Call Canada Egypt Business Council
Tel: (202) 2291-4975, 2291-3675 Fax: (202) 2291-7075
Web: www.canadaegypt.org**



Cooperation Agreements Signed between NTI and Canadian Technology Firms

Minister of Communications and Information Technology Tarek Kamel witnessed the signing of two cooperation agreements between the National Telecommunication Institute (NTI) and Montreal-based companies SR Telecom and Goulet Telecom during the official trade mission to Canada.

The cooperation agreement with SR Telecom International will establish a training lab at the NTI facilities in Egypt. SR Telecom International, a pioneer in the manufacturing, design, and deployment of wireless telecommunications equipment and WiMAX technology, will also train two NTI engineers at the company's premises in Canada.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between NTI and Goulet Telecom, a major international player in the field of telecommunications training and consultancy, to provide a range of telecommunications

programs across Egypt as well as other regions in Africa and the Middle East.

"The signing of these two agreements reinforces NTI's position and role as a leading training and consultancy institution in Egypt and in the Middle East," said Dr. Ahmed El Sherbini, Director of NTI.

NTI was founded in 1984 as a scientific institute with university status affiliated to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT). NTI is considered a center of excellence, a leading training and educational institution, and focal point for applied research activities in the field of telecommunications. The research and training facilities in all different departments together with a team of highly qualified researchers and technical staff enhance NTI capabilities to provide services and support for the telecommunications sector not only in Egypt but also in the rest of the Arab world and the whole region.

MINISTER KAMEL Meets with Egyptian Expatriate Community in Toronto

Minister of Communications and Information Technology Dr. Tarek Kamel initiated Canada's mission agenda by holding a conference with the Egyptian Expatriate community in Toronto during which he shed light on the latest developments in Egypt's ICT sector, besides presenting possible opportunities for investment.

Kamel said that Egypt has been witnessing a significant boom in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) due to the latest economic and political reforms. Latest statistics, according to Kamel, reveal Egypt's FDI to reach 10 billion this year.

Kamel added that the increase in number of this year's trade

mission is a clear indication of the government's keenness to boost economic, trade and technological relations with Canada as well as to encourage Egyptian expatriates' investment in new projects, especially that Egypt's socioeconomic development rates have reached 7%.

Kamel welcomed all requests presented by the Egyptian investors who brought to the Minister's attention the investment-related problems they confront exemplified in the lack of necessary information asserting their interests to cooperate with the Egyptian government, mainly educational and ICT projects.

Conference was attended by the Egyptian Ambassador to Canada Mahmoud El Saeed,

General Counselor Wafaa El-Hadidi and Consulate General and Chairman of the Canada Egypt Business Council (CEBC) Motaz Raslan.

The mission's agenda involves holding two similar meetings with the Egyptian community in Montreal and Washington where Kamel and the accompanying delegation will be briefing the expats on the latest developments in Egypt's ICT sector, besides presenting possible opportunities to invest in the sector, namely in the fields of Research and Development, Egyptian external labor markets, regulating frameworks for e-signature technology, Nile University and technology incubators project.

Economic Corporation between Canada and Egypt on the IT Field

The second day of the CEBC mission to Canada witnessed various activities with the aim of enhancing the economic corporation between Canada and Egypt in a number with special emphasis on the IT field.

Dr. Tarek Kamel met with the head of "bill Canada", the Canadian communications giant, to discuss a deal between the Canadian company and "Raya" Egyptian company, in a project that aims at using information technology in the health sector.

He also said the delegation, which consists of 73 participant 15 of whom are governmental representatives, met with representatives of some 160 technology companies that work in "Waterloo" technology city. During the meeting, which was held by the Arab-Canadian business center, the mission explained Egyptian achievements in the communications and information technology. Dr. Ziad Bahaa El-Din also gave a presentation about the Egyptian economy during the second day.

A visit was paid to "R.E.M" company which produces "black berry" mobile phones, and the leaders of the company made clear that they are interested in investing in the Egyptian market.

In Ottawa, the mission also visited the city's center for scientific research and illustrated the developments that the IT industry witnessed of the industry of technology in Egypt.

There was another meeting with the deputy minister of the industry which is the ministry responsible of the communication and information technology in Canada.

There was another activity for the mission on the 2nd day which was visiting "Nortel" company which is specialized in the new no wired system of communication which is called "C.D.M.A" and that will be used in Egypt.

Other than economic and technological matters the delegation met the head of the opposition party and the

speaker of the parliament. The Egyptian Ambassador to Canada Mahmoud Al Saïd said that the relations between Egypt and Canada are very strong and special regarding many fields.

He added that there are consultations between the two countries not only about the relations between the two but also in all the matters that concerns the region of the Middle East, as Egypt plays a key role in it.

He said that the commercial corporation between Ottawa and Cairo has risen from 140 million dollars to 460 million now, and there are two Canadian projects established in Egypt now with the cost of 1.5 billion dollars.

Al Saïd also said that Egypt's role in the Middle East is clear and that Cairo is always there to solve the problems of the region weather they were in Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq and Sudan.

The Egyptian Ambassador at the end of a very long but useful day organized a dinner banquet that was attended by the elite of the Canadian society.



MISSION PHOTOS



Signing Agreements



A Reception with the Head of the Canadian Opposition



Meeting with the Egyptian Community



H.E. Minister Tarek kamel,
Mr. Omar Alghabry.



Part of Delegation.

TRADE MISSION TO CANADA 2007



The Ambassador's Party



Think-Tank "International Institute of Telecommunication"



Mr. Hisham Hassan, Mr. Amr Hassanein, Dr. Mohamed Omran, Eng. Motaz Raslan.



Dr. Ziad Bahas El Din



Mr. Saad Hagrus, Ms. Hoda Elmazriky, Mr. Mohamed Azmy Mr. Islem Jlemy



Part of Guests



A Meeting of the Speaker of the Parliament



The Ambassador's Party



A Reception in OCRI



H.E. Minister Tarik Karamel Receives a Token from Chairman of OCRI



Part of Delegation



A Reception in OCRI

TRADE MISSION TO CANADA 2007



Part of Delegation



Dr. Bernard Patry Delivers a Speech During Lunch in the Parliament



Ms. Hoda Masry, Ms. Samira Hendy, Mr. Mokhtar Abu Basma, Mrs. Nadine Doucet,
The Ambassador's Party in Ottawa



H.E. Ambassador Mahmoud Said, H.H. Minister Tarek Kamel



Dr. Bernard Patry, H.E. Dr. Tarek Kamel at the Parliament Lunch in Ottawa



Dr. Ahmed Sherbini Director, National Telecommunication Institute, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology.

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