

WHILE SETTING PRIORITIES

'AIR AMBULANCE & AIR TAXI' ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR BUSINESSMEN

Head of Egyptian-German Business Council & Head of Research, Development & Technology Transfer Committee at Egyptian Federation of Industries Dr. Nader Riad asserts that there has been a great deal of talk, lately, about a project to introduce the 'air taxi' system, in order to avoid traffic jams. (NOTE: the English language does not use << >>. Instead either use ' ' or " " depending on the context by which they are used).

The system depends on using helicopters between cities and industrial zones by Egyptian, Arab and foreign investors, enabling them to sufficiently accomplish their business.

In spite of the importance of this matter, there are priorities which have an even greater significance; the 'air ambulance' and the 'air fire extinguishers'.

The first time we heard talks of an 'air ambulance' was in 1999, as complementary to ground ambulance in providing integrated services for the sick and injured. However, the reality of the air ambulance never amounted to the expectations place upon it.

It deems necessary now to enhance our ambulance services with the 'air ambulance'. This advanced method is more efficient in savings lives as it reduces the time factor by avoiding ground traffic; a factor which is of utmost importance in critical cases.

Following the 'air ambulance' in priority is the 'air taxi' as a link between cities and industrial zones. This is of great importance for the Egyptian

economic system, particularly for industry. However, it is necessary that this falls under and becomes part of the supervision of a state plan.

Studies preceding the establishment of the Air Taxi Co., which is affiliated to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and formed by virtue of a ministerial arrêté of Lt. Gen. Ahmed Shafik, Minister of Civil Aviation, asserted that the market was in desperate need of such an effective form of air transport, given the nature of their work where time factor is of the essence; travel delays must be limited. The 'air taxi' will assist in serving specific groups and classes. Undoubtedly, the 'air taxi' project in Egypt awaits a promising future, as it is considered a specific cultural leap that would place Egypt among advanced countries, on one hand, and promote investment, on the other. However, it is a project that requires considerable planning in order to ensure a positive outcome.

Between the previously mentioned projects comes in the 'air fire extinguishers' in the list of priorities. This too, is another piece of advanced technology that could benefit Egypt greatly. Although Egypt has no forests that call for such a service, there are other emergency cases, where this service could be administered by helicopters that do not require tarmacs or airports. .

The concept of 'air fire extinguishers' simply involves a rubber container which is attached to the outside of the helicopter. This container must be big enough to hold between 5 to 50 cubic meters of water to be considered useful.

There is a mechanical device which releases the water at the fire site. Afterwards, the helicopter travels to the nearest water supply point for replenishment and returns once more to the fire site, without the need to land.

As for the 'air ambulance' in regards to severe fire related disasters, its role is summarized in the transportation of fire victims out of the danger area, while providing them with the necessary care. It is important to note that fire victims

usually gather on roof tops; hence the 'air ambulance' can serve a great purpose in safely retrieving them.

To issue a birth certificate to any service, it should first prove its existence and viability. In the absence of these two, we cannot consider such a service born or alive.

Head of Chamber of Engineering Industries & Member of Higher Committee for Industrial Modernization Eng. Nabil Farid Hassanein stated that Egypt is getting close to internationalism.

The 'air taxi' is a fundamental project, as it is able facilitate life for investors and allow them to commute between Cairo and the 10th of Ramadan, 6th of October, Sadat, Marina, Alexandria and new cities.

There are many areas that can be inaugurated as a base station for such services; the Imbaba Airport area for example.

This would contribute to attracting more investors and therefore investments. Time is of the essence for these businessmen, thus the considerable amount of time lost in traffic jams becomes a nuisance for foreign investors who wish to invest in Egypt. .

Even Egyptian investors are ready to bear the costs of establishing such a service, simply because the time factor is of utmost importance. It has been calculated that more than three hours are lost daily in commuting between Cairo and 10th of Ramadan.

Furthermore, this project is environmental-friendly and its cost fall within the means of businessmen. Developed countries such as China, India and some Arab countries are already gaining the rewards of such a service. Nabil Farid

Hassanein adds that there are many axes for prompting our economic growth, primarily industry, given its high added value.

**WELCOMING INITIATIVE OF CHAMBER OF ENGINEERING
INDUSTRIES**

BUSINESSMEN FACING TRAFFIC JAMS BY AIR TAXI PROJECT

NABIL FARID HASSANEIN: INVESTORS READY TO FINANCE PROJECT

DR. NADER RIAD: PRIORITY FOR AIR AMBULANCE

HASSAN SHAFEI: PREMATURE EXPERIENCE

DR. SHERIF AL JABALI: PROJECT ALLEVIATING TRAFFIC JAMS

Chamber of Engineering Industries launched an initiative for preparing an integrated project for the application of the ‘air taxi’ system. This project allows the use of helicopters between cities and industrial zones to facilitate the transport of Arab and foreign investors to production sites.

Egyptian businessmen welcomed this initiative, affirming its importance in improving the investment climate and attracting more investors, especially in the presence of all the traffic jams witnessed by the Egyptian capital and other major cities.

Head of Egyptian Chamber of Engineering Industries Nabil Farid Hassanein finds the project impelling and essential, for a large number of investors in Egypt, in order to effectively facilitate their internal movements, in the same way as many countries worldwide.

There seems to be a mutual consensus on behalf of Egyptian, Arab and foreign investors in regards to the Egyptian government already adopting significant procedures to encourage and facilitate investment, which contributed to improving the investment climate and attracting local and foreign funds. However, there remain certain matters that need to be tackled to facilitate investment, primarily a stern step vis-à-vis traffic jams.

Hassanein explains that flying from various Arab capitals to Cairo Airport takes a couple of hours, while going from Cairo Airport to 6th of October City, for example, could take longer; up to three hours.

Hence it was necessary to consider the benefits of the 'air taxi' project, which depends on establishing specific locations for the takeoff and landing of helicopters. Such locations could include clubs and hotel roof tops in major cities, like Cairo and Alexandria, as well as similar locations in industrial zones all over Egypt. This would allow investors to use helicopters to commute between cities and production sites, thus eliminating the burden of traffic jams.

The Head of Chamber states that once the project is ready it will be submitted to the Egyptian Federation of Industries, and the Ministry of Trade & Industry for their cooperation and coordination in adopting the necessary procedures for its implementation with the competent authorities.

Already, a number of Egyptian, Arab and foreign investors have shown readiness to finance this project, once it is adopted, given its importance in facilitating investment activities.

Furthermore, it is an economic project involving all elements of success. If implemented by the state they immediately agree to uphold such an expectation. Investors are ready to accept all navigational, organizational and

security conditions, set by the competent authorities, for the implementation of this project.

Several positive impacts arise from this project. Some of which involve the vast contribution to improving the investment climate through finding a practical solution for the traffic jam dilemma, whilst also reducing the time of moving from one destination to another.

If an investor is living in Giza and his factory is at 10th of Ramadan, he must allocate a total of six hours of his day to travelling; three hours to reach his factory and three others to return, especially during peak hours. However, if the new project was implemented, he will reduce this period to no more than two hours of travel per day, thus allowing an extra four hours for work.

Setting Priorities

Head of Egyptian German Business Council & Head of Research, Development & Technology Transfer Committee at Egyptian Federation of Industries & Board Member of Chamber of Engineering Industries Dr. Nader Riad states that lately there has been a great deal of talk about a project to introduce the 'air taxi' system, in order to avoid traffic jams.

The system depends on using helicopters between cities and industrial zones by Egyptian, Arab and foreign investors, in order that they may accomplish their business.

In spite of the importance of this issue, yet another priority comes first, namely the <<air ambulance>>, given its strategic significance. Still another priority is the <<air fire extinguishers>>.

The first time we heard talks of an <<air ambulance>> was in 1999, when Presidential Decree No. 68 for 1999 was issued, complementary to the ground ambulance, in providing integrated medical services for the sick and injured. However, it never achieved the role expected from it.

He asserts that the rate of assisting in road accidents and critical cases is still too low, where reports indicate that Egypt falls at the bottom of the list of First & Second World States.

Hence, it deems necessary to enhance ambulance services with the <<air ambulance>>, through a mechanism that includes calling methods and means of saving lives, by stabilizing the condition of the patient before transferring him, particularly in critical cardiac cases and surgeries, while taking into consideration that the time factor here is of utmost importance in saving critical cases.

Second to that in importance comes the <<air taxi>> to link between cities and industrial zones.

This is of great importance for the Egyptian economic system, in general, and the industry, in particular. However, it should fall under the supervision of the state.

Studies preceding the establishment of the Air Taxi Co., affiliated to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and formed by virtue of a ministerial arrêté of Lt. Gen. Ahmed Shafik, Minister of Civil Aviation, asserted that the market was in need of this type of air transport, in order to serve specific categories and classes, given the nature of their work, where the time factor is vital and important for those who have the money, but have no time.

He adds that the <<air taxi>> project in Egypt awaits a promising future, if it is well-planned, as it is considered a specific cultural leap that would place Egypt among developed countries, on one hand, and promote investment, on the other.

This experience has proven successful in many Arab & European countries, such as Saudi Arabia, UAE, Cyprus and Switzerland. Within this well established framework, a mechanism could be set up as part of a state plan. In order to achieve success, the assistance of the Armed Force expertise is necessary, in regards to proper management of operation, aviation control, guidance, follow-up procedures, supply services, maintenance and qualified pilots. .

All this would lead to a disciplined operational system, which is a key factor in the assessment of any project as being a success or a failure.

On another hand, Chairman of Chamber of Chemical Industries Dr. Sherif al-Jabali believes that traffic jams witnessed by Cairo at present are an excellent motive to render such a project successful.

Businessmen will contribute and participate in the development of this project as it offers a practical solution to their problems. They will mainly assist the companies in charge of planning and operating the 'air taxi' as a sign of gratitude. The new project will somewhat reduce the traffic jams in Cairo as businessmen will be using the 'air taxi' and thus alleviating, to a certain extent, the traffic density.

Head of the Egyptian side of Egyptian-Romanian Business Council Eng. Hassan al-Shafei states that this project has been successfully applied in a limited number of countries worldwide. For example, in USA, it is applied in

New York and Washington, but has not been implemented in the larger states like Philadelphia.

According to him, this experience might be a bit premature for Egypt, given the number of problems encountering us in all domains.

Mit Rücksicht auf die Prioritäten

**Fliegender Rettungsdienst und Flugtaxis sind Dienstleistungen,
die die Geschäftsleute brauchen**

Dr. Ingenieur **Nader Riad**, Vorsitzender des ägyptisch-deutschen Geschäftsrat sowie Leiter des Komitees für Forschung, Weiterentwicklung und Technologietransfer in dem Verband für ägyptische Industriegewerbe, bestätigte, das Gespräch über fliegende Taxis, um den stockenden Verkehr zu vermeiden, werde immer wieder aufgenommen.

Dabei handelt es sich um Hubschrauber, die genutzt werden, um wichtige Städte und Industriegebiete miteinander zu verbinden, um die Beförderung von ägyptischen, arabischen und ausländischen Investoren beim Abwickeln ihrer Geschäfte zu erleichtern.

Andererseits geht diesem wichtigen Service ein anderer hervor, und zwar die fliegende Ambulanz, die als dringende Notwendigkeit betrachtet werden kann.

Auf der gleichen Stufe stünde ein Feuerwehrdienst von der Luft aus an.

Obwohl wir schon seit 1999 von dem ersten fliegenden Rettungsdienst ergänzend zu dem Ambulanzservice auf Land, um den Kranken und Verletzten eine Rund-um- Versorgung bieten zu können, gehört hatten, tat sich seither nichts mehr.

Deshalb kann diese Dienstleistung noch keineswegs als effektiv bezeichnet werden und es ist notwendig die fliegende Notfallversorgung auszubauen sowie mit anderen Funktionen zu ergänzen; dazu der Meldemechanismus und der Rettungsdienst, bei dem der Zeitfaktor eine vitale Rolle in heiklen Fällen spielt.

Eine zweitrangige Priorität hätte dann das fliegende Taxi, das wichtige Städte und Industriezonen unter sich verbindet; ein wichtiger Faktor in der ägyptischen Wirtschaft und insbesondere in der Industrie, vorausgesetzt es wird unter der Obhut des Staates ausgeführt.

Die Studien, die im Zusammenhang mit dem fliegenden Taxi durch das Ministerium für Zivilluftfahrt durchgeführt und durch den Beschluss des Generalleutnants Ahmed Shafik, Minister der Zivilluftfahrt, unterstrichen wurden, betonten den Marktbedarf für diese Art von Lufttransport für bestimmte Klassen und Schichten aufgrund ihrer beruflichen Situation; dabei wurde der Zeitfaktor als wichtiges Element hervorgehoben.

Es besteht kein Zweifel, dass das fliegende Taxi in Ägypten ein Projekt mit Zukunft sein könnte, wenn es gründlich geplant werden würde, da es ein Transfer in die Zivilisation ist, der Ägypten in den Kreis der fortgeschrittenen Länder verhilft und andererseits die Investitionen ankurbelt.

Im unmittelbaren Anschluss und ebenfalls von großer Notwendigkeit ist der Feuerwehrdienst von der Luft aus.

Trotzdem Ägypten keine großflächigen Wälder hat, die diesen Service als unentbehrlich gelten lassen, gibt es andere Faktoren, die ihn befürworten.

Das gilt auch für den fliegenden Rettungsdienst in gefährlichen Regionen, in denen nur Hubschrauber geeignet sind, da sie keine hochtechnischen Flughäfen brauchen und ohne vorherige Planung spontan irgendwo landen können.

An beliebigen Orten, die ja nicht berechenbar sind, werden die Helikopter mit Gummicontainern ausgestattet mit einer Kapazität zwischen 5 und 50 m³ je nach vorhandener Ausrüstung.

Der flexible Container hängt dann vom Hubschrauber herunter, so dass kontrolliert das Wasser direkt auf den Brandort gerichtet wird. Danach füllt der Flieger den Container an der nächsten Wasserfläche in Minutenschnelle wieder auf, ohne zu landen und pendelt dann immer wieder vom Brandort zur Wasserfläche und umgekehrt, um das Feuer zu löschen.

Der fliegende Rettungsdienst bei Katastrofen und Bränden hilft den Flüchtenden aus dem Feuer heraus. Normalerweise befinden sich die Betroffenen auf den Dächern der Hochhäuser, in denen es brennt. So können sie vom Dach an einen sicheren Ort transportiert werden, wo man sie dann auch versorgt.

Die Zurverfügungstellung dieser Dienstleistung für das Publikum ist ein Zeichen ihrer Existenz. Ohne eine flächendeckene Hilfestellung kann man nicht behaupten, dass ein Service vorhanden ist.

Eine Ankündigung reicht nicht, ein Existenzbeweis muss sich schon feststellen lassen.

Ingenieur Nabil Farid Hassanein, Vorsitzender der Kammer für technische Industrien und Mitglied des obersten Komitees zur Modernisierung der Industrie, ist der Meinung, dass Ägypten sich nicht weit vom internationalen Fortschritt befinde und die Sache mit dem fliegenden Taxi sehr wichtig und notwendig sei, um den Investoren die Bewegung aus Kairo-Mitte zu den Industriestädten, 10. Ramadan, 6. Oktober, El-Sadat, Marina, Alexandria und den neuen Satellitenstädten zu erleichtern.

Zum Beispiel in dem Bezirk "Matar Imbaba" könnten wir eine Station eröffnen, sowie in einigen anderen Regionen.

Dies würde mehr Investitionen in die Region locken, da der dichte Verkehr und der Stau für die Investoren, die Geschäfte in Ägypten planen, einen belastenden Nachteil darstellen.

Wir als ägyptische Investoren sind ebenfalls bereit die Kosten auf uns zu nehmen, da Zeit eine wichtige Rolle spielt. Er betonte, das fliegende Taxi spare Zeit, da er drei Stunden am Tag verliert, um von Kairo zur Industriestadt 10.Ramadan zu pendeln.

Andererseits ist das Projekt sehr umwelt freundlich und die Kosten entsprechen den Ressourcen der Geschäftsleute. Die Idee wurde schon in vielen fortgeschrittenen Ländern umgesetzt sowie in China, Indien und in einer Reihe von arabischen Staaten. Er fügte hinzu, es gebe viele Wege, um das wirtschaftliche Wachstum zu fördern, vor Allem durch die Industrie und da ist der zuwachsende Wert sehr hoch.