

World Economic Forum on the Middle East

Sharm El Sheikh, 20-22 May 2006

SPEECH BY H.E. DR AHMED NAZIF, PRIME MINISTER OF EGYPT

Launch of the Egyptian Education Initiative
Saturday 20 May
12.00

cope with the accelerating pace of new technologies and know-how in education sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Our Program to address these challenges includes the necessity to deepen decentralization, the need to extend community participation in the education process through PPP and the importance of introducing competitiveness as a key towards raising quality.

Our program also clearly stresses the need to utilize information technology in the delivery of educational content and in the management of our schools

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is to note with satisfaction that the core objectives of the EEI coincide with the objectives of our education reform program and can carry novel and non-conventional solutions to many of the challenges that we face. In this respect I would like to highlight that our EEI involves four key programs addressing Pre-University Education, higher education, lifelong learning and local Industry development in E-learning and E-content.

The Pre-University Education Program is directed to developing low cost technology models for wider implementation. It will improve and develop E-curricula for different subjects and will provide E-training to teachers and administrators to build up management and leadership competencies. Our goal is to ensure that all Egyptian students are computer literate when they graduate from preparatory school.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The second program of the EEI is for higher education. It aims at helping to introduce more E-Learning and E-Content mechanisms in the Egyptian university system. It will also include introducing management information systems for the academic staff and help to provide a quality assurance accreditation in higher education in Egypt.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The third program of the EEI our Lifelong Learning program helps to implement a new strategy for learning and education of professionals proving that new technologies make the training experience more affordable and accessible. In this respect Egypt will continue to establish further E-learning competence centers to enhance our

workforce competitiveness in accordance with the evolving requirements of the global community. The focus of this program targets the small businesses as well as professionals with special needs.

The last program in our EEI is the Industry development program and is geared up to build local capacities of E-learning and E-content industry in Egypt. The development of the local industry in this sector will help to sustain the necessary momentum to implement the above mentioned ambitious goals over the next 3-4 years.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Dear Guests

The challenges are not easy, however, I am fully confident that our ministries of Communications and Information Technology, Education and Higher Education in cooperation with the WEF, business leaders and civil society will be able to address them adequately.

**Once again Ladies and Gentlemen I welcome you all here in Sharm El Sheikh and I appreciate the sincere efforts that you have all exerted and we look forward for the phases to follow.
I thank you for your attention.**

Speech of H.E. Dr. Ahmed Nazif
Prime Minister of Egypt
At the official launch of the Egyptian Education Initiative
Sharm EL Sheikh

Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, First Lady of Egypt
Mr. Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum,
Dear Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me a great pleasure to address this distinguished gathering at the remarkable event witnessing the official launch of the Egyptian Education Initiative as part of the Global Education Initiative (GEI). It was in Davos last January where the Government of Egypt and the World Economic Forum together with a support of the ICT multinational and business community have committed themselves to develop the Egyptian chapter of the initiative. As a result of their dedication and enthusiasm, we are able to celebrate today the official launch of the EEI.

Here at the outset, I would like to pay a special tribute to Mrs. Mubarak, the first lady of Egypt, who has inspired and supported the launch of this initiative. Her sincere devotion to the development of education in Egypt is a model to be followed.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Our Promise to the New Generation is a promise of peace, tolerance, mutual understanding and better opportunities for the future. Fulfilling this promise requires efforts and resources in our education system to meet the challenges of the knowledge based society. That is why, Education, both at school and higher levels, is at the heart of our reform program which Egypt has embarked on in the last two years.

It is our conviction that education is a fundamental human right and is instrumental in fighting poverty, eliminating gender inequality as well as introducing democracy. Education is also the best tool to fight ignorance, dispel hatred, and face terrorism. Furthermore, Education has become a corner stone for driving the economy forward.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The reform of our education system is meant to achieve two broad objectives: availability and quality. We face major challenges related to limited resources vis-à-vis the increasing number of children, we also still face challenges concerning some social realities related to gender, poverty and demographics in some of our regions .In addition, We must