

Prime Minister speech in the Conference & Exhibition of projects financed by EU-Egypt Innovation Fund

Dear attendees,

The great ۲۵th January Revolution and aspirations raised shall positively affect the higher education and scientific research policies in Egypt, not only because the academic sector consider as one of the most important sectors that arose to reform its situations and its leadership role as well.

Since its establishment in Egypt and Europe, the higher education and scientific research institutions has played main role in dialogue between cultures and this return to the fact that progress in science and research fields require open minds, readiness to cooperate through borders, and the keen on discovering various opportunities and channels.

Egypt has linked with strong political, cultural and economic relations with EU within Barcelona process, EU neighborhood and Union for Mediterranean policies, and scientific relations were recently enhanced through signing the science and technology agreement between Egypt and EU in ۲۰۰۵.

Outcomes of this agreement was the finance of research, development and innovation programme and I was happily following many of their activities while heading the Science Age Society, Dr. Essam said.

At the international level, during the last two decades an industrial economy change was carried to the current one concerning knowledge, and in this concern the Egyptian government is viewing the scientific research as one of the active sectors in the social and economic development fields. The government is paying great importance to the international cooperation to achieve Egypt's strategic targets to build society based on knowledge.

The society enjoys the ability to innovate, and the non-limited ability to educate, and has various successful components including scientists, researchers, engineers, technicians and research networks and companies working in the research field, and producing goods of advanced technologies. This society is based on using science and knowledge to empower people with culture and achieve sustainable development.

Today the higher education and scientific research institutions in Egypt face challenges forced by the current political conditions and accumulated policies. Overcoming these challenges call for the necessity of setting development of scientific research system, and the scientific research is a national security and to achieve this we need a continued dialogue and partnership among the society sectors especially the industrial and productive sectors, research and science sector. In this concern, the research, development and innovation programme has organized several activities in the field of supporting scientific culture.

The EU is keen on building existed economy based on the most competitiveness and dynamic knowledge worldwide and this requires the EU member countries to achieve great leap in scientific and technological development. Here comes the importance and partnership among the neighborhood countries especially Egypt.

For example, Egypt enjoys renewable energy especially the solar one and its

production and exportation can be expanded in the future via the Mediterranean Sea to be used in purifying sea water, and planting deserts in South Mediterranean countries.

Dear attendees,

The Egyptian government recognizes challenges facing the scientific research, and the significant role of science and technology as a strong push towards economy based on knowledge. Therefore scientific research and innovation was set within priorities of the state.

In this concern, the government is working to provide political support to empower the state for science and technology improvement through exerting efforts to enhance such sector.

Launching the second phase of the research, development and innovation programme in the scientific research ministry financed by EU will contribute in supporting and directing efforts exerted to improve science and technology.

Peace be upon you.