

Press release

A Cooperation Protocol Between MCIT and Ministry of Scientific Research to Maintain EDUEgypt Program to Building the Capacity of Students in the Field of Outsourcing for the Coming Five Years

Date published: 15 November 2011

- Minister of Communications and Information Technology and Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research witness the signing of a cooperation protocol to complete the implementation of the program to develop students' skills in the field of outsourcing over the next five years
- Dr. Mohammed Salem: Supporting outsourcing industry and exportation of IT services is a top priority for the sector during the current phase and our goal is to increase our technological exports to \$ 2 billion by 2013
- Dr. Moataz Khurshid: Implementation of the program in the Egyptian universities is an important step towards the implementation of the State's plan for the development of university education to cope with successive requirements in the labor market in Egypt

Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Dr. Mohamed Salem, and Minister of Higher Education and State for Scientific Research, Dr. Moataz Khurshid, witnessed the signing of a cooperation protocol to complete the implementation of the advanced stages of EduEgypt program.

The program is implemented by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology through the Information Technology Institute (ITI) in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education and State for Scientific Research and The information Technology Industry Development Authority "ITIDA" in order to develop the skills of university students before graduation.

The program aims also to qualify them for the labor market to meet the needs of qualified human resources at the highest levels, with a view to export IT services based on outsourcing system over the next five years.

Dr. Salem announced that the Ministry puts great importance to support outsourcing industry during the current phase through the implementation of a number of pivots; the most important of which is the qualification of the calibers of young Egyptian students in the Egyptian universities to meet the growing demand of local and global IT companies engaged in outsourcing and export services for the Egyptian cadres in this area. This will be done through an integrated strategy implemented by the communications and information technology sector in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education and State for Scientific Research for the preparation and qualification of these cadres at the highest level to provide information technology and outsourcing services.

Dr. Salem added that the goal is to focus on the need to double our exports of this industry in which Egypt has made an advanced rank over many emerging countries in this industry in the world by reaching the fourth rank worldwide in this area.

It is planned to achieve \$ 2 billion of exports by the year 2013. Dr. Salem also stressed that the Egyptian youth is capable to achieve more progress in this area and can achieve real added-value to the national economy through more exerting efforts and working to attract more investments to this sector which has achieved an unprecedented developmental leap so that we can move beyond this critical stage and move our country towards safety.

It is worth mentioning that the number of students trained through EduEgypt program since it was launched in December 2007 so far has reached 30000 trainees from Cairo and other governorates of the third and fourth years as the program is applied in 38 colleges in 12 universities in Egypt.

It is scheduled to complete the work of the program during the next academic year to include 13 Egyptian universities in order to increase the number of trainees to reach more than 9000 trainees per each academic year.

The protocol was signed by Mr. Yasser Al-Kadi, Chairman of the Information Technology Industry Development Authority "ITIDA", Dr. Salwa Gharib, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Universities, and Eng. Heba Saleh, Acting President of the Information Technology Institute.

The Ministers attended the specialized workshop titled "Bridging the gap between the information technology industry and academia" held by the Information Technology Institute (ITI) in cooperation with the of Computer Science and Informatics sector of the Supreme Council of Universities.

Dr. Moataz Khurshid announced that this meeting aims at exchanging ideas and viewpoints through dialogue between representatives of the education; deans and professors of colleges of Computer and Information Technology, representatives of information technology managers industry, officials and specialists in a number of companies based on industry information and communication technology in this field in Egypt. Meanwhile, Dr. Khurshid stressed that the "implementation of EduEgypt program in the Egyptian universities is an important step towards the implementation of the State's plan for the development of university education to be in line with the successive development and the requirements of the labor market in Egypt according to the mechanisms of the current stage."

"This forum deals with, during discussions, the four main pivots: Software Engineering and development, Cloud computing, Mobile Technology Applications and Business Intelligence Systems, and they are the axes required for the labor market during the coming period." Ms. Heba Saleh, Acting President of the Information Technology Institute (ITI), said.

The workshop included a series of specialized seminars during which the key players of the industry and education in the field of information technology sought to develop a set of recommendations that represent the pillars underpinning the future plans for the development of education and human resource development in many areas, especially the IT industry in Egypt.



A group of deans and professors of the faculties of computers and information in various universities in Egypt participate in the events of the workshop in addition to the participation by a large number of local and global IT companies operating in the communications and information technology in Egypt.

- ENDS -

Contact details:

Ahmed Reda
Media & Communication Manager
Information Technology Industry Development Agency
T: +202 35 34 51 85
E: areda@itida.gov.eg

About ITIDA:

The Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) is a governmental entity affiliated to Egypt's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. It is responsible for growing and developing Egypt's position as a leading global outsourcing location by attracting foreign direct investment to the industry and maximizing the exports of IT services and applications.

Located in the heart of the modern business environment at Smart Village, the six hundred acre business park on the outskirts of Cairo, ITIDA is a self-sustainable entity that drives the IT industry in Egypt and raises awareness among the Egyptian people of the benefits and use of ICT to advance socio-economic welfare of the whole community.