

Cisco Collaborates with Egypt's Ministry of CIT to Accelerate Digital Transformation and Spur Tech Innovation



CAIRO, EGYPT – 6 December 2018 – Cisco announced it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Egypt's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) to help accelerate the country's digital transformation strategy and spur technology innovation. The signing ceremony was witnessed by Prime Minister Dr. Mostafa Madbouly, Dr. Amr Talaat, Minister of Communications and Information Technology of Egypt and Chuck Robbins, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Cisco.

The MoU which outlines Cisco's Country Digital Acceleration (CDA) program for Egypt, will focus on building the capacities of the workforce needed to implement Egypt's Digital Transformation Strategy and boosting the country's efforts to become a regional hub for digital innovation.

Within the scope of the MoU, Cisco will partake in the ministry's talent development and capacity building programs related to the Presidential Initiatives of the National Academy of IT for PwDs (People with Disabilities) and the Africa Innovation in Digital Applications & Game Development Initiative.

The company will also aim at expanding its Cisco's Networking Academy (NetAcad) program in Egypt to double the number of Egyptian and African beneficiaries to reach 20,000 students in 2019 and 30,000 students in 2020.

The MCIT and Cisco intend to concentrate on other strategic pillars such as digital health, leveraging Cisco technologies to digitize forty (40) health units; introduce digital inclusion in education and support the development of digital citizen services capitalizing on Egypt Post network of outlets. Additionally, as part of the program, Cisco will support the deployment of Internet of Things (IoT) and smart city solutions in Egypt.

In the area of entrepreneurship and start-ups, Cisco will work with the Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurs Center (TIEC) of the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) to boost Egypt's innovation ecosystem through mentorship, training and share global expertise with local start-ups to gain market access and support from global innovation organisations as part of the agreement.

Commenting on the new partnership with Cisco, Dr. Amr Talaat, Minister of CIT said: "This collaboration displays our commitment to accelerating the pace of the country's digital transformation and boosting the ICT sector that comes in line with the government's sustainable development plan 2030. We work on developing the entire ecosystem that supports a highly-skilled and entrepreneurial workforce and we are looking forward to capitalizing on Cisco's expertise in the field of digitization."

The CDA program expands Cisco's long-standing commitment to Egypt. Since 1999, more than 95,000 students have participated in Cisco Networking Academy courses, with 92% of graduates receiving a job opportunity or pursuing further education.

Chuck Robbins, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Cisco said, "Cisco is proud to work with the Egyptian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology to fast-track its national digitization agenda. Technology is the driving force behind



social and economic development in the digital age. As a strategic partner and investor in the Middle East and Africa region, we are committed to supporting Egypt in talent development and business innovation. Together, we will work to create a sustainable, advanced ecosystem across public and private sectors.”

Maha Rashad, Acting CEO of ITIDA commented, “ITIDA works with entrepreneurial and collaborative spirit together with global tech players to help grow the Egyptian IT industry. Our agreement today with Cisco will help us achieve our goals of accelerating digital adoption in Egypt, creating new jobs for the Egyptian talent, and stimulating tech and digital innovation ecosystem which is thriving like never before.”

Ayman Elgohary, General Manager for Cisco in Egypt concluded, “We look forward to strengthening our contribution to Egypt’s socio-economic success. We are also supporting Egypt’s regional endeavors towards stimulating innovation and building digital talent in Africa.”

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