

## Press release

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### Graduation of 10000 EDUEgypt Students to join Exporting Technological Services Field by Outsourcing

On Behalf of Prime Minister, Dr. Kamel and Dr. Hani Helal Witness the Graduation of 10000 EDUEgypt Students to join Exporting Technological Services Field by Outsourcing

**Cairo, 18 October 2010** Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Dr. Tarek Kamel, on behalf of Prime Minister Dr. Ahmed Nazif, witnessed today the graduation party of the 3rd batch of the Egyptian University Graduates Skills Development Program (EDUEgypt) who will join the field of exporting technological services by outsourcing.

The event comes in the course of implementing Egypt's plan to develop university education and keep up with the successive growth in labor market requirements, and through a full-fledged strategy mutually executed by the ICT sector seeking to prepare highly qualified calibers of IT and outsourcing services to meet the increasing demand from national and international IT companies.

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Hani Helal, a group of ICT leaders, a number of Egyptian universities heads and professors, and representatives of global and Egyptian companies working in the field of IT attended the ceremony.

The batch includes a total of around 10.000 3rd and 4th year students from 35 colleges in 10 universities from Cairo and other governorates. For a whole year, these graduates have been trained under the auspices of the IT Institute inside Egyptian universities as a preparation for the labor market and a fulfillment of the goal of linking universities and academic studies with the IT industry and market requirements in the field of exporting technological services. This step is meant to provide the market with distinguished human cadres in this field.

In the speech delivered during the ceremony by Minister of Communications and Information Technology Dr. Tarek Kamel on behalf of Prime Minister Dr. Ahmed Nazif, Dr. Kamel said that "the success that we are witnessing in the meantime gives us hope in the future of our sons.

The stories of achievements told by these ardent and promising Egyptian young people who are capable of taking on responsibilities if properly trained and had their skills honed to meet the requirement of the labor market is the best indication that we are moving in the right direction.

It also means that our understanding of human investment is that it is the best and most fruitful investment ever, and that the practical change that EDUEgypt brought about in the characters of our graduates urges us to invest in this change and expand the deployment of technological areas outside the metropolitan, i.e. in Alexandria, Asyut, Mansoura,... etc. as in Maadi and the Smart Village in Cairo.

EDUEgypt comes as a result of constructive cooperation between the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the course of implementing President Mubarak's presidential campaign program to create prestigious job opportunities for the Egyptian youth through a strategic plan established by the government to develop the outsourcing industry.

The close cooperation between the two ministries has resulted in two agreements entered into for the purpose of improving the language and skills of student in this field. Among these agreements, a protocol has been signed in December 2007 to develop the skills of Egyptian university students through a program known as EDUEgypt to prepare university students to work in Egyptian, Arab, and international companies right after graduation in the fields of outsourcing industry and IT services.

IT Institute head, Dr. Mohamed Salem stated that the idea of EDUEgypt is mainly based on training students during their university years instead of waiting for them to graduate to meet the increasing demand by national and international companies.

The program aims at training university students on interpersonal skills and honing their linguistic, technological, as well as their technical skills in connection with BPO and ITO in view of the skills gap between the level of students and their scientific background on the one part and the requirements of industry in terms of these skills on the other part.

Moreover, the program seeks to develop students' skill repository and prepare them for work as soon as they graduate in different specialties in ICT industry.

Advisor to the minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Mohammed Shaera said that the first phase of the program was initiated in the academic year 2007/2008 (second semester) and included 5 colleges in Cairo and Ain Shams Universities with 3000 students participating and achieving a very high employment rate.

The second phase of the program covered the academic year 2008/2009 starting from the first semester and encompassed 5000 final-year students in 22 colleges from 7 universities namely; Cairo, Ain Shams, Helwan, Alexandria, Zaqaziq, Mansoura, Asyut.

It is worth mentioning that ITIDA is financing this program and coordinating with other concerned parties regarding the implementation of its strategy. A number of world companies, including IBM Daksh, Infosys, and Firstsource, specialized in the field of training are participating in the implementation of this program. EDUEgypt has become

one of the main pillars for attracting more direct foreign investments in the Egyptian ICT market.

It also has become a living proof of how keen the ICT sector is to take advantage of world experiences and international companies specialized in training human and professional cadres since cooperation with such companies helps Egyptian trainers to gain international experience which in turn is positively reflected on the levels of students participating in the program.

ITIDA Board Member Counselor, Amin Khairallah maintained that the EDUEgypt program has become one of the crucial initiatives supporting Egypt's status on the world map in the field of exporting IT services and outsourcing service and that it won Egypt the fifth position all over the world as a promising country in this field.

Counselor Khairallah added that cooperation with such companies highly contributes to helping Egyptian trainers acquire international experience, which is positively reflected on the level of students enrolled in EDUEgypt.

It is worth mentioning that the Egyptian outsourcing industry amounted to \$1 billion and kicking up to \$1.1 billion by the end of this year. MICT is seeking to increase the volume of this industry up to \$2 billion by the end of 2013.

It is expected that it will reach \$10 billion by 2020 bearing in mind that the export return per specialist is almost \$30,000 on average on a yearly basis. The number of specialists in the field of outsourcing and exporting IT services in Egypt has surged from 6000 in 2005 to 35000 this year.

This phase marked by cooperation between three major companies specialized in the field of outsourcing and operating in India. These companies helped prepare and qualify 240 Egyptian trainers for work in Egyptian universities. Training and tests of this phase were concluded last September.

The IT Institute was keen on having Egyptian companies operating in the field of outsourcing play a major role in terms of designing the program from the beginning of phases one and two regarding student interviews and tests designed to select them which will be a prelude to the creation of an employment mechanism meeting their needs.

The third phase of the program for the academic year 2009/2010 has been planned based on two levels:

First level: Targets 3rd year students totaling 6000 students from participating universities. The training content focuses on developing the linguistic level of students so as to help them move along and benefit from the program as best as could be.



Second level: for the 4th year students. This level targeted 4000 students from 10 universities (Cairo, Ain Shams, Helwan, Alexandria, Mansoura, Zaaziq, Suez Canal, Tanta, Asyut, and Sohag) as well as training in the field of outsourcing industry and exporting technological services. The program encompassed this year 10.000 students from 35 colleges from the aforementioned 10 universities.

Preparation for the fourth phase of the program for the academic year 2010/2011 with 17000 3rd and 4th year students in 40 colleges from 12 universities is underway. This is a new challenge for the IT Institute in this program since the institute is so keen on striking a balance between the skills of graduates and the needs of company owners.

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**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.