

## Press release

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### Egypt's SECC Passes on Expertise to Syria

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Software Engineering Competence Center (SECC), an affiliate of Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA), agreed with Syrian Computer Society (SCS) to start a Process Improvement Project in Syria in November 2009.

SCS will benefit through this project from the expertise of SECC in boosting the competence of Syrian software development companies.

The three-year project is based on a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between Egypt's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) and Syria's Ministry of Communications and Technology (MOCT) in June 2009. The project's duration can be renewed.

The agreement followed a meeting by the representatives of the two entities as part of a workshop where the details of the project were discussed. Also the timeframe for implementation and the selection criteria of companies were tackled during the workshop.

The agreement aims at organizing a bilateral cooperation framework enabling Syrian companies to improve their operational mechanisms to be qualified to receive the Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI).

A seminar was also held about the project for the Syrian IT community attended by a SECC delegation and a number of Syrian IT companies leaders. The project's Syrian taskforce supervised by MOCT contributed to the meeting. SCS will follow up all the executive and administrative aspects of the project.

SECC Chairman Dr. Gamal Mohamed Ali noted that the project is expected to be carried out based on three major tracks.

The first track revolves around SECC passing its expertise to Syrian companies in the area of developing the competitive edge of the Syrian software industry. In this respect, SECC will help in training specialists and others working in the field. In addition, SECC will offer consultations with regards to the technical assessment of the capability of such companies following international assessment methods.

The second track makes use of the Egyptian experience to support small and medium-sized software companies in Syria through an integrated incentive of training and consultations related to accredited criteria and standard operational procurers as per the resources and capabilities of similar firms.

The third track aims to establish a center for developing the industry in Syria as well as qualify and build the potentials of the required technical calibers to



run the center and set the necessary technical measures for continuing its operations.

Dr. Ali added that the above procedures will be reflected on the performance of Syrian companies and the quality of their products to help them compete in international markets and in turn attract foreign investments.

Established by MCIT in June 2001, SECC works on boosting the software industry in Egypt by improving the software engineering practices so as to achieve a strong presence in the global market. SECC has recently expanded its services to include countries in the Gulf and North Africa.

#### About SECC

Established by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology in 2001 as an affiliate to the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA), the Software Engineering Competence Center (SECC) aims to boost the software industry in Egypt by improving software engineering practices so as to achieve a strong presence in the global market. To attain its target, SECC seeks: to follow the international standard criteria that aim at developing the software industry; to enhance the potential and operations of software companies and raise their awareness of state-of-the-art software tools; to modify the management concepts of software companies to conform to international standards and specifications; to offer the necessary support for the transfer of advanced software technologies; and to encourage Egyptian companies to export software products and cooperate with companies abroad.

#### About ITIDA

Established in 2004, the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) aims at developing and promoting the Egyptian IT industry. Relying on unequivocal governmental support, ITIDA utilizes the vast array of advantages bestowed upon Egypt and synchronizes public and private efforts in order to keep the country at the forefront of the global ICT market.