

Press release

Joint ITIDA-Eitesal Workshop Held on Scientific Research, ICT Industry

Information Technology Academia Collaboration (ITAC) organized jointly with Egyptian Information Telecommunications, Electronics and Software Alliance (Eitesal) a workshop on means of boosting cooperation between scientific research and information and communication technology (ICT) industry.

Cairo, 10 December 2009: The event, entitled "Hand in Hand: Academia meets ICT industry 'Bridging Practice & Science'" brought together university professors, researchers and ICT leaders. It was an example of effective joint effort that can be followed by other academic communities.

The workshop aimed to figure out means of bridging the divide between the academia and the industry itself via solving problems that hinder efficient collaboration.

Such a target can be achieved through a logical methodology and practical solutions that are likely to develop the relation between the two parties.

The workshop sought to reach three important mechanisms. The three principles are based on managing cooperation between scientific research and ICT industry through white papers and technical research, setting solid bases for bilateral communication and establishing a supportive method for acquiring current and future capitals.

Dr. Sherif Hashim, Vice Executive President of Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) stressed the necessity of supporting collaboration between companies and universities and research centers as well as linking them to the needs of the market and companies.

ITIDA, Dr. Hashim added, has been playing a key role in this respect through the ITAC program.

ITAC, an ITIDA initiative, primarily aims to promote for cooperation in the areas of IT Industry and academia through linking academic research with

industry and market needs and building networks of research and development (R&D).

Dr. Ahmed Tantawy, Director of Egypt-IBM Nanotechnology Research Center confirmed the significance of innovation and scientific research in producing ICT to meet the community's needs.

For his part, Eitesal Chairman Eng. Tarek El Hemaily pointed out the importance of increasing the number of Egyptian patents as well as meeting the local and international market demands of IT solutions.

Meanwhile, the workshop formed a committee to follow up the agreed upon mechanisms. Two members were elected from each field, namely electronics, communications and software, to represent the two aspects of research and industry. Two members were also selected to represent ITIDA and Eitesal. The head of the committee was nominated by the two entities.

The committee will follow up the progress achieved through the workshop as well as supervise the release of a white paper on handling the relation between scientific research and industry. In addition, it will supervise the finalization and update of the workshop website.

Moreover, the committee will choose consulting firms to facilitate funding as well as manage the relation among the concerned parties to tackle any national problems requiring ICT solutions.

The white paper currently prepared is an assessment of the present situation between the two fields with regards to ICT. It tackles the expectations of each party, presenting strategic analysis for collaboration and future mechanisms satisfying the two of them.

The white paper also puts forward a framework for cooperation to maintain mutual interests, preserve intellectual property rights and related rights and resolve disputes. Universities are considered indirect partners in agreements through the white paper.

The white paper carries out a protocol for the arbitration of disputes and a mechanism to maintain the present momentum and promotes further cooperation.

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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.

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