Transition to Digital Society Is State Strategy in Cooperation with All Sectors, ICT Minister Says

Cairo, 6 February 2018

The Minister of Communications and Information Technology Yasser ElKady said that the transformation to the digital society is a state strategy, implemented in cooperation with all sectors, aiming provide distinguished services to citizens through electronic transactions that contribute to combating corruption, adding that this transformation will strengthen the financial inclusion system. This came during a meeting organized by The Egyptian Information, Telecommunications, Electronics, and Software Alliance (EITESAL), within the framework of the initiative "Meeting with Government", in the presence of a number of officials of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) and EITESAL members and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

In his speech, ElKady reviewed the "ICT Sector Strategy 2025", recently presented to the President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, which includes nine main areas: creating an environment conducive to innovation and technological investment, developing specialized technological industries and developing the telecommunications infrastructure. This is in addition to the transition to the digital community, the promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship, the increase of investments and the opening up of new regional and international markets, as well as community development using ICTs, and the development of postal services and financial inclusion for citizens.

He stated that the sector was able to achieve the highest growth rate of 12.5%, achieving a contribution rate of GDP of 3.5%, and the exports of information technology amounted to approximately 3.26 billion dollars, according to International Data Corporation (IDC) report. MCIT seeks to create an environment conducive to enhancing investment and administering justice in the technological development nationwide, not only in Cairo. This will be attained through the establishment of technology parks in different governorates, where a whole chapter focused on technology parks in the investment law to provide facilities and incentives for investors. He also added that MCIT is to establish a technology park in the New Mansoura city.

The ICT Minister pointed out that the sector gives due consideration to the development of the electronics industry, especially that two plants are to be established in Beni Suef Technology Park, in addition to establishing an industrial cluster in in Sadat City Technology Park. He hailed the success of the ICT sector in establishing successful partnerships between the public and private sectors and civil society, highlighting that SMEs will play an important role in digital transformation initiatives through the implementation of a number of technology infrastructure projects for institutions and agencies, especially in the applications related to providing education, health, electricity and energy services, as well as the applications of smart city systems management.

He also highlighted the role played by Egypt Post to strengthen the system of financial inclusion, adding that within the framework of MCIT plan to support creativity and innovation, MCIT agreed with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research on the dissemination of technological innovation clusters within universities in all governorates. He also referred to the implementation of programs and initiatives to integrate and empower People with Disabilities (PwDs) using ICTs as one of the main pillars of the ICT sector strategy.

On the other hand, the Chairman of EITESAL Hazem El-Tahawy said that the 2018 plan focuses on the development of the outsourcing industry in cooperation with ITIDA, affiliated to MCIT, by encouraging young people to work in outsourcing centers, developing skills through capacity building training programs, and covering   different markets in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

He also pointed out that EITESAL aims to encourage companies to use modern

technology applications and qualify them for using these applications through technology incubators, in addition to supporting creativity and entrepreneurship activities. He also reviewed the company's achievements during the past year, including helping companies expand in foreign markets, supporting the using the Internet of Things (IoT) applications, establishing an innovation cluster in partnership with a number of companies and scientific bodies in the technology park of Borg Al Arab in Alexandria. He expressed EITESAL wish to establish other innovation clusters in the technology parks that have been established.

The ICT Minister witnessed the signing of an agreement between EITESAL and Ocean County

College to provide training programs in English language for 500 trainees to reach 1500 trainees by the end of the training. The agreement was signed by Hazem El Tahawy and Jon H. Larson, the President of Ocean County College.

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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.