

Egypt Outreach



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Egypt Development Marketplace Competition

The EDM is part of the Global Development Marketplace (DM) program which aims to create a platform of ideas, talent and resources around the challenges in world development.

On 7 May 2003, the EDM competition, which is aimed at encouraging new ideas & solutions around the theme of "Skills Enhancement", is being held. Out of 186 proposals initially received, 36 have been selected as finalists to vie for awards of 50,000-250,000 Egyptian Pounds each in start-up funds.

(Full story on page 10)

contents

- 3** Dr. Selima Abdel Rahim
A Pioneer in her Community
- 4** A New Approach to
Irrigation Development
- 6** Ongoing Projects
- 8** News
- 10** Egypt Development
Market Place (EDM)
- 11** PIC Egypt

in cooperation with:



INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION

A SECOND CHANCE



A success story for girls' education in Al-Hargawia

The education system in Egypt is not only the largest in the Middle East and North Africa region but also one of the largest in the world. The great majority of students in Egypt at the primary to tertiary levels, are enrolled in public institutions. Meanwhile girls' enrollment rates consistently lag behind those of boys, especially in Upper Egypt.

To achieve universal access for girls, has become necessary to overcome the remaining obstacles to girls' education in poor, rural and culturally conservative areas of the country.

In this context, the Education Enhancement Program (EEP), one of the education programs financed by the World Bank, developed with the Egyptian authorities some strategies to increase girls' enrollment in primary education. The key elements were the promotion of an enabling environment in Egypt,

including progress on access and implementation with partnerships. This led to a new strategic vision and policy framework for primary and preparatory schooling reform, developed in the mid 1990's, with strong backing from government leaders. The design and development of the EEP was firmly imbedded in this new vision and policy framework. Additionally, the focus on addressing quality issues in the EEP has been crucial to improving the school environment, thereby attracting girls to school and reducing dropout rates.

→ continued on page 2

A Pioneer in her Co

Dr. Selima Abdel Rahim

Can a traditional society change without losing its heritage? Can ancient customs be compatible with development? Is it possible to balance past, present and future as the world speeds through a new millennium?

These are questions that Dr. Selima Abdel Rahim has struggled with all her life. Born in the mid-1950's to a Bedouin family belonging to the now-settled Awlad Ali tribe near Marsa Matrouh, in the northwest corner of Egypt, her future was determined by age-old tradition: like her mother and grandmothers before her, she would spend her childhood learning how to run a home and then, at the age of 14 or 15, she would marry and raise a family of her own. But Selima was different.

When her younger brother went to school at the age of six, she took an interest in the homework he brought back each day and taught herself how to read. When her brother began to play truant, the seven year-old Selima struck a bargain with her father: she would accompany her brother to school to make sure he didn't run away. Once there, she excelled at her lessons and soon outshone her brother. The latter eventually dropped out, leaving Selima's family with a dilemma: not only was it virtually unheard of for a Bedouin girl to go to school in the 1960's, but to go without her brother violated all the norms of their conservative society, in which girls and women rarely ventured far from the home and only then when accompanied by male relatives. School, it was decided, must stop. Selima cried, yelled, cajoled and begged.

Finally she had her way and completed her primary education. Her parents assumed she would stop there but Selima had other ideas and convinced them to let her attend secondary school. When the time came for university, the battle resumed again. Against her parent's wishes, she applied to go to veterinary college and, in an act of incredible audacity for a young Bedouin girl, she marched up the steps of the governorate building in Marsa Matrouh and petitioned the Governor himself for help. In 1981, after overcoming innumerable hurdles, she received her degree and began to practice as a vet. "People told my parents they were crazy to let me go off by myself," reminisces Dr. Selima. "They said my father was a weak man to let his daughter be educated. I was supposed to be getting married and having children." She

was lucky, she says, to have had such tolerant parents. "My father read the Quran and understood that girls could learn to read just like boys. He respected my decisions." Selima paid him back by helping to support the family and "show that girls could contribute as well as boys." Also, she ensured that her four younger sisters benefited from her experience: all were educated to a secondary or higher level.

Serving the community was a prime concern for the young graduate and her profession was carefully chosen to be of use to her fellow Bedouins. "Originally, I wanted to do some sort of social studies but then I realised that, although agriculture and animal husbandry were the main sources of income for the Bedouin in Marsa Matrouh, there were plenty of agricultural engineers but almost no vets" she says. Accordingly she joined the

Her dream is to establish an agency that is "devoted solely to the development of women living between Salloum and Hamam".

governorate's veterinary directorate and spent the following five years treating animals in the area. However, her work soon took on another dimension. As a Bedouin woman she had access to the half of the community that was off-limits to her male colleagues. She discovered that their needs went far beyond curing sick livestock. Most could not read, which left them utterly dependent on the men in their families for even the most basic tasks. Widows and divorced women were the most vulnerable because they had few sources of income and were often unable to get the state benefits for which they were eligible.

Whenever she could, Selima would help the women she came across, sometimes completing the paperwork so that a widow could obtain her husband's pension, sometimes augmenting a divorced woman's income by finding a market for the rugs that she wove in her spare time.



World Bank Events

In the context of continuous cooperation between the World Bank and Egyptian economic and educational institutions, several important events took place earlier this year. Senior staff from the World Bank Headquarters participated in these events which covered important economic issues.

The topics varied from poverty diagnostics and related projects, to investment climate, growth, employment and the 'Participation of the Poor in Economic Reform' design.

Investment Climate, Growth and Employment



Mr. Mohamed Mansour (American Chamber President), Mr. Nicholas Stern (World Bank Chief Economist) and Dr. Taher Helmy (Chairman of the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies ECES) at the event hosted by AmCham and ECES, discussing 'Investment Climate, Growth and Employment'.

Al-Ahram Center for Political & Strategic Studies



Arup Banerji (World Bank Lead Economist and task team leader of the Poverty Project-joint project with the Ministry of Planning) and Professor Michael Lipton (Sussex University), meeting with NGO's and journalists interested in poverty issues. The event was organized by Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies.

Poverty Project Studies Findings Discussed



Professor M. Lipton (Professor at Sussex University), Mr. Arup Banerji (Lead Economist in the World Bank), Dr. Heba Nassar (Head of Center of Economic and Financial Research and Studies) and Dr. Sherine Al-Shawarby (Country Economist, World Bank office in Cairo), at the workshop hosted by The Center of Economic and Financial Research and Studies at Cairo University. The participants discussed the preliminary findings of the second phase of Poverty Project studies.

Lecture on Economic Reform Design



Dr. Heba Nassar (Head of Center of Economic and Financial Research and Studies), Professor Galal Amin (American University, Cairo), Mr. Nicholas Stern (The World Bank Chief Economist), Professor Said El-Naggar (Cairo University) and Dr. Mona El Baradei (Chairperson of the Economic Department, Faculty of Economics) at the lecture on Participation of the Poor in Economic Reform Design, organized by CEFRS and the Economics Department of the Faculty of Economics, Cairo University.

Portfolio Highlights:

National Drainage II (US\$50 million)

The project aims to: (1) increase the agricultural productivity of about 0.8 million feddans of irrigated land by improving drainage conditions through evacuation of excess irrigation water with subsurface drains into existing open drains; and (2) avoid yield and production losses on this land, which would result if water logging and soil salinity problems were to persist

Higher Education Enhancement (US\$50 million)

The project aims to create the conditions fundamental to improving the quality and efficiency of the higher education system in Egypt through legislative reform, institutional restructuring, and establishment of independent quality assurance mechanisms and monitoring systems.

Social Fund III (US\$50 million)

The project's objective is to help create jobs and provide community infrastructure and services through labor-intensive works.

Private Sector & Agriculture Development (US\$175 million)

The project seeks to support the Government's continuing policies of encouraging broad-based private-sector-led growth in order to meet the need for increased employment opportunities and income for a growing population. The project will specifically: (1) promote rural economic development, leading to increased income and employment in rural Egypt; and (2) strengthen financial and institutional viability of the Principal Bank for Development and Agricultural Credit (PBDAC), a public sector institution that is in effect the main institution providing financial services in rural Egypt.

Social Protection Initiative (US\$5 million)

The objective of the project is to develop and test integrated programs for children with disabilities and youth at risk, through a range of providers, and to assist the Government in developing a new strategy to improve services for this sector.

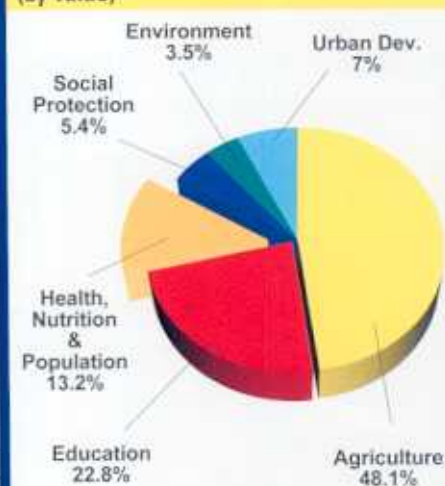
World Bank Ongoing Projects

Projects	Approval Date	Closing Date	Loan Amount	Disbursed Amount (US\$ mil)	Undisb. Amt. 2/ (US\$ mil)	Primary Sector
Basic Education	03/25/93	12/31/2003	75.00	48.59	6.75	Education
East Delta Agr. Services	11/04/97	6/30/2004	15.00	1.83	13.33	Agriculture
Educ. Enhancement	12/24/96	12/31/2004	75.00	36.18	32.98	Education
Health Sector	05/21/98	6/30/2004	90.00	6.01	85.46	Hlth, Nutr & Popul
National Drainage II	06/15/00	6/30/2007	50.00	8.59	41.41	Agriculture
Irrigation Improvement	12/22/94	12/31/2004	80.00	45.80	27.92	Agriculture
Higher Educ. Enhancement	04/16/02	12/31/2007	50.00	0.50	49.50	Education
Matruh Resource Mgt.	05/27/93	12/31/2002	22.00	21.18	0.26	Agriculture
Pumping Stations Rehab. III	08/06/98	2/28/2005	120.00	21.38	98.62	Agriculture
Pollution Abatement	12/16/97	9/30/2003	35.00	17.61	16.56	Environment
Population	03/21/96	12/31/2003	17.20	5.59	10.10	Hlth, Nutr & Popul
Prvt Sect. & Agr. Dev.	06/22/99	12/31/2006	175.00	4.21	169.26	Agriculture
Pvt Sec Tourism Inf & Env	05/18/93	12/31/2003	70.50	62.46	0.00	Urban Dev.
Schistosomiasis Control	06/25/92	9/30/2002	26.84	21.51	0.00	Hlth, Nutr & Popul
Soc Protection Init.	06/29/99	12/31/2004	5.00	0.35	4.49	Social Protection
Social Fund III	06/01/99	12/31/2004	50.00	2.50	46.79	Social Protection
Sohag Rural Dev.	08/27/98	6/30/2005	25.00	3.91	21.28	Agriculture
Sec Educ Enhancement	04/15/99	6/30/2006	50.00	9.66	38.00	Education
Total			1,031.54	317.86	662.70	

1/ As of November 10, 2002

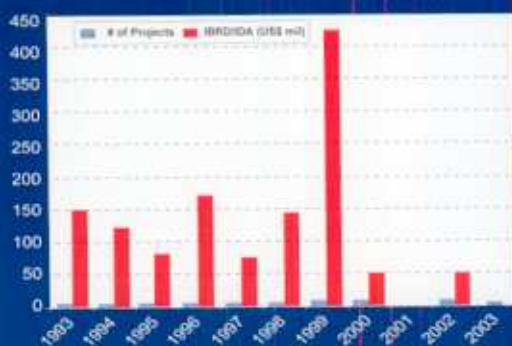
2/ Loan Amount minus Disbursement will not equate Undisbursed Amount due to exchange rate vis-à-vis SDR

Sectoral Distribution of ongoing projects (by value)



World Bank Assistance (FY1993-2003)

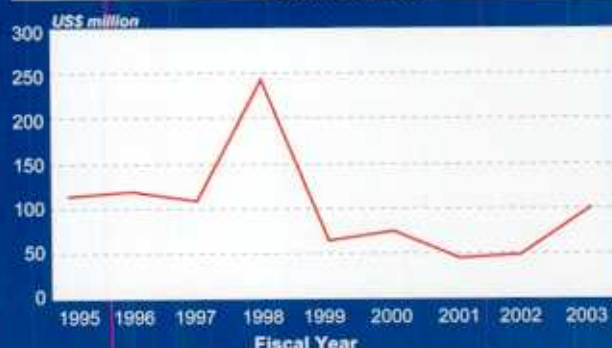
Fiscal year	# of Projects	IBRD/IDA (US\$mil)
1993	3	148.0
1994	1	121.0
1995	1	80.0
1996	3	172.2
1997	1	75.0
1998	4	142.0
1999	6	425.0
2000	1	50.0
2001	0	0.0
2002	1	50.0
2003	1	12.4
Result 1/	22	1,275.6



1/ Result as of November 10, 2002

Note: One loan for about \$12.4 million is expected for FY2003

Disbursements



Note: Disbursement in FY03 is expected to hit \$100 million

Disability and Development Conference 2002



On 3 December, 2002, the World Bank marked the occasion of the United Nations International Day of the Disabled with a day-long event on disability and development. The event featured presentations by World Bank President, James Wolfensohn, Her Majesty Queen Noor of Jordan and United States Senator Edward Kennedy, among others. The event also served as a forum for promoting discussion between the World Bank, NGO's and the disabled. The conference was followed by a four week e-discussion entitled "Poverty Reduction and Disability: The Bank's Challenge".

A new Country Program Coordinator: Mr. HABIB FETINI

Mr. Habib Fetini has been appointed as Country Program Coordinator covering Egypt, Yemen and Djibouti. In his new assignment, which is based in Washington, Mr. Fetini will help the Country Director in facilitating communications, ensuring country focus of all operational matters and leading the policy and programming dialogue in Washington.

Mr. Fetini, a Tunisian national, joined the bank in 1993 as a Country Economist in East Asia region's. Since late 1994, he has been working in Middle East and North Africa region, his most recent assignment being Lead Economist.



Ms. Mamphela Ramphela Managing Director visiting Egypt

Ms. Mamphela Ramphela, Managing Director responsible for Policy Formulation and Implementation in the Knowledge, Health, Education and Social Protection Domains visited Cairo during 21-22 January. During her visit, Dr. Ramphela held discussions with the Prime Minister and other senior officials on World Bank assistance to the development process in Egypt. She also participated in the Global Development Network Conference and a panel on Knowledge, Competitiveness and Development hosted by Al-Ahram Center on 22 January.



Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics in Europe (15-16 MAY 2003, PARIS, FRANCE)

The ABCDE has become a key event in Europe for the discussion of development issues. It is a unique platform of exchange for many of the world's finest development thinkers and experienced policymakers to present their perspectives and ideas, and to challenge researchers and senior staff of the World Bank and other multilateral organizations with their views. The ABCDE-Europe was designed to expand the flow of ideas between thinkers, practitioners and policy-makers within the field of international development and provides a forum for discussion on key international development issues. By bringing together an array of academics, politicians, institutes, think-tanks, students and journalists, the ABCDE-Europe 2003 will provide an excellent opportunity to foster exchange of knowledge and understanding of development issues. It will also contribute an intellectual input to the G8 Summit taking place in France two weeks after the conference.



World Water Forum

The World Bank

World Bank in World Water Forum More investments and better results on the ground

In a new position paper released recently, the World Bank reemphasizes the importance of water as a key driver of growth and poverty reduction, calling to developed and developing countries to work together to increase investments in water in poor nations and achieve **better results on the ground.**

The report, "Water: A Priority for Responsible Growth and Poverty Reduction: An Agenda for Investment and Policy Change" establishes that investments in water in developing countries will need to increase from the current level. According to the Bank, such investments should go hand-in-hand with appropriate reforms and should apply to all areas of water, including irrigation,

water and sanitation, water resources management, hydropower and environmental services. These issues are the core of the Bank's new Water Sector Strategy, which was recently approved by the Bank's Board of Directors. The report emphasizes that "governments and all interested parties, including users, need to commit to making choices that will have both medium and long-term, positive impacts on water management and on the delivery of services. Rich countries have an obligation to support poor countries who engage in these difficult reform process."

The report suggests an action-oriented agenda focused on the increased investments in water resources and services linked to poverty reduction, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and Reform, which includes sound management policies, laws, regulations and efficient institutions.

The Public Information Center maintained at the World Bank Cairo Office, makes Bank information available to the public and disseminate its work to the widest possible audience. The PIC serves as the central contact in the country for persons seeking to obtain Bank documents and information on Bank's operations.

PIC Services:

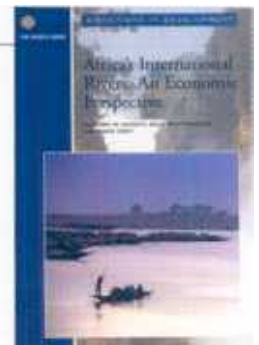
- Access to World Bank publications
- Free training on electronic search on the World Bank homepage
- Free access to electronic search through stations dedicated to client's service
- Photocopying service (for World Bank publications)
- Answers to queries through email or telephone

R e c e n t W o r l d B a n k P u b l i c a t i o n s

Africa's International Rivers: An Economic Perspective

More than 60 international rivers traverse the continent of Africa. As population economies grow, these rivers need to be developed and managed in order to meet the needs of the African people. The fundamental challenge in developing these shared waters will be to do so equitably and in an environmentally, socially and economically sustained manner. Part I of this book provides a broad overview of the numerous shared rivers in Africa and offers some insights into riparian

dynamics and the feasibility of cooperative management. Part II assesses the economics of international rivers and explores the links between water resources management and economic growth and poverty. It also focuses on the concept of water as an economic product and the implications this has for management. Part III explores the challenges of cooperative, Transboundary management.

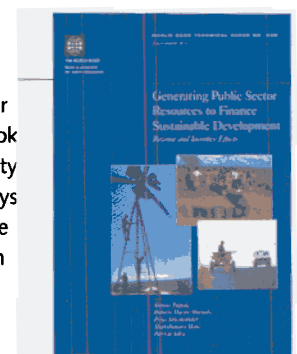


Generating Public Sector Resources to Finance Sustainable Development: Revenue and Incentive Effects

Ensuring that sufficient resources will be available to finance the internationally agreed upon development goals was at the heart of the discussions at the World summit on Sustainable Development held in 2002 in Johannesburg. In order to make finance mechanisms more effective, resources will have to come from both the public and private sectors and innovative approaches will have to be designed.

This specific objective of this book is to explore potential

avenues for generating more resources for the public sector to invest in sustainable development. The first half of the book considers ways to release existing resources through a variety of public sector actions, while the second half focuses on ways to produce new financial flows by capturing a greater share of the rents from natural resources and by instituting green levies.



Regional Integration and Development

Given the remarkable increase in Regional Integration Agreements (RIA's) in the past decade, understanding of their economic rationale and consequences is essential. Schiff and Winters succeed admirably in covering the conceptual, empirical and policy issues arising from RIA's in an informed, comprehensible and accessible manner. Their book should be required reading for policy analysts, academics and students concerned with evaluation of RIA initiatives. Robert M. Stern, Department of Economics and Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan Regional Integration and Development, examines regionalism from the perspective of developing countries and presents a comprehensive account

of existing theory and empirical results. This book incorporates the findings of formal analyses of politics and dynamics of regionalism. It considers the relationship between regionalism and multilateralism and explores the economic advantages of nondiscriminatory trade liberalization, which the authors argues should be exploited to the maximum extent. The book also provides rules for regionalism, which are not inviolable but which should not be violated lightly. Designed as a practical guide for policymakers whose countries are considering membership in a trade bloc, this book will also be of interest to scholars and students of international trade.

