

Board Chairman:
Prof. Dr. Mahmoud El Said
 Editor in Chief:
Ramy Magdy Ahmed

ELITE

FEPS, Where elites are made..

Vol. 1 Issue .1 November 2018

Designed By: Ramy Magdy Ahmed



Issued By the Faculty of
 Economics and Political
 Science, Cairo University

The Minister, Ambassador and Human Rights Activist *Moushira Khattab* tells ELITE

Choosing FEPS Was My First Independent Decision in Life

Khattab bluntly says "Arab Co-operation is no longer a luxury, it is a matter of survival"

**BUSINESSMEN AND EDUCATION IN
 EGYPT**

The Dean, Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Elsaid

INSIGHTS



The past years have witnessed a noteworthy decline in Egypt's international ranking according to most of the indicators generated by international bodies that measure government performance in all fields, including the educational and scientific research fields. For instance, in the years that followed 2011; Egypt came in the last places with regards to quality of primary education in the international competitiveness reports that are produced by the World Economic Forum in Geneva; and the situation doesn't differ much in the rankings of the quality of scientific research institutions in such reports. In spite of the fact that education has been constantly declining for many years, and that the situation of scientific research in Egypt doesn't fit with it being a pioneer and a prominent country in the Middle East and North Africa region, but Egypt's existence in such a low ranking is an unfair evaluation, especially since the comparison isn't only with the developed countries, but also the less-developed ones.

Perhaps the main reason is Egypt and other countries' low rankings could be attributed to the methodology used in these reports, as the indicators mentioned in the reports don't depend on primary data collected from international or regional statistical sources or institutions that make their numbers publicly available in calculations, but rather the larger part of this data is collected through surveys that are conducted on a sample of elite businessmen in the country. Among these indicators are the quality of education and the quality of scientific research indicators; where the respondent is asked the following question; "How do you rate the quality of primary education in your country and how do you rate scientific research in your country?" It is noted by readers that this question has no specific definition on what criteria can be used to assess the quality of education or scientific research. This, without doubt, is the main reason for countries with lower quality or contribution to the fields of education and scientific research, such as Qatar, lie in more advanced and superior ranks than other ancient ones who have known contributions in the fields of education and scientific research, such as France, the Russian Federation, and Greece. Consequently, such indicators don't represent anything apart from the satisfaction of businessmen in the country with the levels of education and scientific research, and this cannot be depended on in the ranking of countries with regards to quality of education and scientific research. Apparently, businessmen in Egypt aren't completely satisfied with the levels of education and scientific research and they definitely have what illustrates that, yet they must also contribute to the advancement of education and scientific research by allocating investment to it, just like their counterparts in advanced countries, instead of sufficing with defamation of the levels of education and scientific research.

It must be pointed out that there must be true efforts from officials and those responsible for the system of education and scientific research to encourage businessmen to participate in raising the quality of the system, and to convince them that investing in education and scientific research is the best and most successful type of investment, which is confirmed by all international success stories, such as the experience of Japan, Malaysia, and other countries.

Businessmen in Egypt must take part in solving problems of increased student density in classrooms, which is the major problem in the deterioration of the level of education since the 1970s. They must participate in increasing international publication, which requires writing in English, as the reason for the low numbers of internationally published works in Egypt is not the low number of researches, but rather that most of it is written in Arabic, which deprives it from the chance of international publication. The importance of their contributions to translate outstanding researches and trying to publish them internationally must also be mentioned, and they could also contribute to turning local journals into internationally accredited journals by funding the high expenses of international publishing houses.

can see the world better. Graduates also have to understand that the exam of the foreign affairs ministry, especially the oral one, examines not only your knowledge but your psychological perseverance in different hard situations as well'.

However, we could not miss the opportunity of being in presence of Mrs. Moushira Khattab, the political figure, and not ask her for a comment on the international and regional situation and the challenges and opportunities they show to Egypt'. "I would tell you openly that Globalization is a status quo, and joining it is no longer an option. However, I do support seeing globalization positively since it offers huge opportunities for international cooperation, for cheaper development, for a more know how, for a better education and for understanding of different models'. 'That's why economy not politics is the challenge that one has to face'.

Khattab justifies' the global stage made nations keen more on making a better standard of living than fighting wars, we should focus on economy, and exploit the huge ventures for international cooperation available, this requires a reformed economy, a slim bureaucracy, freedom of accessing information, freedom of opinion and a good education". Khattab outwardly continues" Trust me, this would not happen without a strong domestic front, when citizenship is perfected, when there is no longer discrimination on gender, religion, class or whatsoever. Without this unified domestic front, the whole situation would be vulnerable".

Regionally, her Excellency believes" Africa should be carefully dealt with, we are no longer in Nasser's era, new tools are in force and new competitors are around, our approach has to change, and our links with Africa have to be reinvigorated. Nubiah is our African descent through which we can live and revive our africanity" In the Arab front Khattab declares 'Arabs need to invest more in strengthening the Arab league, the entity through which their interests can be served. In these days, Arab cooperation is no longer a luxury or a gesture of good offices. For Arabs to survive and to protect their interests they must cooperate. They need not to look so far, sufficient to see how the Zionist lobby, working in orchestra, not only preempts, acts and reacts for their interests, but they plan for further moves. Through cooperation they managed to make the president of the biggest superpower, by a signature, neglect all the heritage of the Palestinian issue and give a blow to international multilateralism

Concluding her rich meeting with an answer on 'what she dreams for FEPS?', Mrs. Moushira Khattab, taking a long breathe, .contemplatively answers" I wish for FEPS –first of all- a wider geographical space, more staff training opportunities abroad, more finance for FEPS educational programs, and most importantly, more budget for international exchanges that allows more FEPS undergraduates to travel abroad , to exchange knowledge and to widen their horizon. FEPS is number one, however, I wish her more".



"Global politics shows that economy not politics is the focus of nations. A better standard of living became the item number one"

without traveling means a big loss of career advancement opportunities.. To my kids also I am very grateful, they are the ones who lived these hardships every day, and they were patient and flexible, I owe them alot"

I learned different lessons at FEPS", her Excellency declares. "The lessons are many: the virtue of research, the importance of basing opinion on different accounts not only one, also the ability to analyze and to support your argument. Dialogue was a big lesson for openness to others and to the world, and before all; FEPS taught me that diversity is strength not a threat'.

Being with a richly experienced diplomatic figure as Khattab made us ask her" what are the challenges that FEPS students and graduates are now facing? ". "unfortunately many" Khattab answers; "graduates have to get that there is a difference between what you studied and what you will work on, this does not mean that academia is irrelevant, but an extra component has to be added, it is personal opinion, this opinion is the outcome of following what is going around, of reading, of thinking, of attempts to shape and reform opinion, until one is able to analyze and support his arguments".

"The educational system too is a challenge, with a densely populated country like Egypt, school classes are crowded, teachers are not adequately focusing, intellectual horizons became narrow and memorization became prevalent. This obstructs discussion in schools which brings up a very narrowly minded student who lacks the boldness to argue and has weak social relationships".

This makes education a top priority on reform agenda, and one can not understand extremism and win the war on terrorism without promoting an education that supports dialogue and discussion.

Advising students who wish to take the diplomatic corps exams, Khattab said "prepare from day one in FEPS! Exploit the days of studentship to build your view, to follow up the news and global politics. Country population became 100 million so one has to be a contribution in his work place, learning foreign languages is a must, before all, cultural openness to others and to the world is the way through which one

"Huda Abdelnasser was my classmate, and we used to visit her at home where we began to see President Gamal Abdelnasser. His charming charisma usually made us speechless. In addition, I remember sport competitions were lovely events to attend. And the most attractive academic personality for me was Prof. Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghaly, he was an exceptional character, knowledgeable, elegant, respectful, worldly known, and what was really unique of him is his keen attentiveness regarding every question posed by any student in the class". Khattab further tells" it was a remarkable coincidence and a delightful event for me, when I became a diplomatic attaché in the office of the foreign affairs minister and Prof. Ghaly was appointed as the minister, this made me witness the depth of his character, and how he managed to act as a career diplomat differently than he was a professor, such flexibility was for me a sign of professionalism". With a decent sense of humor Khattab claimed" I can tell you that statistics was the only hardship one had faced, statistics was a reason (among others) to make me more favoring a political science major"

This took us to ask her Excellency 'to whom are you grateful?'. With utmost certainty Khattab answered 'my family'. she further tells ' My father was a perfectionist engineer , he was ceaselessly pushing me to excel and perfect my work, I remember when I was appointed in the foreign affairs ministry he insisted that I should be on the higher caliber of diplomats and do not remain an administrative employee. My husband too was an important source of support,' for me being a diplomat is an overwhelmingly occupying job, one has to read, to follow up, to interview ,also I thought traveling a lot would shatter my family and disturb my kids, but my husband Persuaded me that a diplomat

Cairo- By : Ramy Magdy ,
 Silvana Sobhy ,Shahenda Loffy

At her artistic cozy house in a calm and elegant neighborhood in Cairo, the minister, the ambassador and the worldly known activist on women and children rights Mrs. Moushira Khattab hosted us, speaking her heart and enlightening us with her experience.

Khattab was very proud to open her talk telling us that "Choosing FEPS was my first independent decision". This invited us to ask her about the motive for that decision. "Academic subjects were very lively and the branding of Huda Al Marasi as the first Egyptian female diplomat made me very keen to join FEPS so I can be a diplomat".

Her student life was a topic which she was very happy to recall. "I can joyfully admit that my student days in FEPS were the happiest in my life. This was for many reasons; professors-student relationships were full of respect, they taught us to debate, to discuss, to form opinion and be able to defend it. The students number was very small so professors were more able to focus , they were present all day. It was a healthy atmosphere. Also extracurricular social activities tied us more to college, I was a basket ball player in FEPS, theatre was flourishing with 'Thulathy Adwa' Almasrah' who were students and on the rise. Research seminar was not merely a course; it was the core of each and every subject we study. The library was rich, our opinions and assessment in exams was much respected, everything was pushing us to excel'. Within this active atmosphere, her excellency recounted some of her lovely memories in FEPS. Khattab remembers"



MIDTERM MOODS!

REPORT

By Shahenda Lotfy & Mayar Tarek & Lina Hesham



THE NOVEMBER TOUGH WEEK OCCASIONS DIFFERENT IMPRESSIONS AND HABITS AMONG FRESHMEN, SENIORS AND SOPHOMORE(S)

As the midterms' season approaches, FEPS students started preparing for their tests and showed great commitment towards attending their classes. We conducted a survey to see the pre-midterms atmosphere in the faculty. We were impressed by the students' participation, specially the freshmen because it is their first trial of going through exams as college students. The majority of the freshmen responses state that they perceive their first midterms in college as a challenge and they are doing their best and studying hard to get through it successfully. However, other freshmen students were still confused and uncertain about the proper way of preparing for exams and this is because of the huge difference between college and high school. As for the sophomore, junior and senior students, they got used to preparing for exams and most of them are planning to get the highest possible grades. Thanks to the credit hours system, the students have high sense of self-discipline due to the high weights the system

gives to attendance, participation and assignments and thus, neglecting the coursework would hugely affect the overall grade and performance of the student.

Not to mention the great effort exerted by the students to adapt with the new credit hours system. They communicate with their professors and teaching assistants to ask for their advice on time management and the optimal ways of studying.

Our advice to all the students is to never hesitate to reach out to your professors asking for their help or advice. All professors devote part of their time for office hours where they can listen to their students and help them overcome any academic obstacles. Finally, we want to stress on the importance of time management and regular attendance and attention in class. With time management, students can excel academically and have a space to grow on the personal level through doing their preferred activities and hobbies.

Farah tells Elite "Swimming for me isn't only a sport but it feels like home. I never knew I had such a strong passion for swimming until I found myself waking up at 4AM when everyone else is asleep just to go for a swim, I feel like myself underwater, I feel that my desire to win is greater than my fear of failure"

While Hend Hamed, 20-years old, a member of Ahly S.C first team and spent almost 6-years as a part of The Egyptian national swimming team, winning a bronze medal in the National championship and when I also got both Gold and Bronze medals in the College's championship. After 16-years of swimming I realized that the water is where I reach my utmost serenity and where I could fully prove myself, they say "If you've a lane, you have a chance" so I decided to exploit every chance the pool offers me.

Elite family wishes our butterflies more medals and more gold.

RAMY MAGDY AHMED

POOL BUTTERFLIES

FEPS Swimmers (Hend Hamed, Farah Hitham, The twin sisters Rouwaida and Reem Hisham) dominated latest University Competition. They write to ELITE.

In presence of the Cairo University vice president for education and student's affairs: Prof. Dr Heba Noah, a ceremony was organized to award the winners in the swimming competition held at Cairo University on the 18th of October.

The female swimmers of The Faculty of Economics and Political Science have dominated the scene clinching many medals: Gold Medal in 100m backstroke race for Reem Hisham, Gold Medal in 100m Butterfly race for Hend Hamed, Silver Medal in 100m freestyle race for Farah Haitham, Bronze Medal in 50m butterfly race for Hend Hamed, Fourth Place in 50 breaststroke race for Rowaida Hisham, Fourth Place in 100m breaststroke race for Reem Hisham.

Farah Haitham, a 19-year old swimmer at FEPS and a First Team Member at Ahly SC. her recent achievements a bronze medal at the National Championship.

A FEPSIAN TALENT WRITES TO ELITE Nouran Hussam, an early Career Novelist

The Art of Writing: A Quest for the self



The novelist Nouran Husam Ahmed, undergraduate Fepsian, was born in Cairo in 1999, to be the youngest writer to participate in the 48th Cairo International Book Fair with the novel "Qatra" in 2017 becoming her very first published work. She joined Cairo University in 2016, major political science. She is a member of the cultural committee in the students union. Some of her literary Arabic works are published, Such as "Taj Al bnafsag the crown of violets," "Ma Qab Alnirvana pre-nirvana," "my journey from doubt to doubt," and others. Some of them have been published electronically by "Masreyiat" website and some other works have been published in "Flashback" electronic magazine, "Ajyal Al-Masriya" paper-backed magazine, "Al-Yawm Al-Jadeed" newspaper and through "FEPS Post". She won the first place on the article "Alhayoli Hyle" in the clubs competition at the level of Cairo University in 2017, as well as the third place of the short story of "Al-Zalla; Slip" in the same year. And this we are waiting for her second literary work, "I Am Still Waiting For You" at the upcoming Cairo International Fair in 2019.

Writing a piece to ELITE, she says "I always wonder every day, who am I? And why am I settling here, in that part of the world at that particular time? Myself has not been satisfied with any repeated answers propagated by tongues and did not give my mind to any fragile logical explanation in front of any whirlwind mood that may drive to the mirage and beyond. Until the spirit of writing has found me, as I found some of myself. Writing did not stop me from striving before my questions. Nothing has boosted my passion for ontological questions like writing. I did not really understand myself and did not know a compelling reason for my presence in this world until my fingertips met with ink and papers. For me writing is a mirror in which I reconcile with the traits that gather human beings, where I see my flaws before my merits, I see my mind puzzles and my soul Convulsions, I did not realize how wonderful the universe is around me until writing accompanied my spirit, and became a part of me so I surrendered to her as I have never surrendered to a passion before.



Piece of Art

Prose

Unfortunate Moments

Farah El-Nahlawy

I've got a habit of only seeing the good in people, always believing in them, expecting the best from them even when they prove the exact opposite on different occasions.

I always search for the goodness buried under layers of hatred & cruelty, I look for their soft parts where I can lay a finger without being injured, I fall in love with the purity they have enclosed in their eyes, and I get attached, oh my, I get attached with their every move, with the sound of their breathing, the way their eyes blink and their eyelashes curl, the way they smile and how their nose wrinkles when they laugh.

I get too attached and I draw myself a picture, a picture too far from reality that when I actually get hit by the realities I go silent. I stop talking, I stop listening, I stop breathing.

The universe around me seems to have paused, it paused to mourn the lost pieces of my heart, the wasted feelings on the floor, the grave look on my face & the rattle in my voice.

So I've got a habit, a habit of not acknowledging the fact that some people aren't meant to be good, aren't meant to be soft, aren't meant to be fixed or saved...

ELITE HIGH BOARD

Prof. Dr. Mohmoud Elsaied (Chairman)
Prof. Dr. Hanan Mohamed Ali (member)
Prof. Dr. Samy Elsayyed (member)
Prof. Dr. Mazen Hassan (member)
Ramy Magdy Ahmed (editor in chief)

Editorial Board

Shaymaa Elsayyed
Silvana Sobhy
Nahed Taha Elzeiny
Mai Osama Soliman
Lina Hesham

Editors (this issue)

Shahenda Lotfy
Nouran Husam
Mayar Tarek
Farida Khalifa



The Editor in Chief's Statement

Why ELITE?

We to choose to launch ELITE in order to make it a space for gathering all FEPSians; to gather the graduates who made their way into society and became role models, the undergraduates who are talented and have visions to project, the professors who share their insights and the students who share their ideas. By ELITE we intend to represent FEPS, the home that gathers all and allows all a say and a voice. It is ELITE because we are elite!

RAMY MAGDY AHMED

ELITE board dedicates its first issue to Prof. Dr. Hanan Mohamed Ali, for her endless motivation and ceaseless support, without which ELITE would not have seen the light. Her help is irreplaceable. Thanks Professor!



For Ads, Inquiries, Comments and sending ideas, contact us on our email

elite@feps.edu.eg

