

ELITE



FEPS in
The EU



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ELITE

FEPS, Where elites are made..

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Designed By: Ramy Magdy Ahmed



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Ambassador Jailan Allam, First Female Egyptian Ambassador at UN , in an exclusive interview with **ELITE**

CITIZENS' SUPPORT MATTERS FOR ANY ECONOMIC MEASURES TO SUCCEED



Our editors from (left) : Habiba Atef (besides Ambassador Jailan), Dina Ehab and Silvana Sobhy

Cairo: Silvana Sobhy, Habiba Atef and Dina Ehab

Delighted to host her at FEPS, ELITE team has taken the opportunity to interview the fair and elegant former Ambassador of Egypt at the UN HE Ambassador Jailan Allam. Ambassador Jailan graduated from the Faculty of Economics and Political Science in 1968. She graduated from a French school and was one of the top students in the Republic. She wanted to join a college where she could feel privileged. The ambassador's father wanted her to join the faculty of medicine but she refused. This was in the early days of the establishment of the Faculty of Politics and Economics. When she heard that the daughter of the president Gamal Abdel Nasser joined Faculty of Economics and Political Science; this gave her a greater motive to join the faculty in 1964, Department of Economics.

After graduating, she applied to become a Teaching Assistant at FEPS as per her father's will. At the same time, the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced a request for a new batch of applicants in the diplomatic corps. She submitted for the Ministry's examination and got the first place in the exam. Hence, she was appointed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and welcomed by the Minister Mahmoud Riad.

The Ambassador began to speak about her beautiful memories in FEPS. The Dean of the Faculty at that time was Prof. Dr. Zaki Shafi. Because of the small number, there was a direct relationship between students and professors; especially Professor Fathallah AlKhatib, Professor Refaat AlMahgoub and Professor Ahmed AlGhandour. Teachers were always a source of pride to her and all her colleagues.

There was a constant desire for excellence among all the students in the college. The students of the political science department were always in a strong and direct relationship with the economic department's students. She was a member of both the basketball team and the volleyball team at the university. She was also engaged in group trips, and added that the spirit of teamwork was also one of the main things that highlighted her college life.

Ambassador Jailan Allam was also nominated to be the ideal student in 1968.

She also recalled one of the sad memories while she was a student. The sad period in the life of her Excellency that she and all the Egyptian people went through was the 1967 war. But when we look at this war now; she finds that this period was a test of the Egyptians' will, and their love for Egypt.

The Ambassador spoke about the influence of the faculty on her personality and how this led to the maturity of her personality because she dealt with different and great professors. She had a desire to expand her understanding and desire to know more and showed this in her desire to question.

Moreover, the ambassador said that her first appointment to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had a great impact on her personality. In late 1974, the Foreign Minister was summoned by Minister Ismail Fahmy. He spoke with her and told her that she would become the ambassador of the permanent delegation to the United Nations and that she would become the first Egyptian woman to go as a representative of the United Nations. The Ambassador went and considered the obstacles that would face her; the most important ones were her family, her husband and her son.

She lived in America from 1975 to 1979. During this period, she was greatly affected by the new culture and the new understanding for everything around her. She witnessed many important events such as the 100 Kilo talks, Rogers's initiatives and the most important event, the Camp David peace treaty. This has led to a radical change in her personality. She has begun to look at the problems in a new way, and she has become aware of the true value of ethics and the importance of maintaining verbal and intellectual actions and thoughts.

From the ambassador's point of view, the biggest challenge facing students is unemployment. The Ambassador advises us not to spend time worrying and fearing this problem, but we must work on the problems and think about a way to solve them. We must build a community that calls for action and working. We must not accept defeat; instead we must

experience new things and learn from our mistakes. We have to take advantage of technology and set up small and important projects, but most importantly to never lose hope.

The ministry of foreign affairs consists of 3 main parts as follows: The Diplomatic Members, The Administrative Employees, and those working on the Technical Services. Students need to be aware of the challenges they face when it comes to applying to the diplomatic sector. It requires intensive preparation including exams on several topics as international relations, international economics, and others. Moreover, Applicants must be proficient in at least two languages beside their mother tongue. The challenges are not limited to the exams and the interviews but they are also extended to what comes after being accepted and this is represented mainly in terms of social barriers. Men and Women may find opposition from their families when it comes to constant travelling. Being updated, flexible, knowledgeable, being able to work under pressure and passionate are the main required traits for a successful diplomat.

Till 2010, the Egyptian-Foreign relations were moving in a systematic way. The Egyptian government was engaged in relations mainly with USA and Europe. However, the rise of chaos in the Arab world, along with human rights movements and lack of economic progress, changed everything. In 2013, Egypt regained its membership in the African Union and began adopting severe measures in the investment and economic sectors in order to achieve strong and rapid economic growth. However, Egypt is still surrounded by several threats due to the internal issues in Libya and Syria, the protests in Algeria and Sudan, the Palestinian problem, terrorism in Sinai, and the refugees' problems. Accordingly, Egypt is working in a regional and international stirring context and it must preserve its stability through all of this.

She ended her talk by saying that despite the cruel measures imposed by Egypt's Economic Reform, The Egyptian Government is constantly working on supporting its citizens and gladly Egypt's hard work is paid off where it is now considered a role model to many countries .And that citizens' support matters.

FEPS Visits the EU Mission

Postgrad Vice-Dean, EuroMed Director, ELITE Head and a Class Of Political Science Senior Students Formed The FEPS Delegation Visiting The Premises Of The EU Delegation In Cairo

HE Amb. Ivan Surkoš And Main Mission Staff Presented The Diverse Egypt-EU Cooperation Aspects



Press Officer, Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny gives an Overview on EU-Egypt Cooperation Relations.



Head of Delegation HE Amb. Ivan Surkoš shedding light on Egypt-EU relations



Erasmus Programme Manager, Ms. Ahlam Farouk presents education opportunities & Erasmus program.



From left : ELITE editor Farah Ezzeldin, Post-grad studies Vice-Dean Prof.Dr. Omnia Helmy, EuroMed Program director Prof.Dr. Riham Bahi, ELITE Editor in chief Ramy Magdy, and ELITE Editors Mohamed Rostom and Caroline Kamal



Deputy Head of Delegation, Ms. Sandra De Wael gives an overview of the delegation work.

Cairo : Ramy Magdy, Farah Ezzeldin and Caroline Kamal

A delegation from FEPS (comprising FEPS Vice-dean for postgraduate studies and scientific research Prof. Dr. Omnia Helmy, Euro-Mediterranean Program director Prof.Dr. Riham Bahi, ELITE editor in chief Ramy Magdy and a Class of political science senior students enrolled into the course on comparative foreign policy; led by Prof.Dr. Ayman Eldessouki) made a visit to the premises of the EU delegation in Cairo. The mission staff welcomed FEPS political science students. The head of delegation HE Ambassador Ivan Surkos, started his talk with welcoming the students. Then, he talked about the role of the EU in Egypt. Briefly, he mentioned the partnership between both sides, asserting the political and strategic aspects, describing Egypt as the key EU partner in the region.

The next session was led by Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny –Press officer- summarizing the EU-Egypt cooperation relations smoothly. He stated that Egypt is a key partner with the EU as it is a neighbor for Europe, plus being a perfectly located country. The EU-Egyptian partnership is due to the association agreement which was signed in 2001 and enforced in 2004. The association agreement organizes a high-level meeting between the common EU foreign minister and the Egyptian foreign minister. The EU and Egypt are cooperating also within the investment field, since the EU funds ongoing projects in Egypt with 1.4 billion euros, and concessional loans by 12 billion euros. Mr. Ayman mentioned that the EU developed through the years, as it was firstly announced in 9 May 1950 by Robert Schuman’s declaration which called for cooperation between Germany and France in the iron and steel field, thus, they won’t compete anymore.



Information Officer, Ms. Hanna LABDH explains dialogue and cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region: Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) example.

The ambassador referred to the common issues that came to discussion between Egypt and the EU like climate change, and the issue of water scarcity facing Egypt nowadays and other issues that have come as priorities on the Egyptian agenda 2030. Mr. Surkos also mentioned the role of the EU in supporting solar energy in Egypt. On the cultural level, he referred to a lot of projects that work on modernizing the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir Square as well as the restoration of archeological sites like Al-Maredani mosque in Al-Darb Al-Ahmar, one of the oldest mosques in Cairo. The ambassador pointed out to the educational programs and technical trainings offered by the European Union in partnership with several Egyptian institutions, headed by the Ministry of Higher Education.

He added that Egypt and the EU cooperate in doing diverse projects concerned with children, education, women, water, besides energy. He continued by explaining one of the projects between Egypt and the EU which is MATS project as it is an energy project at Borg Al-Arab to desalinate the sea water using solar energy. Mr. Ayman said that these projects are to assure the relations between both sides are stable in a region full of conflicts.



Trade Officer, Mr. Selim Hisham explains trade & economic relations engaging Egypt and the EU.

Ms. Sandra de Wael, Deputy Head of Mission, explained the mechanisms of action within the EU delegation, the most important issues for the European Union and the mechanisms of coordination within the various institutions concerned with the implementation of the EU-Egypt agreements.

Another session was held by Ms. Ahlam Farouk – Erasmus program manager- to explain Erasmus projects. She started by explaining what is Erasmus and its origin. She mentioned that the EU is the best partner Egypt for the education projects. Ms. Ahlam elaborated the Erasmus+ project, claiming that it started since 2014 making 7 to 8 separate projects.. After that, she clarified the higher education process in Erasmus as they have international credit mobility that lasts from 3 to 12 months, Joint master degree, and Jean Monnet activities. Besides, she explained the process of application.



Program Manager, Mr. Ayman Ayad elaborates the cooperation projects between Egypt and EU in water and waste water reforms .

Mr. Selim Hisham, Trade Officer, spoke about the trade agreements between Egypt and the European Union, which was signed in 2001 and entered into force in 2004. Egypt has obtained customs exemptions on its agricultural exports to the EU, which has facilitated the export of agricultural commodities to the EU easily. The volume of European exports in Egypt is also very large, amounting to 30% of the total volume of Egyptian exports, which is not insignificant. He explained also The TDMEP “the program of development of local and commercial market” supported by the EU and which helps innovation in local markets and trade relations with the EU. Finally, Mr. Selim indicated to the challenges facing the Egyptian industry to reach the required quality.

Mr. Ayman Ayad –programme manager- spoke about the water and water waste reforms cooperation between Egypt and the EU, he added that the EU helps Egypt in the project management. In addition, he said that the EU organizes and make awareness campaigns for saving water.



Research and Innovation Regional Officer, Ms. Heba Gaber presents bilateral and regional research and innovation relations between Egypt and the EU

Dr. Heba Gaber, Regional Research and Innovation Relations Officer, spoke about EU programs supporting scientific research, spearheaded by the Horizon 2020 program, which funded many Egyptian scientific research bodies such as the Academy of Scientific Research and the University of Zewail. She pointed out that Egypt alone has participated in 37 projects, but the field of scientific research in Egypt requires further work for its development. According to the latest estimations the number of the Egyptian researchers is up to 120 thousands which is a huge number and requires more efforts in that field. This program organizes many events through which it offers training courses on the writing of scientific research and the formulation.

Finally, Ms. Hanna Labdh –information officer- spoke about Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and explained its role, besides how it works, talking about Med 4 Jobs which provide jobs across the countries of the UfM. She also clarified the EEAS traineeship programme and how to apply easily by using the website when there is an open call. As well as explaining that the traineeship program has two types paid, and not paid. In addition, the applicant must have less than 1 year work experience not more, besides the duration of the traineeship is from 4 to 6 months.



A crucial session given by the head of Political, Press and Information Section, Ms. Anne Koistinen on EU-Egypt bilateral political relation.

On the other side, Ms. Anne Koistinen -Head of political press and information section- who started working in Egypt since 2016, explained briefly the EU external action services (EEAS) which the EU delegation is one of its segments. She added that the EEAS includes the common foreign ministry of EU that was founded in 2011, as well as, it is now headed by the higher representative Federica Mogherini till November 2019. Ms. Koistinen mentioned that the greatest highlight of the year was the LAS-EU summit in Sharm Al-Sheikh. She also clarified the role of the EU delegations as it has 140 delegations implementing the EU global strategy with its partners. In addition, the delegation acts as an embassy and has its own diplomatic agenda, represents the union and its policy, manages EU projects, and builds partnerships between EU and the host countries. Ms. Koistinen assured that Egypt is very important country regionally and internationally as it is well connected to Africa and the Mediterranean region. She ended her speech by clarifying that the EU investment into stability is rooted in human rights and depends on the participation of the people.

The main engineers of the trip were Prof. Dr. Ayman El-Dessouki ,Professor of political science, who suggested the visit and Ms. Hanna Labdh who have taken El-Dessouki’s initiative into practical steps. As an idea the visit was a ‘field trip’ learning methodin “Comparative Foreign Policy” course. Professor Ayman El-Dessouki describes that field trips are a great learning tool because they do provide opportunity for self-experiences and observations and self-long-lasting learning. This will supplement the various theories and concepts acquired in the classroom for a simultaneous understanding and application. Field trips are also very helpful to provide a future professional and vocational direction.



Prof. Dr. Ayman El-Dessouki Professor of International Relations, FEPS
Ms. Hanna Labdh EU Delegation information officer

The main objective of the trip, El-Dessouki clears, is to give students further insight into the way in which the European Union (EU) is constructed as an international actor. Students will closely examine the governance of the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), and the relations between EU and national foreign policy of Member States. More important, student would like to explore the aspects of the EU foreign policy toward the Arab world and Egypt.

On her part Ms. Hanna expressed that organizing the visit represents a part of her vision to make the EU delegation more engaged with the Egyptian youth. She believes that a more influential role for any diplomatic mission cannot be attained adequately without engagement with the communities of the receiving state.

The Graduation Ceremony

FEPS graduates Class of 2018, and celebrates Class of 1968's golden jubilee and Class of 1993's silver jubilee



Cairo : Nermine Tawfik and Dina Ehab

On the eleventh of April, the Faculty of economics and political science celebrated the graduation of class 2018 and also the Golden Jubilee of 1968 and the 1993 Silver Jubilee in the presence of Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Elsaïd; the dean of the faculty, Prof. Dr. Hanan Mohamed Ali; the vice dean for education and students affairs, and Ambassador Dr. Adel Elmeligy; president of FEPS Graduates Society.

The ceremony was opened with recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, then Ms. Engy Khaled "teaching assistant in political science department"; delivered the graduates' speech in which she thanked the professors for their contributions to her and all her colleagues from the 2018 graduates during their studies, also she mentioned her experience and how she achieved her excellence, then she thanked her family especially her father "who died and she was hoping that her father witness that day" and she advised the students of the faculty to continue to work and diligence, God does not neglect the reward of good works.

Prof. Dr. Hanan Mohamed Ali said that she was proud to stand that day to celebrate the graduation of class 2018, the 56th class in the history of the college, and proud of honoring the graduates of the 1968 class, that was the 6th class in the history of the faculty ,and class 1993.

She added that that day is the day of the celebration of science, which represents the continuation of exerting efforts and giving to

the college, which takes steady steps towards excellence and uniqueness, and she also talked about the opportunities offered by the faculty to its students from scholarship at international universities. The College has also received the local accreditation twice and is on its way to obtain the international accreditation .

Then she thanked minister Moshera Khattab for attending the ceremony, mentioning that the first interview done by "ELITE" newspaper was with her as she is one of the most prominent graduates of the faculty and she wished success and reconcile to the graduates in their future lives.

Then, Ambassador Adel El Meligy, "President of the Alumni Association", said that that combination of classes reflects the communication that the college is keen on preserving it among its members and has invited new graduates to join the association.

Dr. Mahmoud Al-Said " the dean of the faculty", said that on this annual occasion, the youth of the College are renewed and that the best graduates are presented to the community. The slogan of the college "COMMITMENT, EXCELLENCE, DISTINCTION" is not just a slogan but a reality embodied by this prestigious college. Then he thanked all who participated in organizing this ceremony and he honored the graduates of various classes 1968, 1993 and 2018.



Class2018 Pol.Sc. English



Our Lady of Honor

The French Embassy in Cairo awards Prof. Dr. Nazli Moawad the order of *Chavalier d'honneur* the highest distinction in the French republic

Cairo : Ramy Magdy

On Monday, April 22nd the French Embassy in Cairo Represented by the head of its mission His *Excellency ambassador Stephane Roumatier* awarded Prof. Dr. Nazli Moawad, Professor Emeritus of Political Science in our faculty the order of *Chavalier d'honneur*. It is worth mentioning that such an order is considered the highest grade of honor awarded by the French republic.

The ceremony made for Professor Moawad was held in the French embassy in Cairo in which Ambassador Roumatier commended the record of Moawad that was the reason for such an award.

A group of faculty professors led by Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Elsaïd the dean faculty attended the ceremony sharing their delight for such an honor given to Professor Moawad.

On his part, Professor Elsaïd stressed the fact that such an award not only denotes the excellence of professor Moawad, but also the quality of our faculty's professors.

On our part, ELITE Team wishes to show their pride for such a merit given to one of the faculty's professors and wishes for FEPS and Prof. Moawad a long continued journey of excellence.

Congratulations!

The National Council for Women Congratulates Professor Moawad!



The National Council for Women represented by Dr. Maya Morsy the president of the council congratulated Prof. Dr. Moawad for this distinction.

On her part, Dr. Morsy expressed her happiness for such an event denoting that Prof. Dr. Nazli is an excellent example for Egyptian Women everywhere.





The Momentum In Algeria ... Without Engine ... And No Brakes

Prof. Dr. Nassireddine Baki,
Assistant Professor of Law and Political Science
-University of Algiers 3

Since 22 February Algeria has been known for its a popular protests due to the stand of Abdelaziz Bouteflika for a fifth term despite his wheelchair-bound illness and his hide from media since 2013. The people considered his re-election as an insult to this continental country and a sign for emasculating the people and elites from any ability to offer alternatives. The protests have dealt a fatal blow to a regime that has long been betting on the security card and the threat of return to the bloody decade, supporting his arguments by the negative consequences hitting the Arab revolutions, especially in Syria, Yemen and Libya.

Yet for the people of Algeria, taking the streets out and protesting was a victory in itself and a break through the wall of fear that the authorities have imprisoned the people into.

After a great popular pressure, Bouteflika changed his candidacy and proposed to remain in power until a national discussion was held that would bring everyone together without exclusion and establish a new constitution and lead in the transitional period. That transition period would organize elections and ensure a smooth transfer of power. But this proposal was rejected by the street demanding that Bouteflika must resign and apply Article 102 of the Constitution. This article refers to the assumption of power by the parliament speaker after the removal of the President in cases of health incapacity, resignation or death.

Bouteflika resigned on April 2, 2019, one day after a fiery statement from Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Kaid Saleh demanding respect for the will of the people through the application of Article 102, in a scene claimed to reflect the military siding with popular demands. But once again the people went out to demonstrate demanding the removal of "Al'esaba (The gang) which was ruling the country and issued decisions on behalf of the President since his affliction with a stroke in 2013. This gang was manifested in the government, its head, "Ahmed Ouyahia", the presidential advisers who were Bouteflika's two brothers, "Said" and "Nasser" and a group of businessmen that benefited from Bouteflika's reign. The protests also targeted the parliament speaker "Abdul Qadir bin Saleh" who took over the presidency after Bouteflika and had been the speaker of the parliament for more than 17 years. Saleh was also the right hand of President Bouteflika and his close friend.

"Yetnahaw Vaa" يتنحوا فاع This was the slogan raised by the protesters, which means that the regime must completely leave. The popular solid commitment to such a demand opens wide constitutional debates. It is difficult to satisfy demands escalating weekly. Article 102 of the constitution, which citizens came out to implement, now has been transcended in a call for suspending the constitution because it is a constitution tailored to serve the survival of the regime in power. Also, giving parliament speaker the leadership of the transition phase was seen as an attempt to reproduce the system.

The army intervened again, but this time in another form. The headline of the 'Army magazine (AlJaish)' in 5 In April 2019 was "The Army does Not Accept Any Solution Against The Constitution", that is, it stands with the application of Article 102, despite the public rejection and sees the best solution and the fastest is to fill the constitutional vacuum fearing any deviation from the peaceful path or any external intervention. This proposal from the military institution was not absorbed by the masses especially that the character of "Kaid Saleh" is not accepted and is considered as part of the gang. This divergence of views may lead to several scenarios in the coming days, including:

- Holding presidential elections on the date set (4 July 2019) with a participation rate of not more than 20 percent due to the public rejection of the administration supervising the electoral process.
- (Or) suspending the Constitution, the resignation of "Abdul Qadir Bin Saleh" and forming a State formed of accepted personalities. This council will form an independent committee to oversee the elections.
- (Or) A coup from within the military establishment against "Kaid Saleh", suspending the constitution and the formation of a military council leading the transitional phase until a handover of power to the next elected president.

Anyway, what characterized the protests in Algeria from any other Arab country that witnessed a popular movement is that:

- It is a movement without initiators nor representatives.
- It is a peaceful and civilized movement that puzzled the world, Although Algerians are known for their moody temperament.
- It is a movement that gives and its demands ceiling rises every week.
- It is a movement that seems to have no limits and seeks to suspend the constitution, calling for a fight against corruption by exposing its beneficiaries.
- It is a movement that mobilizes demands through social media.

What characterized the movement of Algeria since its inception is its peacefulness and civility. It is noted that despite the crisis situation, it did obstruct social life, neither the institutions of the state nor the interests of the citizens were disrupted and the movement did not witness clashes with the police. On the contrary, It is called an Arab Spring because it has so far met all the spring criteria.



Post-Truth and the Challenges to Reality Perception

Mohamed Abdallah Younes,
Assistant Lecturer of Political Science

The term Post Truth has become popular in the past three years among the media as well as academic circles. This seemed to occur after the rise of right-wing parties and populist leaders in the United States as well as a number of European states. These parties seemed to be following a trend, they simplified very complex issues and were apathetic when faced with evidence or facts. They also tended to emotionally manipulate their supporters as well as manipulate their view on reality, in addition they would exploit the polarization and divisions in society to their own benefit.

Although human history has witnessed many instances of conflict between the truth and falsehoods, this time period specifically is witnessing a structural issue with individuals' relation to the truth. It has also been acknowledged that this issue is related to individuals rejecting the credibility of science and expert opinion while accepting superficial information from informal sources. Individuals are also keener to accept and become attached to their own personal opinions of reality regardless of its truthfulness. To add on, individuals today have become part of the process which creates the truth due to their participation in alternate forms of media which has granted them the power to affect the perceptions of others simply by expressing their opinions and presenting them attractively. Expressing one's personal opinions is not an issue within itself, yet it increases the complexity of differentiating between what is true and what is an opinion.

"Post Truth" is a term used to explain the context in which facts have less of an effect on the audience, who are more persuaded through the use of pathos. Therefore, you are faced with individuals who judge information and its truthfulness based on their own emotions. This leads to the disappearance of the truth underneath personal biases and fabrications. Although the gap between perception and the truth has always been present in individuals' relation to reality, it has been widening recently to unprecedented measures as a result of denying the existence of the truth and pretending that there are multiple truths in society to appease the masses.

Within this context, social media has imposed a new reality, where the messages which have the most

impact are the shortest ones which contain direct and clear information that does not require effort to analyze and understand. In other words, something like tweets have become one of the main aspects which shape individual's perception of the world. This is also related to the influx of information which has been circulating different parts of the world with unimaginable speed, faster than the speed of "the movement of an echo in a closed room". Consequently, there is very little time to analyze this content and its correctness.

In this extremely turbulent world, the multiplicity of stories which are produced about one event, which are usually based on a mixture of detailed and untrue facts, contradictory information and statistics, which are utilized in the implicit conflict of individuals attempting to prove their own personal beliefs and the ongoing conflict of shaping their own perception of the incident.

According to the study of Soroush Vosoughi, Deb Roy and Sinan Aral which was published in "Science" magazine in March 2018 under the title "The Spread of real and false news through the internet", they concluded that false news has a bigger chance of spreading and gaining popularity compared to true and accurate news. In addition, true news requires six times as much time as false news to reach the same number of individuals. The study also concluded that using false news was a successful method used by news outlet to attract viewers who were fascinated by the distinctiveness of this information, resulting in these outlets gaining millions of viewers in record time.

Yet the political scientist remains as the first line of defense to face these issues which increase the challenges of studying reality and following up with current events and their development. As a result, there must be strict standards and processes when dealing with sources of information and ensuring its credibility while ensuring that one does not drift in the path of popular currents of information or follow the information which is most common among social media platforms. Finally, it is of utmost importance to ensure that one stands in the face of misleading information while correcting false evidence and untrue perceptions of reality.

Translated by: Yasmine Gamal Hussein



In Economics, Growth Rates Alone are not Enough

Noha Magdy,
Economics Teaching Assistant, FEPS

It is unequivocally difficult for most Egyptians to forget about the performance of the economy during former President Mubarak's era. Government officials spared no effort to emphasize the developments achieved by Egypt's macroeconomic indicators on all media fronts, especially when it comes to what they considered as a miracle in attracting unprecedented rates of foreign direct investments.

According to the World Bank's estimates, FDIs flows recorded 9.7% of GDP in 2006 and 8.9% in 2007. Such rates are considered the highest in the history of the Egyptian economy, in addition, they were accompanied by high growth rates that reached about 7% in the above mentioned years. The main message of the government, whose prime minister at that time was Dr Ahmad Nazif, was mainly concerned with the high growth rates, the increase in imports, foreign reserves and deposits at the banking sector. He hardly discussed the performance of poverty and development related indicators.

This era of Egypt's economic history is a true manifestation of the misconception between growth and development. Achieving high growth rates - does not guarantee by any means - achieving real economic development in the fields of health and education. Moreover, these recorded growth rates are not necessarily inclusive and its benefits don't inevitably flow evenly to different social classes. In fact, these high rates of growth and investment did not go along with achieving remarkable improvement with regard to eliminating poverty. Official statistics reported by CAPMAS pointed to minor reductions in the percentage of population living on less than 2\$ a day, from 42.8% in 2004 to 42% in 2008. Moreover, Egypt's was ranked as the 123rd country out of 182 countries when it comes to the Human development index in 2007. When Dr Galal Amin documented this era of Egypt's economic history, he referred to the fact that government officials at that

point were convinced that the main obstacle facing the Egyptian economy was the low growth rates and that achieving significant improvement in this regard would help resolve unemployment and unequal income distribution. This was totally and practically wrong and actually got refuted as years have passed and more importantly in the recently published economic studies by renowned economists including distinguished Professor Joseph Stiglitz who asserted on the fact that GDP is not enough to account for the well-being of citizens in any country.

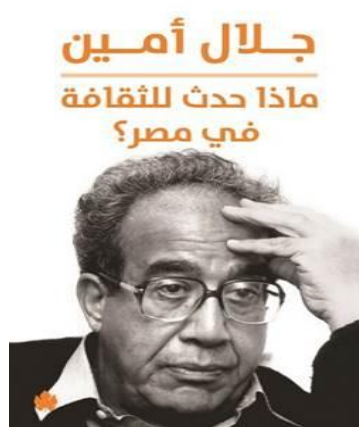
The reason behind illustrating the highlights of this era is drawing lessons for the future, since it is the main purpose of studies in Economic History. In this context, it is worth mentioning that the Egyptian economy has shown signs of remarkable improvement with regard to reducing budget deficit, the comeback of tourists and most importantly the exceptional growth rates recently achieved, which is considered to be the second highest rates in the MENA region according to the World Bank's reports in April this year. Such rates strengthen confidence in the performance of the economy. However, growth rates alone are not enough.

We badly need the main focus of the Economic discourse to be highly concerned with poverty and development related issues rather than growth. Not to mention, the Egyptian government managed to execute different initiatives including "HayahKareema" and "Takaful we Karama" in order to provide a safety net for vulnerable income groups. However, we need further efforts and campaigns. In addition, what we really need to study is the degree to which such growth rates are sustainable and how they could be more inclusive. It does not really matter how high the numbers achieved are, but what really matters is the significance of such numbers, how they were achieved and how their fruits could accrue to the typical Egyptian citizens on the micro level.



Whatever Happened to Dr. Galal Amin ?

Nourhan Elmenyawy,
Third Level Political Science Student



evidence; it will be considered as opinionated not as a scientific generalization about the whole phenomena.

Is it possible to generalize that Arabic has declined due to a change in the way of writing of poets and writers? Of course, the change in the way of writing is one among the fundamental reasons for decline, but to declare general statements from such a personal observation is considered totally wrong. And one of his fundamental reasons for the decline of culture or backwardness of the Egyptians in general is due to: the negative role of the middle class. Why Education declined? Because of the middle class that affected the quality of education services when they become educated; why do we emulate the west not preserving our identity? Because of the openness between Middle class and the western world; why there is corruption? Because: Immigration of middle class to gulf countries gave opportunities for any person to be rich not through any social improvement. As if higher classes are angels who never commit mistakes but are the reformists; or as if the social mobility is considered to be a problem that shouldn't have occurred in the first place.

What made me confused is the perception of the writer towards the word "change" which for him always echoes negative meanings; change means always a decline for the Egyptians. This makes one ask a question: Does the writer believe that we have declined? Or he just believe wholeheartedly in the status quo as a way for prosperity?



رمضان كريم

سنة العالی



بهنكم فريق جريدة النخبة بشهر رمضان المبارك أعاده الله علينا بالخير و اليمن و البركات
ELITE TEAM WISHES YOU A BLESSED & GENEROUS RAMADAN

