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30+ YEARS

of Economic Research Excellence

Understanding the **PAST**Analyzing the **PRESENT**Shaping the **FUTURE**







Mission

The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES) is an independent, non-profit think tank that conducts specialized economic research, drawing on international experience and constructive discussions among various stakeholders. ECES's main objective is to propose sound economic policies, as well as institutional and legislative reforms that contribute to sustainable development in Egypt, all on the basis of combined economic efficiency and social justice.

ECES is keen on adopting a comprehensive approach that encompasses legislative, institutional, policy and structural aspects of the problem or area addressed, not to mention their implementation mechanism. In all its activities, ECES relies on its competent team of in-house researchers, in addition to collaborations with external experts and like-minded think tanks as needed.

Strategic Direction

Economic efficiency and social justice are of core interest to ECES. Combined, they constitute the Center's strategic direction. The research and activities done by ECES focus on studying past, present and future challenges facing the Egyptian economy, whether related to macroeconomic stability, microeconomic efficiency or political economy aspects, both at the internal and external levels.



Outreach

ECES widely disseminates its research through conferences, workshops, seminars, lectures and roundtable discussions. The objective of these events is to provide a forum for constructive discussions among policymakers, the private sector, academia, parliamentarians, civil society and the media. In addition, the Center produces a variety of publications (downloadable free of charge through our official website www.eces.org.eg), and engages the public through social media.



Facebook: facebook.com/eces.org.eg2



LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/eces-org-eg



X (Twitter): https://twitter.com/eces_org_eg



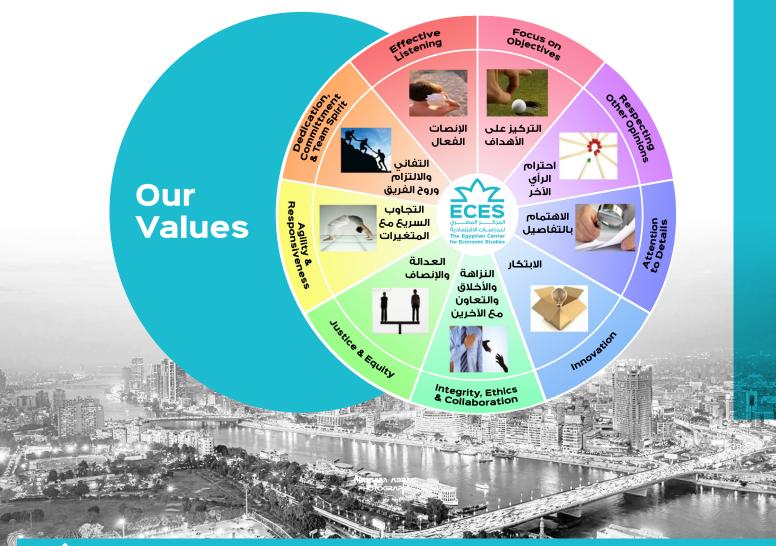
WhatsApp Channel: https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaG1eQ377qVVC5Pt2u1W



Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/eces.org.eg/



YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn4nemS05AZpgHdQi0gZibw





Message from the Chairman of the Board of Directors

I am delighted to present the ECES Annual Report for 2024.

Over the past year, the Egyptian economy endured severe economic headwinds, grappling with a mix of global economic challenges, notably the ramifications of the Ukraine-Russia conflict and regional geopolitical tensions, in addition to mounting domestic and foreign debt burdens. This complex interplay strained the nation's economy, requiring careful decisions and resilient strategies to maintain Egypt's economic stability.

Amidst this challenging economic environment, ECES remained dedicated to producing high-quality and relevant research and policy recommendations. To cite just a few areas of focus, our research encompassed crucial areas such as geo-economic developments, international trade, labor market, job creation, entrepreneurship, structural reform, business environment, financial market, climate conditions, sustainable development, institutional reform, and last but not least South-South cooperation.

The findings of our research were effectively disseminated through a variety of channels. We published our work in our diversified platform of publications, including working papers, policy briefs, and reports, making our insights accessible to researchers, policymakers, and the broader public. Furthermore, we actively engaged with stakeholders through a series of events, including workshops, seminars, and conferences. These events were conducted independently and in collaboration with other organizations, fostering dialogue and knowledge exchange within the research community and with policymakers.

In ECES, we take pride in our continued recognition as one of the most efficient and effective think tanks in Egypt and the MENA region. This is demonstrated by our growing number of collaboration agreements and activities with a diverse range of regional and domestic partners.

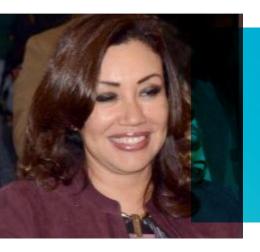
Despite the challenges of last year, the ECES management and team members worked relentlessly to deliver high-quality policy research, surpassing all expectations. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to each of them for their hard work and dedication. I also wish to thank my fellow board members and the ECES community for their steadfast commitment to our mission.

Sincerely,

Omar Mohanna

- A. Q-





Message from the Executive Director and Director of Research

I want to begin by expressing my profound gratitude to the remarkable staff of ECES. The tireless dedication and commitment of our researchers have been truly inspiring, serving as the foundation of our achievements. Equally vital are the outstanding contributions of our communication, administrative and support teams, whose dedication ensures the seamless functioning of our operations and the effective dissemination of our research.

Building on its legacy of influential initiatives, ECES made significant strides in 2024, enriching global discourse and deepening economic insights. One of our most notable accomplishments was the launch of "Cairo Forum," an annual international conference designed to address pressing global challenges that threaten stability and prosperity. In the face of geopolitical conflicts, climate deterioration, mounting debt, and unfulfilled youth aspirations—particularly in Africa—the Forum seeks to foster meaningful dialogue and share insights to drive impactful change. Cairo Forum one was highly appreciated by policymakers, business community, and NGOs in Egypt, not to mention its recognition as a major event in the region by international organizations and the most prominent think tanks in the world. Encouraged by all, ECES decided to host the event annually, establishing the Cairo Forum as Egypt's flagship conference on economic matters regionally and internationally.

I am also so proud to say that we conducted groundbreaking analysis of labor market demand using an innovative methodology that harnesses the power of artificial intelligence. By leveraging Al-driven data analytics, ECES has been able to identify emerging trends, predict skill requirements, and provide valuable insights into workforce dynamics with unprecedented accuracy. All applications have also been used in our research on trade processes with very impressive evidence-based results.

Staying true to our long-standing mission, we have maintained a close watch on developments in the Egyptian economy, providing insightful and timely research across various sectors to support informed decision-making at the government level. Through constructive dialogue and collaboration, for which it has always been known, ECES continues its strong and positive relationship with policymakers, facilitating the government's adoption of numerous recommendations of our 2024 research. It was a real pleasure to see our policy recommendations fully adopted and publicly acknowledged by Ministers.

As we look ahead, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting Egypt on its journey toward sustainable prosperity, robust economic growth, and comprehensive development. Through rigorous research, insightful analysis, and impactful dialogue, we remain dedicated to fostering informed policymaking, empowering businesses, and advancing solutions that address both immediate and long-term challenges.

Again, I would like to thank the ECES family, extending my heartfelt thanks to the ECES Board of Directors and the entire ECES community for their steadfast support and unwavering belief in our mission.

Sincerely,

Abla Abdel-Latif

Alla Abdel Katif

ECES is ranked among Top Think Tanks in MENA & the World's Top Domestic Economic Policy Think Tanks

The Global Go to Think Tank Index Report (GGTTI) is issued by the University of Pennsylvania. The obective of this report is to help bridge the gap between knowledge and policy. ECES was listed in 3 out of 4 ranking categories of the report: "Top Think Tanks by Region", "Top Think Tanks by Area of Research" and "Top Think Tanks by Special Achievement".

The GGTTI Report was suspended in 2021 due to the sudden passing of its author, James McGann. For more details, download the 2020 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report.



Top Think Tanks by Region

Think tanks in this category are classified by region, including 10 different regions. ECES ranked fifth in the "Top Think Tanks in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region", and second in Egypt following Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies (ACPSS).

Top Think Tanks by Area of Research

This category includes 15 different areas. ECES is ranked 41 on the "Top Domestic Economic Policy Think Tanks" list, and first in Egypt. It is the only Egyptian think tank listed in this category, which ranks leading domestic economic policy think tanks around the world. According to the report, top think tanks in this category have high quality, innovative research and strategic analyses of domestic economic policy, covering a wide range of topics such as money supply, interest rates, macro and microeconomics, trade and investments, among others.

Top Think
Tanks by
Special
Achievement

ECES is included in the "Best Policy and Institutional Response to COVID-19" list. Think tanks selected on this list are listed alphabetically with no rank given. ECES is one of only two Egyptian think tanks on the list, the other being the Information and Decision Support Center. The list of "Top Think Tanks by Special Achievement" selects global think tanks that were able to redirect their research programs, and organize their resources to respond effectively to the disruptions caused by the pandemic.

COMMITTED TO STAYING GREEN

2024 has been our eighth year in a row since we have gone green. In 8 years and counting, we've proudly saved:



1,728,000 Coated Freesheet

Equivalent to 518.4 tons of high-quality printed papers



11,500 Average-sized Trees

Equivalent to 1,920 U.S. short tons of wood



14,000 Million BTUs of Energy

Equivalent to 16,700 residential refrigerators operated/year



10,800,000 pounds of CO² equiv.

equivalent to 982 cars/year



13,300,000 gallons of water

Equivalent to 9,570 clothes washers operated/year



679,000 pounds of solid waste

Equivalent to 155,000 people generating solid waste/day

* Calculated by Paper Calculator ™ (c.environmentalpaper.org)

ECES Board of Directors



ECES Chairman, and Chairman of: Chubb Insurance Egypt; Prometeon Tyre Egypt Co. (Pirelli), Coca-Cola HBC Egypt & The United Bank



ECES Vice Chairman, and Chairman of Cairo Poultry Company (CPC)



Mohamed Kassem

ECES Secretary General, and Chairman of World Trading Co., Egypt



Alaa Hashim

ECES Treasurer, and Founder and Executive Partner of TRANSCENDIUM



Ahmed Abou Ali

Partner, Hassouna and Abou Ali Law Offices



Ahmed Fikry Abdel Wahab

General Manager and CEO, EGA -Egyptian German Automotive



Aladdin Sabaa

Chairman of Basata E-Payments and Basata Finance



Hisham El Khazindar

Co-Founder and Managing Director, Qalaa Holdings



Hussein Choucri

Chairman and Managing Director, **HC Securities & Investment**



Mohamed Zakaria Mohie El Din

Chairman & Managing Director, National Company for Chemical Industries (NASYDCO)



Sherif El Kholy

Partner & Head of the Middle East and North Africa - Actis

Honorary





Galal El Zorba

Chairman of Nile Holding Co.



Hazem Hassan

Chairman, KPMG Hazem Hassan Management Consultants

Founding Member



Taher Helmy

The 1st Chairman of ECES Founding Partner, Helmy Hamza & Partners (Baker & McKenzie International)

ECES Members



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Founder and Managing Director, Akanar Partners



Ahmed Shawki

Managing Partner, MAZARS Mostafa Shawki



Alaa Arafa

CEO, Arafa Holding Company



Alaa El Zoheiry

Managing Director, Arab Misr Insurance Group



Amr Allam

Group Co-CEO, Hassan Allam Holding



Dalia Wahba

Partner and Member of the Board and Chairperson, CID Consulting



Dina Abdel Wahab

Managing Director, Company for Innovate for Education



Elwy Taymour

Managing Partner and Vice Chairman, Pharos Holding for Financial Investments



Gamal Abo Ali

Partner, Hassouna and Abou Ali Law Offices



Hani Berzi

Chairman, Edita for Food Industries



Hanni Radwan

General Manager, Intertechno



Hany Sarie El-Din

Professor of Law, Faculty of Law (Cairo University) and Founder, Sarie Fl Din and Partners



Hany Tawfik

Chairman, International Investors Group



Hassan Allam

Group CEO, Hassan Allam Holding



Hassan El-Khatib

Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade



Hatem El-Ezzawy

Managing Director, PICO Agriculture



Hesham Mekawi

Former President, BP Egypt



Hisham Shoukri

Executive President and CEO, Ro'ya Holding Group



Hisham Ezz El-Arab

General Manager, Danone-United Robina Beverages Inc. (DURBI)



Islam Salem

CEO, The Risk Manager



Kamel Magdi Saleh Khaled Abou Bakr

Managing Partner, Saleh, Baroum &Abdel Aziz - Grant Thornton



Chairman, Arab Company for Energy - TAQA Arabia



Marwan El Sammak

Chairman and CEO, SHIP & C.R.E.W



Mohamed Allam

Vice president and CEO, Hassan Allam Properties



Mohamed El Sewedy

Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Arab Industrial and International Trading Co.



Nassef Sawiris

Chairman, Orascom Construction Industries



Rahim El Kishky

Chairman and CEO, Information Technology and Service Co. (ITSC)



Said Hanafi

Partner, MHR in association with White & Case



Seif El Din Saad Al Sadek

Chairman, AgroCorp for Agriculture Investment



Shafik Boghdady

Chairman, Garden City for Developnent & Investment Company S.A.F.



Sherif H. Kamel

Dean of School of Business, The American University in Cairo (AUC)



Sherif Samy

Board Member, Commercial International Bank (CIB)



Partner MHR in association with

White & Case

Honorary Members



Hassan Abdallah



Hisham Ezz Al-Arab



Mohamed El Erian

Governor, the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE)

Chairman, Commercial International Bank (CIB)

President of Queens' College at Cambridge University, and Chief Economic Advisor to Allianz SE



ECES Team



Abla Abdel-Latif, PhD
Executive Director and Director of Research



Sahar Aboud, PhD
Principal Economist



Rama Said



Racha Seif El-Dine
Senior Economist



Ahmed Dawoud
Economist



Mohamed Hosny



Marian Adel



Sondos Samir Research Analyst



Aya Saleh Research Analyst



Israa Adel
Research Analyst



Youssef Nasr Research Analyst



Mahmoud Mohamed
Research Analyst



Ahmed Habashy
Data Analyst



AbdelRahman Eleshaky
Data Analyst



Ahmed Fathy
Field Researcher



Hossam Khater Field Researcher



Mohamed Khater
Field Researcher



Yasser Selim
Managing Editor



Fatema Al-Zahraa Ali Senior Editor/ Translator



Ebrahim El-Embaby



Walied El-Torky
Digital Communication Manager



Mohamed Abdel-Hakam Communication Specialist



Mohamed Leheta
Finance and Administration Manager



Miral Michel
Assistant to the Executive Director



Amani Medhat
Research and Executive Assistant



Mohamed Atef
Administrative Assistant



Hussein Mohamed
Support Staff



Tarek Attia

Support Staff



Mohamed Gamal Support Staff



Waleed Ibrahim
Support Staff



Amr Mohamed

Support Staff

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ECES IN RETRO-SPECT

Establishment

ECES was established in 1992 under Law 32 of 1964 as a non-profit, non-governmental organization. It was founded with the objective of promoting economic development in Egypt by conducting and disseminating applied policy research in light of international experience. The Center's founders believed that the creation of an independent think tank was in the best interest of Egypt, especially since the economy was undergoing a process of transformation that has continued to this day. Financially, ECES received support as per an endowment agreement between the Egyptian government and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Support was also provided by the ECES members themselves, as well as organizations such as the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Take-off

After a gestation period, during which the Center's physical infrastructure was put in place and key staff appointed, ECES initiated a number of research activities. However, it was not until 1996 that the founders' vision was translated into a systematic work program with diverse activities, including regular forums for discussion and dissemination of research, and a series of publications. Since then, the Center's strategy has been based on two main pillars: knowledge generation and knowledge dissemination. Knowledge generation is decidedly in favor of applied policy research, and knowledge dissemination is guided by the strong desire to reach out to as many stakeholders as possible, whether through open forums, publications, and/or the ECES website (www.eces.org.eg).

Sustainability

Slowly but surely, the Center has a cquired a reputation for producing relevant, quality research and offering objective advice on the economic challenges facing Egypt. This reputation helped the Center acquire an endowment of LE 50 million, which will ensure the independence and sustainability of ECES for years to come.

Digital Presense

To ensure wider dissemination, ECES paid special attention to the media and the development of a well-functioning website. With respect to the media, the Center established a tradition of holding an annual three-day workshop for economic reporters; providing them with a platform for discussing topical issues and sharing best practices in effective economic reporting. Also, recognizing the importance of social media as a powerful tool for broader dissemination, we expanded our online presence through the different social media platforms. As for the website, a new state-of-the-art website has been developed and launched in 2023 to bring our research activities to a larger audience. Every effort is made to ensure that it is user-friendly and continuously updated in both Arabic and English to convey information about the Center's recent and upcoming events. Furthermore, in keeping with the spirit of public interest, visitors have been allowed to download ECES publications free of charge. For a complete list of all our available publications since 1996, please review the Appendix (page 50).





ECES IN RETRO-SPECT

Accomplishments

Aside from our average of 77 publications per year, we further expanded our outreach through introducing a wide spectrum of research publications aimed at data & info dissemination (e.g., Your Guide To Industrial Investment in Egypt, Women Entrepreneurs Guide). While most publications were written in English, some were written in Arabic and others were translated to ensure wide readership. For the same reason, the writing style of most of these publications is essentially nontechnical.

During the same period, the Center also organized 406 forums for the exchange of views among different stakeholders, averaging at least three events per month. The number of conference participants typically exceeded 200, while discussion each roundtable included around 70 participants. In both instances, the speakers and participants were carefully selected to ensure diversity of views and representation. Policymakers, parliamentarians, academia, private sector leaders, non-Egyptians, and members of civil society were invited, without prejudice to political affiliation.

Issues of Views on News (in Arabic and English)

Issues of Our Economy and the World (in Arabic and English)

Editions of the **Business Barometer** **Draft Law** Reviews

Financial Market Snapshots

Working

Books

Issues of Egypt's International Ranking

Issues of Egypt's Economic Crises: The Way Out and Possible Solutions

32 Policy Viewpoints 600

Various Translations

Editions of Egypt's Economic Profile and Statistics

Forums - averaging at least two events per month

Issues of the Sectoral **Competitiveness Observatory**

Distinguished

Issues of Eye on the South

Further into Al: We embrace the Technolgy for Deeper Analysis

ECES's Data Analytics Unit, created two years ago, continues to add innovation to excellence. In 2024, it delivered impactful economic insights for Egypt by systematically leveraging a spectrum of advanced capabilities. We established a robust foundation through sophisticated data automation, a comprehensive process encompassing advanced web scraping, meticulous data cleaning, and scalable data warehousing, vividly exemplified by our construction of an extensive dataset containing over 500,000 online job postings. This foundational work directly underpinned our rigorous data analysis and economic modelling capabilities, where we applied techniques like Al-powered ISCO-08 occupational classification to precisely reveal critical labor market trends and skill dynamics.

Relevant Events

Demand in Egypt's Labor Market, Q1 Y3

31 Demand in Egypt's Labor Market, Q2 Y3



2 New Series in 2024



Financial Markets Snapshot 🢆 (Monthly)

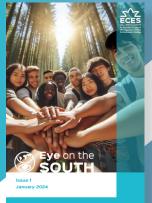
A new monthly report that offers a comprehensive look on the linkages between global, emerging, and Egyptian financial markets. It delves into the ever-evolving landscape of global markets and examines their ripple effects on emerging markets, shedding light on how these changes reverberate within the Egyptian economy and its financial market.



Special acknowledgement to Omar El-Shenety, Managing Partner at Zilla Capital & Consultant at ECES, for his insightful contributions which continue to enrich our understanding of the financial markets and their evolving dynamics.











Eye on the SOUTH (Quarterly)

A new publication that emphasizes the importance of cooperation among countries in the "Global South". It explores shared challenges and opportunities for sustainable development and collaborative efforts, and aims to showcase success stories, highlight the potential of global cooperation, and address challenges faced by countries in the South.







1. Regular Reports

Views on News



A comment on important news issued in both Arabic and English. Views on News aims to inform the public opinion and business community on key domestic and global economic developments and their impact on the Egyptian economy. As of end of December 2024, ECES produced and disseminated 706 issues of Views on News.





Our Economy and the World (Weekly)



A comment on important world news issued in both Arabic and English. Our Economy and the World aims to inform public opinion and the business community about global economic developments and their implications for the Egyptian economy. As of end of December 2024, ECES produced and disseminated 393 issues of Our Economy and the World.





Selected Books (Weekly)



Every Thursday, we select a seminal book focusing on an economy-related aspect. These books are bestsellers characterized by their innovative nature.







Business Barometer (Quarterly)



An assessment of the state of economic activity in Egypt based on a survey of firms in the manufacturing, construction, tourism, transportation, communications and financial sectors. Each edition reports the firms' views about production, sales, inventory, investment and employment.

Each edition of BB provides a quarterly assessment of the performance of a sample of firms and results of their operations in the past quarter of the fiscal year. It also summarizes their expectations for overall economic performance as well as own activities for the upcoming quarter.







Intended mainly for investors and the business community, it provides summary data and information on various aspects of the Egyptian economy.



Egypt's International Ranking (Annual)



This series aims to track Egypt's annual ranking in various indicators (economic, environmental... etc.) compared to role model countries, direct competitors, neighboring countries and others.











2. Diversified Publications

Working Papers



This series represents work in progress rather than conclusive results, and aims at making research results available early on to promote the exchange of ideas.











Publications with International Organizations



ECES collaborates and partners with various international organizations in addressing key economic issues. One of the outcomes of such collaboration includes contributing to publications issued by these organizations. ECES publishes these publications under this series.











Books



In addition to the Center's regular publications, ECES also frequently compiles the research results of a flagship activity into one published volume.











Your Guide to Industrial Investment in Egypt (ECES Initiative)

ECES launched an information guide titled "Your Guide to Industrial Investment in Egypt." The guide is an ECES initiative aimed at providing key information that investors need about Egyptian governorates. It comprises general, region-specific and detailed information, including detailed maps of governorates with utility and energy prices, investment regulations, investment incentives, tax structure, customs regulations, trade agreements, and procedural steps. Such information is needed by investors and is often not found in one single place.

ECES published the Guide in Arabic and translated it into four different languages: French, English, German and Chinese in order to expand its dissemination and outreach to a large number of investors of different nationalities. The Guide is also available on CDs to maximize its benefits, and can be freely downloaded at the ECES website.

Guide information and data are updated regularly.







Entrepreneurial Guide for Egyptian Women

In partnership with the National Council for Women, ECES conducted a study funded by the Canadian Embassy in Cairo, aimed at identifying impediments to the economic empowerment of women in Egypt and the major drivers of change. A team of ECES researchers conducted the study, which covered about 13 Egyptian governorates.

In late 2019, ECES conducted a follow-up survey on Women Entrepreneurial Guide to assess its outreach and evaluate the viability of its content based on real experience. The survey was distributed among practitioners from the NCW, MSMEDA and number of banks, who attended the ToT sessions given by ECES in June 2018 to disseminate the guide. The survey achieved a very good response rate. Early results show good outreach level and positive feedback regarding the content.

ECES is now working on updating the guide and a new edition will be published in 2025.







3. Special Series

Policy Briefs



ECES policy briefs are short analyses of pressing economic issues that provide policy options and recommendations on the best option to inform policy-makers in a clear manner.



Distinguished Lectures



This program brings to Egypt international scholars and practitioners reputed for their important contributions to economic thought and policy formulation. The gathering provides a forum for prominent economists to articulate and exchange views and experiences with selected audiences from government, business and academia.



Egypt's Economic Crises: The Way Out and Possible Solutions



This series of working papers aims to support the economic reform in Egypt through a set of policy recommendations that would contribute to placing the Egyptian economy on the right track.



Policy Viewpoints



The Policy Viewpoint series is intended to contribute to the discussion of ideas and policy options for enhancing economic development in Egypt. The series is based on research conducted by ECES. The content and recommendations are endorsed by the Center's Board of Directors.



Sectoral Competitiveness Observatory



To keep up with the rapid changes in the global economic environment, the Center has launched an observatory that tracks the different variables affecting the competitiveness of the Egyptian economy at both the macro and sectoral levels.



ECES Publications

Thanks to our Partners





2024 Activities



2024

The 1st CAIRO FORUM

October 16 - 17

The world is facing pressing challenges that threaten the stability and prosperity of the global community, from weaponizing geopolitical conflicts, treadmill action in facing deteriorating climate conditions, serious debt accumulations suffocating the South, to unfulfilled youth aspirations, especially in Africa, and the disappointing progress in SDGs. Amid these enormous challenges and crises, ECES took it upon itself to initiate an international dialogue and share insights to make the desired impact at all levels. Egypt is in the middle of this turmoil; being African, Arab, a member of BRICS, the MED region, and before all a member of the Global South. The turmoil calls for close follow-up of challenges and opportunities emerging.

"The 1st CAIRO FORUM" is a kickoff conference that ECES intends to hold annually. It seeks to open a dialogue between a select group of renowned world experts on key global challenges and their implications. The Forum's main objective is to join the efforts of major international think tanks in such follow-up and analyze what is happening and how to deal with it at individual countries, regional, and international levels.

Held for the first time in Egypt, this two-day conference featured wide participation from a select group of world-



Day 1 Opening Statements, from left: Abla Abdel-Latif, PhD, Executive Director and Director of Research, ECES; Omar Mohanna, ECES Chairman, & Chairman of: Chubb Insurance Egypt, Prometeon Tyre Egypt Co. (Pirelli), & Coca-Cola HBC Egypt; Steffen Krueger, Country Director Egypt, Konrad Adenauer Foundation; & Symeon G. Tsomokos, Founder & President, Delphi Economic Forum



Day 2 Opening Statement by H.E. Lieutenant General Kamel El Wazir, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Transport and Industry, Egypt

renowned experts, academia, and government officials, from Egypt, Argentina, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Morocco, South Africa, Tunisia, and the United States, among others.

The discussions covered multiple topics, including the Greek reform experience, the crisis of global tourism, geopolitical conflicts and their economic ramifications, near-shoring and untapped export opportunities, debt, SDGs, climate finance, the youth bulge in Africa, Egypt's positioning regarding Asia, Middle East and EU Connectivity, and the Indian digitalization experience.

The forum concluded by stressing the need to enhance international cooperation in several areas, including education, entrepreneurship, especially in Africa, and digital transformation. It also called for continuing dialogue on geopolitical relations and a deeper understanding of the nature of conflicts and their repercussions.





Panelists of Session Two: Geopolitical conflicts and their economic ramifications, where to? What is the way out?

where to? What is the way out?
From left: Mirette Mabrouk, Senior Fellow & Director of Egypt and Horn of Africa Programme, The Middle East Institute (MEI); Prof. David Monyae, Director, Centre for Africa-China Studies (CACS), Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations, University of Johannesburg; H.E. Amre Moussa, Former Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs & Former Secretary General, the Arab League; H.E. Amb. Abou Bakr Hefny, Assistant Foreign Minister for African Affairs; & moderated by Tarek Tawfik, Vice Chairman, Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI), & ECES Vice Chairman



Panelists of Session Four: The vicious circle of debt: The way out for the South From left: Alex Segura-Ubiergo, Senior Resident Representative Middle East and Central Asia Department, International Monetary Fund (IMF); Prof. Franco Bruni, President, the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI); H.E. Mahmoud Mohieldin, PhD, UN Special Envoy on Financing Sustainable Development (via Zoom); H.E. Ahmed Kouchouck, Egyptian Minister of Finance; & moderated by H.E. Ahmed Galal, PhD, Former Egyptian Minister of Finance







Panelists of Session Zero: The Greek experience: Painful yet effective reform, any lessons for Egypt and other developing countries?

From left: Nikos Vettas, PhD, General Director, the Foundation for Economic and Industrial Research (IOBE), & Professor, the Athens University of Economics And Business (AUEB); Harry Theoharis, Member of the Hellenic Parliament for New Democracy, & Former Deputy Minister of Finance for Taxation Matters, Hellenic Republic (Greece); H.E. Rania Al-Mashat, PhD, Egyptian Minister for Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation (via ZOOM); & moderated by Abla Abdel-Latif, PhD, Executive Director and Director of Research, ECES



Panelists of Session One: Global tourism in crisis: Navigating conflict and economic uncertainty

From left: Huw Tuckett, Executive Director, Euromic & Tourism Expert, UK (via Zoom); Haitham Nassar, General Manager, Hilton Maadi; Tarek Sayed Tawfik, PhD, President of the International Association of Egyptologists & Former Director General of the Grand Egyptian Museum; Elhamy ElZayat, Chairman and CEO, Emeco Travel; & moderated by Prof. Ahmed Farouk Ghoneim, Managing Executive Director, the Authority of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization



Panelists of Session Three: Near-shoring, investment for export and untapped export opportunities

From left: Nikolaos Zaimis, Head of Trade, Science and Enterprise section, the European Union Delegation to Cairo; Blanca Moreno-Dodson, PhD, Senior Advisor in International Economics, Former UN Director, World Bank Manager & Lead Economist; Mohamed Kassem, Chairman of Expolink & CEO of World Trading Company, & ECES Secretary General; H.E. Hassan El Khatib, Egyptian Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade (video); & moderated by Alaa Hashim, Founder and Executive Partner, Transcendium, & ECES Treasurer



Panelists of Session Five: The unfulfilled promise of SDGs From left: Vikrom Mathur, PhD, Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation (ORF); Dina Sherif, Executive Director, Legatum Center for Development & Entrepreneurship, MIT (via Zoom); Stephane Guimbert, World Bank Country Director for Egypt, Yemen and Djibouti; & moderated by Ahmed Kamaly, PhD, Associate Professor of Economics, the American University in Egypt (AUC), & Former Egyptian Deputy Minister for Planning and Economic Development

























Panelists of Session Seven: The Youth Bulge in Africa From left: Pato Kelesitse, Founder, Sustain267 & Host, Sustain267 Podcast (via Zoom); Aziz Ajbilou, PhD, Professor, the Faculty of Governance, Economics and Zoom); Aziz Ajbilou, PhD, Professor, the Faculty of Governance, Economics and Social Sciences (FGSES), Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P); Alexander Tsado, Director, Alliance4ai (via Zoom); Mohamed Lamine El Dhaou, PhD, Senior Consultant, Industrial Economist, SMEs and Value Chains Specialist, Former Director, United Nations for Industrial Development Organization; H.E. Nabila Makram, PhD, Former Egyptian Minister of State for Migration and Affairs of Egyptians Abroad, & Head of the Technical Secretariat of the Board of Trustees, the National Alliance for Civil Developmental Work; & moderated by Sherif Kamel, PhD, Dean of the School of Business, the American University in Cairo (AUC)

Panelists of Session Eight: Asia, Middle East, EU Connectivity- Egypt's Positioning From left Abir Leheta, CEO, Egytrans; Mohamed Sherine El Naggar, Chairman, Naggar Shipping Company, & International Expert for Connectivity; Prof. Harsh Pant, Vice President for Studies and Foreign Policy, Observer Research Foundation (ORF); Mohamed Abdel Gawad Allam, PhD, Vice Chairman (Deputy Minister) for Investment and Promotion at Egypt's Suez Canal Economic Zone Director of Research, ECES









Panelists of Session Nine: Digitalization and Inclusive Growth From left: Lorrayne Porciuncula, Co-Founder and Executive Director, The Datasphere Initiative; Reem Baggash, Deputy Managing Director, World Governments Summit (via Zoom); Anirban Sarma, Director, Digital Societies Initiative, Observer Research Foundation (ORF); & moderated by H.E. Magued Osman, PhD, CEO and Managing Director, Bassera, Former Egyptian Minister of Communications and Information Technology



CAIRO FORUM attendees and guests



International Trade and Trade-related Issues

Where Does Egypt Stand from Free Zones in Turkey and **Emirates?**

May 21

This seminar aimed to discuss the findings of an ECES study on Egypt's long established freezones compared to more recent competitors in Turkey and Emirates. The study discussed in details the performance of freezones in Egypt, focusing on their export and employment capacity compared to their competitors.





ECES presentation by Mohanad Mahdy, Economist. Panelists General Authority of Investment & Free Zones (GAFI); & El-



Institutional and Structural Reform

Is Egypt out of the woods?

April 29

This seminar aimed to discuss an ECES study that attempted to find out whether recent property deals in Ras Al-Hikma permanently took Egypt out of its economic crisis or it is merely an aspirin to Egypt's chronical economic woes. The study regards institutional reform as the only way out of the vicious circle facing the Egyptian economy. ECES Executive Director and Director of Research gave the presentation, which featured wide participation from a select group of experts.





ECES presentation by Abla Abdel-Latif, PhD, Executive Director & Director of Research, ECES. Panlelists (from left): Ahmed Darwish, PhD, Former Minister of Administrational Development; Omar Mohanna, Chairman, ECES; Tarek Tawfik, Vice Chairman, Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI); & Ahmed Shams, Head of Research, EFG Hermes



Economic and Social Policies

Relevant Events

Reimagining Global Economic Governance: African and Global Perspectives



Job Creation, Entrepreneurship & SMEs

Demand in Egypt's Labor Market - Q1 Y3

April 17

Sponsored by the National Bank of Egypt (NBE), this seminar aimed to discuss findings of the analysis of demand in Egypt's labor market during Q12024. The ECES detailed analysis covers key jobs available to Egyptian white-collars in the GCC, with a focus on UAE and KSA.





Ahmed Dawoud, Economist at ECES, presented the analysis for this quarter to the panel (from left) Hanan El-Sheikha, Former HR Group Director, NBE; H.E. Soha Gendy, Minister of Immigration and Affairs of Egyptians Abroad; and H.E. Amb. Ismail Khairat, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Consulate and Egyptians Abroad Affairs





Left-to-right: Amr Abdel-Kawy, Professor of Architecture, AUC; Joseph Ghanem, Project Manager, Workforce Egypt; Amr Abo Freikha, Board Member, Engineering Industries Chamber; & Moataz Sedky, Vice President of Tourism Commitee, AmCham







ECES study presented by (left-to-right): Sahar Aboud, PhD, Principal Economist; Rama Said, Senior Economist; & Racha Seif El-Dine, Senior Economist

Most Important Challenges of the Egyptian Labor Market and few Suggestions for How to Deal with it

May 7

This seminar aimed to discuss the findings of an ECES study conducted for USAID-funded Egypt Workforce Program. The study discussed Egypt's technical education and vocational training system and the supply-demand mismatch. Shedding light on unemployment and the most important trends in the Egyptian labor market over the past ten years, the study examined the skill gap in the tourism and engineering industries sectors.



Demand in Egypt's Labor Market - Q2 Y3

July 15

The analysis showed that white-collar job creation slowed from the fourth quarter of 2022 until mid-2023. Job creation remained centralized in Cairo, which accounted for about 90% of jobs created during the quarter under review. The information technology services sector accounted for 22% of jobs created, followed by real estate management (13%), then marketing and advertising (5%).



Seminar panelists from left: Magued Osman, PhD, CEO and Managing Director, Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research (Baseera); Abla Abdel-Latif, PhD, Executive Director & Director of Research, ECES; & Abdel-Hameed Kamal, Former Parliament member for Suez Governorate.



ECES analysis presented by Ahmed Dawoud, Economist & Head of Data Science Unit.



Websiť

Aya Saleh, Research Analyst, presenting the White Collar analysis.

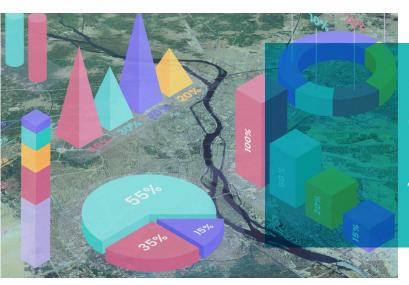


Sondos Samir, Research Analyst, presenting the Blue Collar part of the analysis.

Relevant Events

36 SMEs Challenges in Egypt: In Search for Specific Solutions

World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum (WEIF) 2024:
Achieving the SDGs through Fostering Innovation and Economic Growth



Sectoral & Geographical Analysis

An Economic Vision for Alexandria: Towards making Alexandria truly the second capital of Egypt

July 31

ECES organized this webinar in collaboration with the India-based Gate House: Indian Council on Global Relations. The event aimed to discuss the Egyptian experience in artisan industries compared to that of India, shedding light on the key challenges facing them. The discussions revealed that problems related to packaging and marketing are the most important challenges facing the artisan industries in both countries.





The proposed vision presented by Abla Abdel-Latif, PhD, Executive Director & Director of Research, ECES; and Mohannad Mahdy, Economict, ECES.



Abla Abdel-Latif, PhD, Executive Director & Director of Research, on behalf of ECES, received a trophy of appreciation from Lieut. Gen. Ahmed Khaled Hassan Said, Governor of Alexandria, for the efforts done in the study.

Relevant Events

39 Achieving Value Chain Sustainability in Artisanal Products



Financial Markets Analysis

Financial Markets Snapshot, Q1 2024

April 22

Starting January 2024, ECES launched a new series of reports titled "Financial Markets Snapshot". Published monthly, the reports offer a comprehensive exploration of the linkages between global, emerging, and Egyptian financial markets, delving into the ever-evolving landscape of global markets and examining their ripple effects on emerging markets, while shedding light on how these changes reverberate within the Egyptian economy and its financial markets.

This seminar discussed the findings of the report over the first quarter of 2024. It attempted to shed light on major global developments and their implications for Egypt and the region at large.



From left: Hany Tawfik, CEO, International Investors; Ahmed Kouchok, Deputy Minister of Finance for Financial Policies (current Minister of Finance); Abla Abdel-Latif, PhD, Executive Director & Director of Research, ECES; Omar El-Shenety, Executive Partner, Zilla Capital, & Part-time Professor, AUC; & Alaa El-Din Sabaa, CEO, Basata Holding Co. for Financial Payments.





Financial Markets Snapshot – Q2 2024

July 3

In its second issue, the "Financial Markets Snapshot" report covered the second quarter of 2024. The report found that while oil prices dropped, gas and gold prices rose as a result of investor preferences and the desire of many central banks to maintain large gold reserves to reduce dependence on US Treasury bills. Increased money supply due to printing money heavily added to global inflationary pressures.

As for Egypt, though its external debt decreased by \$10 billion to \$160 billion, the cost of debt rose sharply, reaching 32 percent due to currency flotation and raising the interest rate by about 8 percent during the first quarter. Inflation slowed to 30 percent but is expected to rebound due to the expected increase in electricity and gasoline prices.





From left: Hany Tawfik, CEO, International Investors; Yehia Aboul-Fotouh, Vice Chairman, National Bank of Egypt (NBE); Abla Abdel-Latif, PhD, Executive Director & Director of Research, ECES; Omar El-Shenety, Executive Partner, Zilla Capital, & Consultant, ECES; & Sherif Samy, Former President, Egyptian Financial Supervisory Authority (EFSA).

Financial Markets Snapshot, Q3 2024

November 6

The escalating regional conflict in the Middle East during Q3 resulted in an increase in oil and gas prices, while iron ore prices fell amid concerns of potential economic slowdown. The US Federal Reserve cut interest rates by a larger-than-usual halfpercentage-point, kicking off what is expected to be a steady easing of monetary policy. However, the cost of borrowing rose significantly in the United States, Canada and Germany.

Domestically, the agreements Egypt signed with the IMF and the EU, as well as the Ras El-Hikma mega project agreement, contributed significantly to reducing the external debt. As for inflation, while the Central Bank of Egypt expressed commitment to withdraw excess liquidity from the market, inflation continued rising due to excess money supply and higher fuel prices.





From left: Hany Tawfik, CEO, International Investors; Sherif Samy, Former President, Egyptian Financial Supervisory Authority (EFSA); Abla Abdel-Latif, PhD, Executive Director & Director of Research, ECES; Medhat Nafea, Professor of Economics, & Former Deputy Minister of Supply; & Omar El-Shenety, Executive Partner, Zilla Capital, & Consultant, ECES.



Relevant Publications

19 Financial Markets Snapshot (Monthly)



Distinguished Lectures

International Experiences of Institutional Reform

February 19, Professor Alvaro Mendez

Professor Alvaro Mendez spoke about China and its role in establishing the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Asian Development Bank (NDB). Professor Alvaro Mendez is a Senior Research Fellow and Director of the LSE Global South Unit. He is a Senior Associate Fellow and the Academic Director of short programmes at LSE IDEAS. He is an Adjunct Professor and Foreign Expert at the Institute for Global Public Policy (IGPP) at Fudan University in Shanghai.





Left-to-right: Mr. Mohamed Kassem, Chairman, World Trading Company (WTC; Abla Abdel-Latif, PhD, Executive Director and Director of Research, ECES; Prof. Alvaro Mendez, Senior Research Fellow, Director of the Global South Unit at London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), and Academic Director, LSE IDEAS Department of International Relations; & Filippo Fasulo, PhD, Co-Head, Geoeconomics Centre, ISPI.





Panelists of Dr. Samir Saran's lecture (left-to-right): Alaa Hashim, Founder & Executive Partner, Transcendium; Tarek Osman, Senior Political Counsellor for Arab World, EBRD; Abla Abdel-Latif, PhD, Executive Director & Director of Research, ECES'; Sunjoy Joshi, Chairman, ORF; & H.E. Amb. Mohamed Higazy, PhD, Former Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs.

In a world of volatile geopolitics, what can the partnership between India and Egypt achieve?

June 11, Samir Saran, PhD

Egypt and India are striving to build a strong partnership, similar to that of the 1950s and 1960s, amidst difficult global circumstances. There are various challenges, dominating the current situation, which may amount to catastrophes and shocks, such as geographical conflicts, the impact of regional wars and conflicts on trade and economic activities, the clash between reality and the virtual world, which could lead to the disintegration of societies, violent climate change affecting all countries of the world, and finally the clash between East and West, and between North and South.

Hosted by ECES, Samir Saran, President of India's leading think tank, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), discussed possible means of cooperation between Egypt and India, shedding light on the mutual benefits that could result from such cooperation.



Cooperation Activities with Other Institutions

I. International Partners

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Union (EU)





SMEs Challenges in Egypt: In Search for Specific Solutions

January 22

In cooperation with the EBRD and the EU and with the engagement of relevant stakeholders and players within the SMEs sector in Egypt, the ECES launched a research project aiming to further discuss the root causes of the problems identified by focus-group discussions with SMEs and entrepreneurs with a view to providing effective solutions. This event aimed to discuss the results of the focus-group meetings.

A Series of Follow-Up Roundtable Discussions with a Selected Focus Group

September 16 - October 8

Following focus group discussions with SMEs and entrepreneurs, ECES, in collaboration with the EBRD, initiated a series of informative and discussion sessions. These sessions brought together key stakeholders, including policymakers, Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), donors, and lobbying bodies. The primary objectives were to examine the current state of the SME ecosystem in Egypt and its recent developments; delve into the root causes of the challenges hindering SME growth in the country; and explore and propose effective solutions to address these impediments.

This collaborative effort aimed to foster a comprehensive understanding of the SME landscape in Egypt and facilitate the development of targeted strategies to support SME growth and development.

The four sessions consecutively discussed "the latest developments in the institutional and legislative frameworks concerned with entrepreneurship and SMEs in Egypt"; "the role of business development services (BDS)"; "land allocation and licensing procedures"; and the "financing tools for SMEs: Traditional and Non-traditional". Each session included around 15 to 20 participants representing government entities, DFIs, donors and SMEs.







The Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI)

Rome MED Dialogues Extraordinary Expert Meeting "Rethinking Security in the Middle East"



February 4

The war in Gaza had severe regional and heterogenous effects on the MENA economies. While the energy and financial sectors have seen limited direct effects so far, other critical areas such as tourism, trade, and investment face the threat of severe disruptions not to mention food insecurity. These economic reverberations extend beyond Israel-Palestine, potentially exacerbating the precarious economic situations in other MENA countries. The Rome MED Dialogues held this extraordinary expert meeting on "Rethinking Security in the Middle East". Executive Director and Director of Research Abla Abdel-Latif represented ECES in the meeting, chairing the session titled "The War and its Regional Economic Reverberations". The session addressed the immediate and long-term economic risks posed by the war for the broader MENA region, particularly for countries already in fragile economic states, how could the war influence the future of economic cooperation in the region and the role that economic relations can play in easing geopolitical tensions.





T7 Italy Summit Rebuilding Bridges: Tackling Global Insecurity

May 13

Executive Director and Director of Research Abla Abdel-Latif represented ECES in the Think7 (T7) Rome as a main speaker at the session titled "Rebuilding Bridges: Tackling Global Insecurity". The T7 is the official think tank engagement group of the G7. Under the T7 process, global think tank experts of four task forces develop research-based policy recommendations to be delivered to the G7 leaders. The culminating event of this process is the T7 Italy Summit, a two-day hybrid event held on 13 and 14 of May and jointly promoted by the T7 Chairs – the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) and the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI), in cooperation with LUISS University. The T7 Italy Summit offered the opportunity to officially present and discuss the T7 policy recommendations in view of the G7 Summit in mid-June.





Rome MED Dialogues 10th Edition "Mediterranean Connections: Bridging Continents through the Global Gateway?"

November 25-27

Executive Director and Director of Research Abla Abdel-Latif engaged as a keynote speaker at the 10th edition of "Dialoghi Meditarranei – Mediterranean Dialogues," organized by ISPI in Rome. The conference consisted of two rounds of questions/topics covered by the speakers. The first round entitled "Building bridges: Foreign policy in the age of connectivity". Dr. Abdel Latif discussed a question on whether the Global Gateway is the right instrument to promote the EU-Egypt partnership, and how and to what extent it is consistent with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). In the second round of questions entitled "Mediterranean connectors: The role of projects, partnership and the private sector," Dr. Abdel Latif spoke on the external and internal constraints facing Egypt in its efforts to emerge as a stronger energy partner for Europe, and what the Global Gateway can do in this respect.





Visit \(\int \) Website

Relevant Publications

48 Decarbonizing the Future amid an Uncertain Present.
Assessing Combined Challenges and Initiating New Policy,
Financial and Technology Solutions on Land and at Sea

Delphi Economic Forum

South vs North: Can the G7 be a Real Bridge?



April 12

Executive Director and Director of Research Abla Abdel-Latif represented ECES as a main speaker in the session titled "South vs North: Can the G7 be a Real Bridge?" The session attempted to answer these questions: Can the G7 build new bridges rather than new walls? How to safeguard the international economy and avoid further trade wars and protectionism? Which further steps should the G7 take to promote sustainable development in low- and middle-income countries? Is there room for North-South cooperation on green transition and adaptation to climate change?

The Delphi Economic Forum is held annually by the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI). It seeks to create a lasting public platform for dialogue and cooperation between different fields, countries, and cultures, with a special emphasis on the wider Mediterranean region.





The UNIDO Network of Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPOs) & the Arab International Center for Entrepreneurship & Investment Training (AICEI)





World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum (WEIF) 2024 Achieving the SDGs through Fostering Innovation and Economic Growth

May 14 & 15

Executive Director and Director of Research Abla Abdel-Latif, moderated two sessions titled "Six Transitions: Investment Pathways to Deliver the SDGs" and "Role of Universities and Educational Institutions in Unleashing Entrepreneurship and Innovation". WEIF is facilitated by the General Secretariat at the UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office in the Kingdom of Bahrain in partnerships with the League of Arab States, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce in Bahrain, the Union of Arab Chambers, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and a number of local, regional and international partners.









Gateway House Indian Council on Global Relations



Achieving Value Chain Sustainability in Artisanal Products

February 14

ECES organized this webinar in collaboration with the India-based Gate House: Indian Council on Global Relations. The event aimed to discuss the Egyptian experience in artisanal industries compared to that of India, shedding light on the key challenges facing them. The discussions revealed that problems related to packaging and marketing are the most important challenges facing the artisan industries in both countries.





Observer Research Foundation (ORF)



Raisina Dialogue 2024 Fractured Politics: Is Development a Casualty of War?

February 22

Great power rivalries and ambitions—played out as war, sanctions, or diplomatic pressure—have significantly reduced the policy space available to developing countries. Food and fuel inflation have caused humanitarian crises in many countries, and sent others, already scarred by the pandemic, deep into debt. Government balance sheets are under pressure, and even sovereign debt relief is taking longer than it should. Executive Director and Director of Research Abla Abdel-Latif represented ECES as a main speaker in the session titled "Fractured Politics: Is Development a Casualty of War?". As the Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-economics, it has been co-hosted since 2016 by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, and the Government of India.







Sagarmanthan: The Great Oceans Dialogue The IMEC Corridor: Game-Changer or Challenge?

November 18

Executive Director and Director of Research Abla Abdel-Latif engaging as a keynote speaker in the panel discussion titled "Sea Lanes and Fast Lanes: A New Vision for Connectivity." The panel examined recent developments pertaining to new infrastructure corridors that have the potential to reshape trade in dynamic regions like South and West Asia, as well as the partners and priorities relevant to large infrastructure projects.

The conference was co-hosted by Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and India's Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways.







Relevant Events

In a world of volatile geopolitics, what can the partnership between India and Egypt achieve?

Arab-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Ghorfa)



Arab-German Business Forum Investment Opportunities in the Arab Republic of Egypt

June 3 - 5

Executive Director and Director of Research Abla Abdel-Latif was a main speaker at the country roundtable titled "Investment Opportunities in the Arab Republic of Egypt". This special roundtable was held during the German-Arab Business forum in Berlin to discuss Investment Opportunities in Egypt. Abdel Latif was also a main speaker at the special roundtable held at the conference titled "Empowering Women and Fostering Young Business Leaders".





Carnegie Endowment for International Peace & The South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)





Reimagining Global Economic Governance: African and Global Perspectives

June 19 - 21

This conference, co-hosted by the South African Institute of International Affairs and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in South Africa, aimed to explore updated principles, rules, and institutions for a more resilient, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable global economy. Executive Director and Director of Research Abla Abdel-Latif was a keynote speaker at the session titled "Managing Climate Change and the Energy Transition". The session focused on the dilemmas and demands, as well as opportunities posed by the clean energy transition for African countries; how can the global climate agenda—and the need to address devastating climate impacts—be best reconciled with the continent's development needs, including its need to industrialize and to ensure a just energy transition? How can national governments and international cooperation help to ensure that the benefits from the extraction of critical minerals from the continent are equitably distributed, including within African societies?



The Middle East Council on Global Affairs (ME Council)



The Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB)



MENA Think Tank Forum: Organizing for Collective Impact

September 23 - 24

In February 2023, the Middle East Council on Global Affairs (ME Council) and the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at the American University of Beirut (AUB) held a roundtable of regional think tank leaders to discuss their institutions' relevance and impact in a context of rising global uncertainty. The participants assessed the opportunities and risks confronting regional think tanks and noted the need for greater inter-institutional dialogue and collaboration. Building on the insights of the 2023 roundtable, a MENA Think Tank Forum was held in Doha to bring together think tank executives to discuss how institutions can work together to confront the challenges facing the region.

Executive Director and Director of Research Abla Abdel-Latif was a keynote speaker in the session titled "Reflections on the Current Context," in which she discussed the most critical issues and challenges facing Egypt and the Middle East, how ECES supports Egypt in facing challenges such as conflicts, climate change, youth and the future of work, shrinking civic space, migration and displacement, and others.





The Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE)

Annual Conference on Private Sector Engagement



October 7

Executive Director and Director of Research Abla Abdel-Latif represented ECES at this annual conference as a keynote speaker in the session titled "SMEs Business Environment". This session discussed key recommendations to ensure the implementation of the new SMEs law, and ensure better business environment for SMEs. Organized by the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), the conference was held in collaboration with the Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI), the Federation of Egyptian Banks (FEB), the Institute of National Planning (INP), the Alexandria Business Association (ABA), the Egyptian Businessmen's Association (EBA), and the Venture Capital Structural Reforms (VCSR) Group Steering Committee. The event brought together private sector leadership and senior government officials from the Cabinet, Parliament, as well as experts from academia, and the media.





Public Policy Excellence Program (PPEP) Training Course - Rounds 8 & 9 & Annual Gathering for All Previous Graduates

Round 8 January 31, Annual Gathering July 23 & Round 9 December 25

The Public Policy Excellence Program aims to prepare and build future cadres of participants in the market-oriented economic decision-making process by developing a scientific approach to economic decision-making that addresses all scientific and practical dimensions of public policies with a focus on "cost-benefit analysis" as a method for evaluating decisions of all kinds.









The BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance



Financial Architecture

October 9

The BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance was officially announced at the meeting of BRICS finance ministers and central bank governors held in June 2022. On June 23, 2022, Chinese President Xi Jinping chaired the 14th BRICS Summit in Beijing via video link. The summit adopted and released the XIV BRICS Summit Beijing Declaration, in which the BRICS Think Tank Network for Finance, a new initiative launched by China under the financial cooperation mechanism, was included. Under the initiative, the think tank network is expected to work independently and provide intellectual support for knowledge sharing, exchange of experience and practices, and cooperation on financial and fiscal issues among BRICS countries. The aim is to address global challenges and safeguard the common interests of emerging markets and developing countries.

During the session titled "Financial Architecture," Executive Director Abla Abdel-Latif spoke via Zoom about the potential for BRICS to influence the ongoing transformation of the international financial architecture for the benefit of its members and the broader Global South.



The Developing 8 Organization for Economic Cooperation

D-8 Member States: Economic Profiles, Sectors and Opportunities



October 9

ECES has completed a chapter titled "D-8 Member States: Economic Profiles, Sectors and Opportunities." In the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation book project titled "The Developing 8 Organization for Economic Cooperation: Synergies, Cooperation and Trajectories". The D-8 Book initiative aims to document the evolution, achievements, and future prospects of its member states. The Organization invited the foreign ministries of member states to involve leading think tanks in contributing to this volume. ECES was selected by the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to author the chapter, which highlights the D-8 Organization's mission and economic potentials by examining the individual economies of its eight member states—Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey. It explores existing cooperation dynamics and identifies opportunities for growth, aiming to provide a nuanced understanding of the D-8 as a catalyst for economic synergy and development within the Global South. This work aligns closely with the ECES's efforts to enhance regional and international cooperation with like-minded organizations



II. Domestic Partners

National Bank of Egypt (NBE)

Demand in Egypt's Labor Market

ECES organizes a series of seminars intended to discuss the findings of a detailed quarterly analysis of Egypt's labor market. The analysis, which is the first of its kind in Egypt, aims to support decision makers as well as job seekers, by bridging the gap between supply and demand in the



labor market. It provides decision makers with the necessary information on demand and the most wanted jobs to reconcile the country's educational goals and outcomes with market demand. The analysis also allows job seekers to identify the most wanted jobs so as to make their educational decisions accordingly.

ECES established a special unit for data analytics, and a quarterly report on the status of the labor market has been published and updated regularly since November 2021 on both the NBE and ECES official websites.

Relevant Events

- **30** Demand in Egypt's Labor Market, Q1 Y3
 - **31** Demand in Egypt's Labor Market, Q2 Y3

Commercial International Bank (CIB)



Collaboration with CIB began in 2022. In an attempt to enhance the country's preparations for hosting the UN COP27, ECES and CIB had collaborated to organize several activities on the issue. The activities

included a series of events discussing climate change and its effects, which began in June 2022 through November 2022. Collaboration with CIB continues, with a conference on climate change to follow up the results of COP27. CIB is also sponsoring a few of ECES publications.

ECES and CIB collaborated on conducting two specialized studies focused on financing investment opportunities based on value chain analysis of two sectors: The first study examined financing opportunities in the value chain of plastic-made items for transporting and packaging goods (plastic packaging, HS code 3923), and the second study explored financing opportunities in the value chain of preserved and processed tomatoes (HS code 2002). Both studies aimed to support the bank in designing innovative financing products, that combines creditworthiness and capitalizing on investment opportunities while achieving the country's strategic goals.

Relevant Events

26 The 1st CAIRO FORUM

Relevant Publications

- 21 Business Barometer (Quarterly)
- **21** Egypt's Economic Profile and Statistics (Annual)
- 23 Your Guide to Industrial Investment in Egypt

Key Publications of the Year I. Working Papers



Unveiling the Secrets of Freelancing Success

Comparative Study of Egypt and India

WP No. 236 April 2024

This working paper is developed by the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies as part of its groundbreaking work that leverages the power of Al to reveal unprecedented insights into Egypt's labor market. It is authored by Ahmed Dawoud, Economist and Head of Data Analytics Unit at ECES.

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Unveiling the Secrets of Freelancing Success: Comparative Study of Egypt and India

April 2024

Ahmed Dawoud, Economist and Head of Data Analytics Unit, ECES

This paper examines the freelancing landscape in Egypt, contrasting it with India's established market to identify strategies for Egypt's growth in this sector. It articulates the potential of freelancing to mitigate unemployment, generate foreign currency, enhance job decentralization and support economic diversification. Findings reveal that while Egyptian freelancers match their Indian counterparts in job execution, they face challenges in securing freelance opportunities, stemming from a notable mismatch between their skillset and market demands. The analysis also notes a trend towards part-time freelancing in Egypt, influenced by freelancers' hesitancy to commit full-time without guaranteed income, contrasting with the more intensive engagement by Indian freelancers. Additionally, the paper identifies significant room for improvement in communication, self-marketing, and crafting compelling proposals to attract and retain clients.





التقييم القطاعى للأنشطة الاقتصادية بالإسكندرية

ورقة العمل رقم 237 أغسطس 2024

هذه الدراسة من إعداد المركز المصري للدراسات الاقتصادية (ECES)، حيث تضمن فريق العمل البخلُ القائم على إعدادها د سدر عبود، اقتصادي رئيسي، وراما سعيد، اقتصادي أول، وسلمي بهاء، اقتصادي أول، ومهند مهدي، اقتصادي، وماريان عادل، اقتصادي، وذلك تحت إشراف دكتورة عبلة عبد اللطيف، المدير النقيدي ومدير البحوث بالمركز،

: 2024 المركز المصري للدراسات الاقتصادية (ECES). جميع الحقوق محفوظة.

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Annual Report



Sectoral Assessment of Economic Activities in Alexandria

August 2024

Sahar Aboud, Lead Economist; Rama Said, Senior Economist; Salma Bahaa, Senior Economist; Mohanad Mahdy, Economist; and Marian Adel, Economist, ECES

This working paper attempts to highlight the economic potentials of Alexandria. Specifically, it assesses the economic sectors therein, which is a prerequisite to prepare a sound development strategy to advance the governorate and place it in the position it deserves. Following a detailed presentation of the methodology, the study consists of four sections. Section I assesses the manufacturing sector and analyzes its sub-activities, while Section II focuses on the city of Borg El Arab. Section III evaluates the tourism sector in the governorate, and finally, the final section analyzes the logistics sector.





II. Publications with Internationa **Organizations** Comparison FINANCIAL



Decarbonizing the Future amid an Uncertain **Present. Assessing Combined Challenges** and Initiating New Policy, Financial and **Technology Solutions on Land and at Sea**

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Taylah Bland, Senior Program Officer, Asia Society, Australia/United States
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July 2024

Abla Abdel-Latif, PhD, Executive Director & Director of Research, ECES

This policy brief is further enriched by two special focuses: exploring the impacts of climate disclosure to support the unlocking of climate finance, and proposing an innovative roadmap for sustainable ocean financing.





III. Eye on the SOUTH





#1

African Synergy: Cooperative Initiatives Igniting Climate Resilience Across Africa

February 19

Partnership initiatives among nations are a significant avenue of South-South collaboration as they bolster collective efforts to promote sustainable development across the Global South. This first issue of "Eye on the South" focuses on Africa in regard to combating climate change. It starts with a brief positioning of Africa and the extent to which it suffers from the deterioration in climate. It is followed by specific initiatives to address the climate issue at the continental and regional level, with an assessment of their advantages and disadvantages.







Diplomatic Cooperation Within the Global South

July 30

This issue explores the dynamic landscape of diplomatic cooperation within the global south, emphasizing its critical role in addressing its own development challenges and reforming the global political economy. The analysis underscores the significance of South-South diplomatic cooperation through bilateral, multilateral, and ad-hoc agreements, highlighting successful initiatives and their contributions to economic development, trade, intellectual property rights, and climate justice. Key mechanisms such as the G77, MERCOSUR, the African Peer Review Mechanism, and ASEAN are examined in how they promote South-South diplomatic efforts, identifying their successes and challenges in implementation.



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