

INFORMATION STATEMENT

The Cairo Gabr Fellows Meeting

26th August 2024

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Chairman Shafik Gabr with Fellows

On the 26th of August 2024, at the invitation of the Chairman of the Shafik Gabr Foundation, Mr. Shafik Gabr, the Gabr Fellows met in Cairo at the ARTOC Headquarters.

They provided updates on both their personal and professional developments, highlighting key achievements and challenges and discussed possible locations for the upcoming 2025 reunion. Additionally, they explored the current economic trends in Egypt, focusing on the potential direction of the country's economy.

On the 26th August, at the invitation of Chairman Shafik Gabr, the Egyptian Fellows gathered in Cairo at the ARTOC headquarters. They shared their updates and discussed the 2025 reunion and the direction of the economy of Egypt.

Fellow updates:

2014 Gabr Fellow **Zeyad Kalani:**

Zeyad is currently an assistant professor at Cairo University. Zeyad recently visited Germany, where he lectured officials on how to use spatial data. Zeyad is also working on a book chapter that will be published soon, focusing on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and national security.

2016 Gabr Fellow **Nayra Gadallah:**

Nayra will be traveling to Saudi Arabia for over two weeks, including visits to Medina and Riyadh. She had the important task of participating in the interviews for the 2025 Gabr Fellowship candidates. Additionally, she has been involved in judging at the British University in Egypt (BUE), where she is reviewing and grading 20 memorials (submissions by lawyers to the court).

2017 Gabr Fellow **Ibrahim Hammouda:**

Due to his mother's illness, Ibrahim has been occupied with family responsibilities. He is working on an app that integrates education and sports. Mr. Gabr reiterated the importance of Fellows focusing on advancement, even against all odds.

2018 Gabr Fellow **Marwa Abdalla:**

Marwa is currently involved in the research phase of a new feature documentary film project. In addition to this, she is working on a feature fiction film in the pre-production phase. Additionally, she mentioned that her daughter is now 13 years old and she is very proud of her.

2018 Gabr Fellow **Muhammad El Hawary:**

Muhammad has been assigned to lead a new WAN transformation project with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Belgium at Orange Business.

2018 Gabr Fellow **Shady El-Sherif:**

Shady has recently undergone a career shift from public policy to market research. He now works with Gulf Researcher, a company that has expanded into Egypt under the new name RESO. He discussed the challenges of transitioning from the public sector to the corporate world.

2022 Gabr Fellow **Amr Hesham:**

Amr is progressing with his documentary project of Egyptian American bridge building. The next step is to create content suitable for submission to film festivals. Amr has secured a location at BUE for shooting and has the support of someone from the department. He is currently writing the script for the first part of the documentary. Mr. Gabr suggested that Amr contact Yousef from Tilted Needle for further assistance.

2022 Gabr Fellow **Mohamed Hassan:**

Mohamed is working to develop the visual identity for the Civil society support fund by the Ministry of Social Solidarity, and at the same time working as a full time employee as a property consultant for New Avenue.

2022 Gabr Fellow **Layla Galal:**

Layla is currently working for the protocol department, and she discussed the impact of having a new boss on her upcoming career, she also expressed her excitement for her first posting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take place next year.

Discussion:

Following the Fellows updates, Chairman Gabr opened the floor for discussion regarding the location of the 2025 Fellowship reunion.

Among the suggestions were California, Morocco, and Greece. Mr. Gabr emphasised the importance of choosing a secluded location where experts can engage with Fellows without distractions. Since the last reunion was held in Egypt, it might be beneficial to consider the U.S. this time. The proposed duration is one day of travel followed by four days of activities.

The discussion then moved on to the agenda topic put forward by Gabr Fellow, Amr Hesham, who proposed: where is the current economic situation in Egypt heading a year from now?

The discussion explored the possible forthcoming policies impact on tax, investment, and trade. The new Egyptian government's policies could open the door to significant changes in the investment landscape, attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). However, current challenges include bureaucracy and over-regulation, which hinder growth.

Finally, there was a discussion regarding communication in relation to the Fellowship. It was agreed there should be one official WhatsApp group for communication among Fellows that could be used for updates, organising events, and sharing the monthly newsletter.

Attendees:

Zeyad Kalani (2014)
Nayra Gadallah (2016)
Ibrahim Hammouda (2017)
Marwa Abdalla (2018)
Muhammad El Hawary (2018)
Shady El-Sherif (2018)
Amr Hesham (2022)
Mohamed Hassan (2022)
Layla Galal (2022)