

Dr. Ahmed M. Darwish

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Brief Bio

- BSc. and MSc. Cairo University 1981 and 1984
- Ph.D. in Computer Engineering, University of California, Davis, USA, 1988.

Awards

- Egyptian National Engineering Award, 1999.
- Middle East Eminent Persons, Singapore, 2007.
- University of California, Lifetime Achievement (Distinguished Engineering Alumni Medal), 2017.

Occupations

- Professor, Computer Engineering Department, Cairo University (Sept '99 – July '04), (Mar '11 – Nov '15), (May '17 – to date)
- *Chairman Suez Canal Economic Zone* (Nov '15 – Apr 2017)
- *Minister of State for Administrative Development* (July '04 – Jan. '11).
- Visiting Associate Professor: The Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Virginia Tech, USA ('96-'97, Summer '99).

Consultations

- Consultant to World Bank and EU projects and several United Nations Organizations, (UNIDO, UNDP, WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, FAO and ESCWA).
- Consultant to several of Egyptian government ministries and agencies.
- Consultant to numerous Egyptian and international companies, banks and enterprises in Egypt, Middle East, Africa, Europe and United States.

Sample Current Activities

Dr. Darwish has numerous work in Governance both for state and corporate. He is among few visionaries in Egypt and Middle East in terms of futuristic ideas. He initiated Egypt Vison 2030, Egypt Development Map (a pioneer planning tool based on GIS and statistical population parameters). His methodology of linking national databases has proven to be very efficient both in service provision and targeting.

Dr. Darwish is among the few internationally known for establishing the concept of Invisible Seamless Government where pushing services dominates the operation rather than the classic pull mode. He is also among the early visionaries who anticipated in his famous talk in Paris in 2002 that old structures will fall if they do not become agile enough to absorb new technology availed tools. He shed light on the repercussions of that on governance models and mechanisms especially in the area of citizen participation.

His skill set includes negotiation, cash flow and finance analysis, setting policies and strategies and many more.

Consultancy

Current

- Consultant to ILO and Ministry of Labour to draft the Egyptian Employment Strategy.

Previous (Sample)

- Advisor to Ministry of Planning and Economic Development for establishing Impact Key Performance indicators for the Structural Reform Program.
- Consultant to The European Union: Lead the team to write the Policy Note on EU Engagement for Integrated Water Management.
- Consultant to Misr Insurance, Misr Asset Management and Khazna for their governance, risk and information strategy plan and digital transformation.
- Consultant to UNICEF for building the Business and Financial Model for using RapidPro in providing services for citizens with non-smart phones.
- Consultant to WHO and General Authority for Health Care for the restructuring of the authority.
- Consultant with team from Dornier (Germany) for establishment of Freight Company for Egyptian Rail-Road Authority (2019-2021).
- Consultant to Aur Capital Investment for their Information Strategy Plan (2020).
- Consultant to Ahly Capital for due diligence on their acquisition of Momkn.
- Consultant to Ministry of Planning (UNDP Contract) to formulate the KPI for the 2030 Egyptian National Objectives and correlate them to the SDGs (2020).
- Consultant to GIZ on their project for Public Administration Support for the Government of Egypt.
- Consultant to Microsoft on the preparation of National Plan for Middle East and Africa (2012-2014).
- Consultant and Advisor to several companies and banks among them a leading Egyptian International Petroleum Company / Group (2011-date), Industry Development Bank (2014-2015), Agriculture Development Bank (2015), Investor Protection Fund (2014-2015) Misr Insurance Company (2015), and Misr Insurance Holding Company (2011-2012).
- Member of the team (Volunteering at Ministry of Planning) to prepare and draft the National Plan 2012-2022 (2011) and Egypt Vision 2030/2050 (2014).
- Advisor to UNDP on their policies and strategies in Egypt for projects implemented on anticorruption, transparency and integrity post of the January 25th revolution.
- Consultant to the World Bank for the study on Governance of State-Owned Enterprises (2013), Restructuring Public Service (2015) and to their work in Saudi Arabia (2018).
- Advisor to UNIDO on several studies and initiatives, among them Green Economy and Employment in the Middle East (2013) and Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Middle East (2011).
- Invited expert by several international organizations among them:
 - Economic Reforms and Social Justice in the Arab Region, Sponsored by Royal Prince Hassan Ben Talal, Landau Network and Wana Forum, Como, Italy 2012.
 - High level meeting (EU Presidency) EU and Southern Neighbourhood New Prospects for Mutual Cooperation in a Changing Environment, Warsaw Dec. 2011.
 - Helsinki Process: Improving International Investment Regime, April 2013.

Boards

Current

- Member of Board of Directors Cheiron Oil, Odin, Alpha Capital, Lotus Agriculture, Summit Technology Solutions, 138 Pyramids and Evolve Investment Holding.
- Member of the Board of Advisors for ConsuKorra Planning and Engineering Solution.
- Member of the General Assembly for Egypt Air Holding and Chemical Industry Holding.
- Member of the Board of Trustees School of Business and School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at American University in Cairo, Badr University, New Giza University.

Previous

- Member of Board of Directors for Bank du Caire, Egypt Air Holding, Telecom Egypt, Gold Network Trade, Delta Life Insurance, Endure Capital, Arab Investment Holding, Information Technology Industry Development Authority (ITIDA), Information Technology and Information Technology Institute, ITI.
- Member of the Board of Advisors for Daltex, Sadco Reyada and IBDL.
- Member of the Advisory Board for The Council of Arab Economic Unity.
- Member of the General Assembly of Misr Insurance Holding and Akhbar-El-Yom.
- Member of the Board of Trustees for Nile University (2014-2018), International School of Information Science ISIS, Bibliotheca Alexandrina (2004-2014).

Invited Speaker (Sample)

83 keynotes in 23 countries in conferences and business associations meetings around the world 2011-2022. Sample:

- World Government Summit, Dubai, 3 times (Last time Mar. 2022)
- Keynote Speaker Meeting of the Minds, Jakarta, Dec 2019.
- Guest Speaker American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) Washington DC, British Chamber London and French Chamber Paris (2016).
- Keynote speaker at World e-ID, Nice, Sept. 2012 and 2013 and Marseille Sept. 2014.
- Keynote speaker at the Government Technology Summit, Abu-Dhabi, Feb. 2013 and Dubai Feb. 2014.
- Speaker, UNIDO General Conference on prospects for solving forecasted unemployment problems in the Middle East, Vienna Nov. 2011, UNIDO Forum on Strategies and Instruments for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, Vienna June 2014 and UNIDO International Green Economy and Technology Forum, Bahrain Jan. 2015.
- Keynote Speaker, International Innovation Summit, Tunis Sept. 2014.
- Keynote speaker at OECD conference “Making Reform Happen”, Paris, Dec. 2010.
- Guest speaker, European Electronic Administration Conference in Paris (2008).

Sample Previous Professional Experience

- Establishment of the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone: 461 sq km and 6 ports). This included all the regulatory framework and policies and strategies to become among the top 7 most attractive investment destinations in 2035.
- Attracting 20B\$ worth of investment to develop 23M sq m in Sczone.
- Preparation of the 2 National Project Documents on e-government (Policies and Strategies) 2001-2007 and 2007-2012.
- The administration and coordination of the implementation efforts of the four e-government programs (over 160 projects with an annual budget of \$100M): 1. Basic Infrastructure, 2. Services Development, 3. State Resource Planning, 4. Integration of National Databases.

- *These efforts led to the enhancement of Egyptian rank for electronic and web services is from 160 out of 192 countries in 2003 to 23 out of 192 according to the 2010 UNPAN report in 2010 and the program received the best service award both from the UN in New York (2009) and the African Union in Johannesburg (2008).*
- The design of a new Social Safety Net structure through a newly created family database and the use of smart cards (family card). A nationwide project for 12M families.
- The complete study on restructuring of health insurance and health care services and university hospitals in Egypt.
- The Design and execution of the Institutional Development and Human Resources Development Program.
- Re-establishment of the National Management Institute (NMI) in 2006 (originally established in 1954 and dissolved in 1981). It presents an excellence center for IT services, consulting and capacity building.
- Establishment of the Center for Governance Studies as the first regional center that promotes various governance pillars (transparency, accountability, partnership in decision making, rule of law, ...).
- Chairing the OECD initiative Governance for Development in the Arab World 2005-2009.
- Leading the efforts for Egypt to join the Public Governance Committee, OECD (2008).
- Chaired the Egyptian Transparency and Integrity Committee (2008-2011). The committee was composed mostly of non-government public figures and experts. Published 3 auditing reports that tracked the international and national corruption indices along with recommendations for government such as budget transparency, ombudsman and transparency in jobs and government procurement.
- Sponsoring and Contracting Cairo University for the largest scientific statistical social study in the Middle East on Egyptian Values Regarding Corruption, which when published attracted huge attention and created a high awareness state.
- Leading major efforts in the area of Access to Justice and the implementation of the major development of the judiciary support system in Egypt.
- *As a result of his work on governance Dr. Darwish was an invited speaker to numerous international events, the last was in December 2010 in Paris by OECD on “Making Reform Happen” where he was introduced by Mr. Angel Gurría as the most famous reformer in the Middle East.*

Academic and Professional Activities

- Chairman, IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers), Egypt Section, Member of the Award and Recognition Committee (ARC) Region 8 (2012-2015) and Member of the Ethics and Member Conduct Committee (2015).
- Former member of several scientific and professional societies and on the editorial and reviewing boards of international scientific journals and periodicals.
- Publications: 65 papers in international peer reviewed journals and conferences, 11 invited papers, shared in 4 books, numerous invited talks.
- Several sponsored research projects. Graduate Supervision: 10 Ph.D. - 26 M.Sc.

Civil Society, Think Tanks and Policy Advocacy Activities

- Member of the board of trustees for several NGOs among them:
Al-Korra Foundation an NGO dedicated to providing youth with life work skills,
Egypt National Competitiveness Council, and
Gears (Terous): Creation of an Egyptian GIS Development Map – Coordination of civil society to engage with government and private sector to initiate Egypt Vision 2030.
- Volunteer in Misr El-Kheir, Baheya, Ahl Masr for Governance and Strategy Formation.