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Minister of Education

Born in 1932, Mr. Hussein Kamel Bahaa El-Din holds a MBBCh. degree, and a MD. in Pediatrics from the Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University. He was Founder and First Director of Cairo University New Pediatric Hospital. He has received a large number of scholarships, awards, prizes from various foundations and international agencies. He is a member of numerous national and international professional institutions and he has undertaken many research activities in the field of his competence. He has published a number of books and articles. His later publications are "Education and the Future" (1997) and "Patriotism in A World without Identity" (2000). He has been Minister of Education since 1991. During these periods his most important

achievements include: confronting and eradicating fundamentalism from education, integrating modern communication technology throughout the education system, curriculum development, initiating and implementing a comprehensive school construction program, mobilizing support for expanding resource allocations for education.

Quality education for all

As the new century continues to unfold before us, it is demonstrating that the Information and Communications Revolution is continuing at full speed tend influencing every facet of life, alit compelling us to reconsider Educational priorities. The train of GLOBALIZATION knows no boundaries, and the increase of information cannot be slowed down.

Egypt during the past Decade has identified Educational as a Nations Priority and a Human right. In doing so it has guarded principles of Access and Quality. However the Information Revolution and ongoing global challenges have compelled us to reconsider the Framework of Education for All and to identify the goal of EXCELLENCE FOR ALL as the guiding principle. Setting the bar for achievement as one that recognizes the global changes has implied that we reconsider the educational experience for our citizens and consider such issues as:

- Upgrading our curriculum and educational material
- Considering the comprehensive needs of our students
- Integrating Technology 'throughout the Educational Sector
- Upgrading the skills of our students
- Providing access to schools for all our citizens
- Providing educational opportunities for those who missed their first Chance.

EXCELLENCE FOR ALL also implied that access to the Language of the Twenty First and Access to knowledge go beyond the potential limitations within society. Excellence for all also highlights the potential threat of the DIGITAL DIVIDE that could be harmful to communities and to the whole country. AFFORDABLE TECHNOLOGY and sufficient resources continues to be an ongoing problem for many societies. **Therefore while the responsibility for educational change and reform are dependent on the national Will, yet the international community need to consider the impact of developing technologies that ensure access to this new medium. Societies and communities or individuals who are wealthy cannot hide behind geographical borders or walls and ignore those who are marginalized or deprived.** Globalization with its tentacles compels us to wont towards decreasing the gap between the information rich and the information poor- because we share a common future in our GLOBAL VILLAGE.

While access to technology is a primary goal yet societies need to consider the challenge of balancing their own heritage and history with the anew values that their citizens encounter. TECHNOLOGY -or the dominance of, technology over culture- is a theme that every society needs to focus on to ensure that its

citizens who may have access to the new Language of the Twenty First Century are able to maintain a link with their heritage and values. 