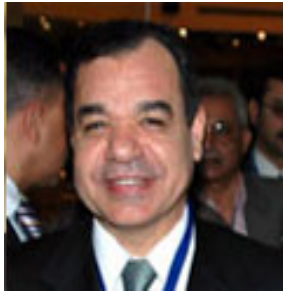




Egypt

Dr. Yosri El Gamal
Minister of Education



Prof. Dr. Yosri El Gamal was born 25 of September 1947 in Alexandria, Egypt. His major areas of competences are computer engineering and programming, nuclear electronics and automatic control. Dr. El Gamal areas or interest are: computer architecture, database systems, e-commerce, multimedia and e-learning. Dr. El Gamal brings to his Ministry extensive experience in computer science and programming. He was previously chairman of Computer Scientific Society (Alexandria, Egypt), member in the National Committee for Information (inside the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research), and board member in the Electronics Research Institute.

Inclusive Education in Egypt: Equity & Quality

It is well known all over the world that poor, disadvantaged and remote areas and slums in developing countries including Egypt suffer from some educational problems and socio-economic hardships. The increase in the education dropouts in some areas especially in rural areas and upper Egypt, does not only mean depriving children from their natural right in education, but it also threatens these children to be lost in streets or robbed of their childhood as they are forced to work at an illegal age.

Since Dakar Declaration on "Education for All" in 2000, the Egyptian government was committed to eliminate the gender gap, and achieve equality in education by 2015. Consequently, the Ministry of Education in Egypt, with a clear vision, set a national strategy of protection, rehabilitation, and inclusion of children outside the education system to overcome the educational dropout issue related to the two problems of child labour and street children.

The Ministry, in collaboration with international donating agencies, local communities, and NGOs, exerts tangible efforts to re-integrate children into educational institutions through developing supportive flexible systems at all stages that can provide alternative education and makes it available to large categories of children deprived of formal education. Also, some educational projects are carried out such as establishing one-classroom schools, community schools, and friendly-schools for girls. These schools aim to enable children, youth and adults to rely on themselves, improve the quality of their life, and develop their communities.

Moreover, the Ministry is greatly concerned with caring for children with special needs, integrating them with their normal peers, and providing them with a natural environment gathering all the children.

Therefore, providing equity and quality in education prepares for citizens who can keep pace with global changes within a cultural context based on knowledge freedom, and social justice.

In this spirit, I am pleased to participate in this venture and the 48th Conference. The theme of inclusive education is of global importance and I am sure that we will benefit greatly from the stimulating and satisfying interchange of ideas and approaches with our international colleagues to help us all move more decisively from vision to practice in the improvement of the availability of quality education for all.