

Joint Declaration
On the establishment of an Italian-Egyptian
Cooperation Program for Education and Scientific Research
Development

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy and the Ministry of
Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Acknowledging

the importance of further strengthening the cultural, scientific and technological development ties between the two Countries;

On the basis of

the solid partnership between Italy and Egypt in the strategic sectors of Cooperation and Development, also referred to in the *Joint Declaration on the Enhancement of the Bilateral Cooperation between Italy and Egypt* signed in Sharm El Sheikh on May 12th, 2009;

Taking into account

the very successful *2009 Italian-Egyptian Year of Science and Technology*, during which several scientific projects of high relevance were presented and discussed in detail among Italian and Egyptian research groups;

Have identified

the following relevant thematic areas of high priority for further collaborative research and development initiatives:

- **Renewable Energies**, with specific emphasis on the development of pilot projects on Concentrated Solar Power and on Second Generation Biofuels;
- **Technologies Applied to Cultural Heritage**, with specific reference to the development of a cluster of laboratories for the conservation and the restoration of Cultural Heritage;

- **Agriculture and Environmental Monitoring**, with specific emphasis on the development of innovative technologies and diagnostics for the monitoring of the environment and of agricultural production;
- **Health**, with specific reference to a pilot project for the prevention and the treatment of liver diseases and the realization of training programs in Medicine and Nursing Sciences.
- **Distance learning**, with specific reference to the development of material, such as textbooks, software, etc., for new distance-learning University courses.

These thematic areas form the core of the Italian-Egyptian Science and Technology Development Program for the Years 2010 and 2011. Project proposals will be presented jointly by Italian and Egyptian project coordinators and will involve universities as well as non-academic research institutions from the two Countries.

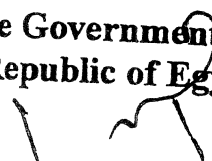
The two sides agree to co-finance specific projects within these five thematic areas, for a total budget of up to 1,350,000 Euro, to be contributed in equal parts by the Egyptian and the Italian sides. The Italian and Egyptian funding will be allocated as soon as resources are made available by the relevant Financial Laws and procedures in the two Countries.

Signed in Rome on May 19th, 2010, in two originals in English language.

**For the Government
of the Italian Republic**


**Franco Frattini
Minister of Foreign Affairs**

**For the Government
of the Arab Republic of Egypt**


**Ahmed Aboul Gheit
Minister of Foreign Affairs**