

MCSBE NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

– AMR GOHAR

July 2009

Dear Members,

Some time has passed since the last MCSBE newsletter so here is an update on recent developments and upcoming activities.

Status of NGO Registration

First, an update on the status of our application for registration as an Egyptian NGO, a process that we started almost a year ago. All of the inspections have been completed and we expect to have the final legal registration number by the end of July! So MCSBE should soon have a bank account and be fully operational. This means we will be ready to be pro-active in “spreading the word” about MCSBE so we can grow!

A reminder that the MCSBE membership brochure can be downloaded from: www.mcsbe.org or requested from Alia Soliman, MCSBE Vice-president for Membership (asoliman@ait.com.eg).

Mohamed Abel Aziz Joins MCSBE as Acting Executive Director

I am very pleased to inform you that Mohamed Abel Aziz has returned to Cairo, following his year studying for a Masters degree in International Development at the University of Bath in England, and has taken up the post as Acting Executive Director of the MCSBE for the next several months under an internship arrangement between the MCSBE and the University of Bath.

You will all remember Mohamed as Manager of the SMEPol Project Unit in the Ministry of Finance. With his vast knowledge of the Egyptian context for SME and entrepreneurship development, his experience in managing related initiatives, and his wide network of SME stakeholders in the region,

Mohamed will be a valuable asset to MCSBE in the next stage of its development. I invite you all to welcome Mohamed in his new role. As we launch our fall program, he will be in regular contact with MCSBE members to solicit your input, cooperation, and participation. Mohamed’s contacts are: email: myoussef_uk@yahoo.com; mobile: 010 1020 067.

I also want to extend congratulations to Mohamed, who is getting married at the end of July!

Egyptian Delegation Participates in the 2009 ICSB World Conference in Seoul, Korea, June 21-24, 2009



Thanks to the support of the IMC, the MCSBE was able to send a delegation of five members to the ICSB conference in Seoul in June, although in total there were 10 Egyptians registered at the conference. Over 650 people from 50 countries attended the conference and so we had the chance to interact with many SME and entrepreneurship experts from all over the world.

As part of a panel at the pre-conference Policy Forum on SMEs/ entrepreneurship, I was invited to speak on the impact of the financial crisis on SMEs in Egypt and to share information on the government’s response. Lois Stevenson, MCSBE Vice-President of Strategy & Operations co-chaired the Policy Forum and made a keynote presentation on the many policy and research views of SMEs and entrepreneurship. You can read highlights of the conference and policy forum on the ICSB website homepage: www.icsb.org.



Farouk Khalid, Alia Soliman, Loay ElShawarby, and Ashraf Sheta at ICSB conference (second row).

The Egyptians also took part in a separate program of Study Tour visits with government agencies and business associations focused on SME development. Specifically, we met with officials from the Small and Medium Business Corporation (which has a mandate similar to the IMC), the Korean Small Business Institute (research organization), the SME Training Center, The Korean Technology Development Fund, and the Korean Small Business Federation.

The Study Tour and the conference provided an incredibly valuable opportunity to learn from and network with hundreds of participants from all over the world and to exchange small business/ entrepreneurship-related knowledge and good practices. We came back to Egypt with a number of new ideas and potential partnerships that we will be able to share with you in more detail very soon.

The 2010 ICSB World Conference will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA from June 24-27. Maybe MCSBE can have an even bigger delegation at this event!

ICSB Executive Board to Meet in Cairo, October 19-20, 2009

As President of an ICSB affiliate, I represent MCSBE with a seat on the ICSB Board of Directors. At the June 24th Board meeting, the Board accepted my invitation, on behalf of MCSBE, to host the next meeting of the ICSB

Executive Committee in Egypt. These Executive members, who come from Canada, the US, Korea, Puerto Rico, the UK, New Zealand and Sweden, will be in Cairo on October 19-20, 2009.

Because of the broad range of experience and knowledge of this group in the areas of entrepreneurship education and training, SME/ entrepreneurship policy and practice, and their distinctive research competencies, the MCSBE will take this opportunity to organize a public event on October 20th, where they will make presentations and engage in dialogue with Egyptians on these issues. We will be advising you about the details of this activity as soon as logistics are finalized.

MCSBE Preparing for 2009 Global Entrepreneurship Week in Egypt, November 15-22, 2009

The big news is that the MCSBE has signed an MOU with the Global Entrepreneurship Week Headquarters to coordinate Egypt's participation in the 2009 program. As you will recall, the MCSBE, in partnership with a number of organizations and sponsors, presented a very successful Entrepreneurship Week in Egypt in 2008, with 19 different events in Cairo, Alexandria, Tanta and Assuit that were attended by almost 3,500 Egyptians, mostly young people.

This year, our goal is to have more partners and more activities in more locations to reach 10,000 people! The major objectives of the Week are to raise the level of awareness of entrepreneurship and know-how among young people, boost the entrepreneurship culture, and foster entrepreneurship networks.

We are soon ready to engage the 2009 partners and sponsors, and then to establish a Partner's Coordinating Committee and program Working Groups.

Mohamed will be in touch with you very shortly to provide more information on the plans for 2009 and how MCSBE members can be involved in this year's activities.

