



CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Over the course of three days, namely from September 30th to October 2nd, 2003; over 1800, ministers, government officials, ambassadors, donors & financial institutions, NGOs, business associations, members of the business community, academics & R&D professionals, media and environmental activists from the four corners of the globe, besides over 100,000 exhibition visitors have met in Cairo in during the 4th International Conference & Exhibition for Environmental Technologies, Management and Funding "Environment 2003", The premier biennial environmental event in the MENA region.

Environment 2003 was structured in the spirit of the directive of H.E. Mohamed Hosny Mubarak, the president of Egypt, who stated that "Preservation of the Environment is no longer an extravagance or luxury, but has become a demanded necessity for protecting the health of our people"; Environment 2003

Held under the auspices of H.E. Dr. Atef Ebeid, the Prime minister of Egypt, the founder of the event back in 1997, who honoured this year's event by inaugurating it along with 9 members of his cabinet and 6 governors which was a vote of confidence to the priority the Government of Egypt holds for environmental protection and conservation.

Prime Minister Ebeid has emphasized in his keynote address that environmental conservation is not only a priority, but has become a must, not only for the undisputed health and welfare of the peoples of the earth, but has become a necessity for business to be competitive and to overcome trade barriers in an era of free trade.

With such a vision Egypt, a decade ago, was the first country in the region to create a ministry of Environment, enact a comprehensive environment law, capacity build its enforcement bodies, and launch a strategic long term "National Environmental Action Plan".

Moreover, His Excellency reaffirmed the importance of the collective role of the civil society in a public private partnership format as the government has switched its role from being the operator to become the regulator relying more and more on private sector actors who are not only the watchdogs for the environment, but have to assume an actual implementation role, with the full support of the government at large. This was reaffirmed by the members of the Egyptian cabinet who participated as well as chaired the specialized sessions in their sectors.

Dr. Mamdouh Riad, the State Minister for Environmental Affairs emphasized in his opening address the strategy of the ministry in promoting voluntary compliance through offering technical assistance and access to lines of credit to responsible compilers, yet capacity building the enforcement capabilities of the Ministry's various institutions to enforce the non compilers bearing in mind the socio-economic needs for development.

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8. The Government and people of Egypt are appreciative for the important role and support provided by multilateral and bilateral donor agencies, development banks and regional and international organizations who have provided the highly needed assistance, tools and means for the success Egypt is encountering. We do call upon all to intensify their assistance especially for private sector and NGO initiatives through grant aid and the provision of soft lines of credit.
9. The impact of environmental conservation and eco-labeling on eco-efficiency and the promotion of exports, the blood line of our socio-economic development is indisputable. We call upon all our industry to consider the profitable aspect of environmental compliance.
10. As a continuous follow-up for Environment 2003, the State Ministry for Environmental Affairs shall create a mechanism, in cooperation with business associations, NGOs and all donors and development banks to disseminate information on the available technical assistance, grants and lines of credit available for the civil society. That shall be in both printed forms as well as electronic on the Ministry's website. Furthermore, a unit for assisting civil society in accessing such aid shall be created.
11. More support to Egypt's protectorates is a must. Environmentally sound economic operations must be promoted for the economic sustainability of Egypt's natural heritage.
12. The role of the oil and gas, energy, industry and sectors in economic development is indisputable. Their ongoing efforts in environmental conservation is highly appreciated which should not only be maintained but must be intensified.
13. Afforestation, especially utilizing treated waste water is a priority issue that must be supported and fostered at all levels.
14. Newer funding mechanisms such as CDM must be utilized. The State Ministry for Environmental Affairs shall do all its efforts to put the implementation mechanism in place as soon as possible.
15. Energy conservation and renewable energies are a priority issue where feasible technologies are already available. Promotion of such concepts shall be a priority issue.
16. Environmental Education and awareness is the only tools to ensure compliance at the short, medium and most important long terms. This will ensure the creation of a new generation of environmentalists safeguarding Egypt's natural heritage.
17. The unperceived success of Environment 2003, and the obstacles faced during designing and implementing it, lay the foundation for a more successful environment 2005 to which you are all invited.

Last but not least, the organizer, The State Ministry for Environmental Affairs, thanks all speakers, participants, exhibitors, visitors, supporters, sponsors, the secretariat, the implementing body and all who helped us achieve the success we have encountered.

Dr. Mamdouh Riad

The State Minister for Environmental Affairs
Chairman, Environment 2003



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