

*Speech of Dr. Magued El Sherbeeney at the opening session of
the BtSM 2009*

It gives me great pleasure to be present here today. Unfortunately, Minister Helal was not able to come because of the parliamentary session discussing the budget. I am glad to be among this distinguished panel: Dr. Magued Osman, Dr. Tarek Shawky, Dr Jan Visser, and two of the distinguished professors, Dr. Mohsen Tawfik, and Dr Adly Beshay

First of all, when I came over here, taking the task to speak about the scientific mind, I agree with you that scientific is not to be a scientist; it has to be every one of us. We can not reach scientific mind without education. So education is very important. As everyone knows, the efforts made by the Egyptian Government in either pre university or university education are great. Then, the elaborate mind is one that does a research, and investigates the points, and this comes to the second pillar, which is research, and last, is the master mind, which is capable and able of innovation.

Actually, I am coming today from another meeting an hour ago on the issue innovation and intellectual property. It was very intriguing to see how the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and the Ministry of Higher Education and State for Scientific Research together with international organizations talk about innovation and IPR.

This was a very good chance to say that eventhough that we have an over population in Egypt but it is a young population and this will remain our power in critical mass.

So we believe that nurturing the scientific mind of these young people is very important for our future and especially the challenges we are facing now globally. Most of the people say that manufacturing is facing a problem cause of low cost in certain South Eastern Asian Countries, but innovative power is the one that can stand and make manufacturing process go foreword and continue to flourish like many other countries.

So I would like to share some of the ideas we are trying to elaborate on building the scientific mind either on scientists or on our population. We invented a terminology called science decade, which is a new term that President Mubarak launched at the end of 2006. We took this branding and utilized it in 2007. We established it with Germany in 2007, and Japan 2008, and now with Italy 2009, and next year will be with France, and we will continue on like this for 14 years.

This impel with Germany was called "linkage of scientific mind". And the reason for it is to bring scientists together trying to make more innovative projects and more ideas to be implemented.

The second year in Japan, we ended up with a science and technology University but also bringing scientists from both countries and actually we inaugurated the year with a festivity for flying kites for children. Everyone said why this is done, for a science year. The answer was when a child flies a kite; he learns at least 20 different skills, so we used the elaborate Chinese kites to make the children understand how the dynamics work and how they enjoy themselves.

Actually, after this meeting, I am flying to Hurgada where we are doing lots of efforts with Netherlands and US to revive a place there which has been established long time ago by a visionary in Egypt, professor Hamed Gohar. He built a very nice station on the Red Sea, and documented a lot of material there and we are going to revive the aquarium and place for popularization of Science.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Popularization of Science is very important. Also one of the other efforts we are doing right now; we created an initiative called "Partnership, Ownership" or "PAROWN", where we sent fresh graduate students to go abroad for 3-6 months just to link with other scientific minds, and come back with good idea. We do not ask them to do anything but simply compete and interact with others without any obligations, just get the expertise and fiction and come back.

We work on re integrating scientists trying to reverse brain, drain, and try to bring them back to their country. We believe that we won't be able to combat brain drain. We also have another brain adopted by UNESCO called "Brain Circulation" in which we utilize a lot of people who are our dispersal outside trying to bring them back for a while and go back again. So all of these ideas of research, education, and innovation are the three pillars for a new science and technology era. Science and technology to make it achieve a knowledge economy we need to re enforce the 3 pillars and these are the most important pillars and we can not achieve that without a healthy, respectful mind. I am sure a distinguished gathering like this would be able to have a successful output.

Thank you all.