

Press release

SECC Deals With the European Commission to Develop Programming Industry in Egypt

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Along with SECC role in developing the Egyptian programming industry, the Center agreed with the European Commission as a member of an extended alliance including companies, universities of technology from Spain, Italy and Finland, to implement a project under the umbrella of the 7th Framework Program (FP7) for Research and Technological Development.

The project aims to transfer latest technologies in software industry to the local firms and the information community in Egypt. The 2-year project is to be launched with a total budget of 4 million EGP fully funded by the European Commission over the project period.

According ITIDA's CEO and Chairman of the SECC Board of Trustees, Mr. Yasser El-Kady, this project is consistent with ITIDA's supporting activities for Egypt's participation in the global research and development programs such as the Map of Information Technology (MAP-IT). MAP-IT aims at identifying and classifying companies and agencies operating in Egypt in projects relating to ICT research and development.

SECC submitted the project proposal to a committee of leading experts at the European Commission. The committee studied, evaluated and approved the proposal at the end of October 2011. The project alliance comprises Tecnalía from Spain, the largest research and Technology Company in Spain, also ranked the fifth in Europe, Technological Research Center of Finland, the largest centre in North Europe and the University of Bologna in Italy, one of the oldest universities in Europe.

This mixture demonstrates the deep bonds of cooperation and outstanding relations between SECC and the prestigious research and technological bodies; it also establishes the confidence of these bodies in SECC's aptitude to carry out the development of Egyptian software industry by providing local companies with the technologies and practices that are consistent with the best international standards.

SECC chairman, Dr. Hossam Osman, pointed out that this project means to uplift the center in terms of transferring important and necessary technologies for the software industry in Egypt by highly qualified experts in the prominent 7th Framework for Research and Technological Development Program.

Through the project, an international conference is to be organized in Egypt for improving software development practices. Such an international conference is an opportunity to support the participation of Egyptian companies in EU research and development programs, he added.

One of the technologies covered in the project is the Semantic Web Technology, which is the latest of its kind in the new generation of Internet. It aims at transforming the web from document-based network to a data-based network by adding a semantic meaning to each item of the web content. This is to make search engines more effective than ever as well as to make accurate information more accessible.

The project also includes Information Technology Service-Oriented Architecture which is an approach to design IT systems in the form of exchangeable services such as the services provided by institutions to customers, partners and employees. Thus, the principle of aligning IT systems with business needs can be achieved.

Amongst other project's activities, there is the transfer of Embedded Ubiquitous System Computing Technologies which provide an innovative model of human-ITC interaction



technology to make technology available everywhere and every time in daily life activities.

Established in June 2001, SECC is part of the efforts and concerns of MCIT to support the Egyptian information technology and communications industry. SECC is part of the organizational structure of ITIDA since 2005.

SECC is the first US Software Engineering Institute (SEI) of Carnegie Mellon University partner in the Middle East to provide evaluation, training and consulting services for the local software industry. Furthermore, SECC provides these above-mentioned services to companies in the Gulf countries since the beginning of 2009. More expansions are being planned to provide these services in the Middle East and Africa.

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About ITIDA:

The Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) is a governmental entity affiliated to Egypt's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. It is responsible for growing and developing Egypt's position as a leading global outsourcing location by attracting foreign direct investment to the industry and maximizing the exports of IT services and applications.

Located in the heart of the modern business environment at Smart Village, the six hundred acre business park on the outskirts of Cairo, ITIDA is a self-sustainable entity that drives the IT industry in Egypt and raises awareness among the Egyptian people of the benefits and use of ICT to advance socio-economic welfare of the whole community.