



## Dear Readers,

SEKEM is what it is due to the continuous help of many volunteers who support the work of SEKEM to foster holistic development for the people of Egypt. SEKEM is very grateful to every single one of them.

The editorial team and the whole SEKEM community is especially happy when there is also acknowledgment from unexpected parties for these important assistance. Like in the case of Dr. Hans Werner, who has been a steady supporter and initiator in SEKEM for many, many years. Three days after his 81st birthday he was decorated with the federal Cross of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany through the Mayor of his hometown in the hall of the clinic in Niefern-Öschelbronn, which he founded together with other anthroposophical doctors.

The editorial team is happy to see how this exceptional honour is a recognition of his work and achievements. With our congratulations to Dr. Werner we also express our wish for more acknowledgement from third parties for people like him and their important work for intercultural understanding.

**Your editorial team**

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## The SEKEM School Participates in an International Art Project

*SEKEM pupils paint wall paintings for a large exhibition*



In 1997 Mrs. Joanne and Mr. Fuad Tawfilis started an art project in response to the needs of traumatized children in the war region of the Kosovo. Since then large scale paintings (min 3,5m x 1,5m) were made in many places of the world. Oftentimes these projects brought hundreds of people together, who jointly worked on the paintings.

By now the UNESCO has acknowledged „THE ART MILES MURAL PROJECT“ with the slogan „CREATING GLOBAL HARMONY THROUGH ART; ONE MURAL AT A TIME, ONE MILE AT A TIME“. In the framework of the decade for the culture of peace and non-violence among children of the world, a large exhibition is planned in the

region of the pyramids of Giza for the year 2010. It shall exhibit murals which were painted all over the world. The Egyptian ministry for culture and education has acknowledged the importance of this project and plans to participate with 5000 murals painted in all Egyptian schools.

SEKEM wants to paint the murals with pupils during the summer school. This way the work receives a specific meaning and a context that extends past the limited borders of the school. As a „rehearsal“ on February 23rd, the pupils painted together with their teachers. Mrs. Amaal Hosni „Country Coordinator for Egypt and the Middle East for the Art Miles Mural Project,



and Mr. Fouad Tawfilis (International Coordinator) attended and supported the teachers. They were thrilled by the setting of the SEKEM school and by its pupils, and spontaneously invited them to join the „International Art Miles Mural Exhibit“ in

Alexandria in March. The four representatives of the SEKEM School who went to the exhibition could admire murals painted in other parts of Egypt, in Japan and Surinam. The exhibition was opened by Mr. Justin Siberell, Director of the American Center

in Alexandria, who pointed in his speech on the importance of art as an international language. Dr. Siberell also acknowledged the work of so many volunteers in many countries and in Egypt, who made this project possible.

## SEKEM and the History of Mankind in Egypt

*New Discoveries Complete Museum Collection*



In March Prof. Wolfgang Schad, Evolutionary Biologist at the University of Witten-Herdecke and a friend and supporter of SEKEM, visited the farm. He used this

opportunity to work in SEKEM's own work-in-progress, the museum for natural history and added some new pieces, found during his many journeys through Egypt. Together with teachers and other interested persons, Prof. Schad travelled to different places in Egypt: the valley of the whales, Dime, Fayoum, Wadi Hagul, the Eastern Desert and Wadi Digla. „Discovery Tours“ on the SEKEM Farm itself and the surrounding desert lands were also made, because important findings had been

made during earlier visits like a clay bowl from the Neolithicum aged app. 5500 years. Further findings of this visit include a piece of a bayleaf, some early hand-axes, and several pieces from the „Oldowan-culture“ including „Rubble tools“, which he dated at about 1 million years. Prof. Schad also found the remaining pieces of a forge for the production of tools during the Pluvial time.

All findings will be carefully examined and then be on display in the museum for the pupils and also for guests. *Rafik Costandi*

## Dr. Hans Werner Decorated with the Federal Cross of Merit

*Germany recognizes work of long-standing SEKEM supporter*

Dr. Hans Werner, anthroposophical doctor and a supporter of the SEKEM initiative for many years, has received the Federal Cross of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany on April 1st, 2006. Dr. Werner received this honour for his multiple activities in the field of intercultural cooperation and development.

The ceremony took place in the Öschelbronn clinic in Germany. All 150 seats in the hall were needed and there were even guests standing at the aisles, because so

many of his old friends and colleagues as well as the Head of the District Authority and the mayor of Niefern wanted to attend. After receiving the Order officially, several speeches were held to honour the life work of Dr. Werner. Dr. Roland Schaeffe represented the society for cultural development in Egypt, Dr. Broder von Laue and Mr. Armin Scheffler represented the clinic Öschelbronn and Mrs. Konstanze Abouleish represented the SEKEM Initiative in Egypt. Eventually, Dr. Werner

himself spoke and asked a large circle of friends to join him at the front. He closed his speech with a gesture of embracing all his friends saying: „(All of )this is me“.

**Mrs. Renate Raubald, treasurer of the SEKEM-friends, reports in her own words her personal impressions of the event:**

„ It was a very impressive ceremony. I have known Dr. Hans Werner for 30 years. I have always admired his work, his way of working with people with love, warmth and competence.



All people who were his comrades during his years of service for humanity, are convinced that the honour for him is fully justified. I was especially

impressed by the letter of Prof. Dr. Abouleish, which was read to us by Mrs. Konstanze Abouleish, in which he sent his best wishes to continue with

courage to „acquire from the future“. Dr. Werner always showed courage when he met his challenges with total devotion. When closing the ceremony, Dr. Werner asked his family and friends to step forward to him.

„I hope, you have come not only to see Dr. Werner“, he said, „because the deeds of one person are not important, but important is that many people find each other to do what is necessary.“ I sincerely wish for Dr. Werner to find the strength to continue serving the people for many more years.“

*Renate Raubald*

## About Dr. Hans Werner



**Dr. Hans Werner was decorated with the Federal Cross of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany three weeks after his 81st birthday. In 1975 together with two colleagues he founded the Öschelbronn clinic. As the „primus inter pares“ he was the first director of the hospital for internal medicine. The internist specialized on cancer therapy with mistletoe preparations. As a specialist he was involved in the commission for medical products at the Federal Health Authority in Germany for 15 years until 1996. 1981 until 1997 he was a member of the board of the „Society of anthroposophical doctors in Germany“. 1962 Dr. Werner was co-founder of the society „Lebenshilfe Enzkreis“. Together with his wife Elfriede, who died in 1999, he was a driving force behind the achievements of the development initiative SEKEM in Egypt.**

## New Development at SEKEM's Vocational Training Centre



The metalwork education at SEKEM's Vocational Training Centre (VTC) enjoyed a new development in March, when Mr. Ulrich, a former Waldorf teacher

from Stuttgart, Germany visited to conduct a number of projects together with teachers and students of the centre.

A new department is the forge, which allows pupils to learn the different skills of a blacksmith as part of the metal education. This is especially interesting for those students who want to specialize in mechanics for agricultural machines, as these skills are much needed in the daily work in this field. Together with Mr. Ulrich the pupils designed and

manufactured a machine for the clay modelling workshop of the SEKEM school. This machine kneads the clay very easily and evenly. It was a great experience for the pupils to be actively involved in all steps of making a large machine from the first drawings of the design through to completion.

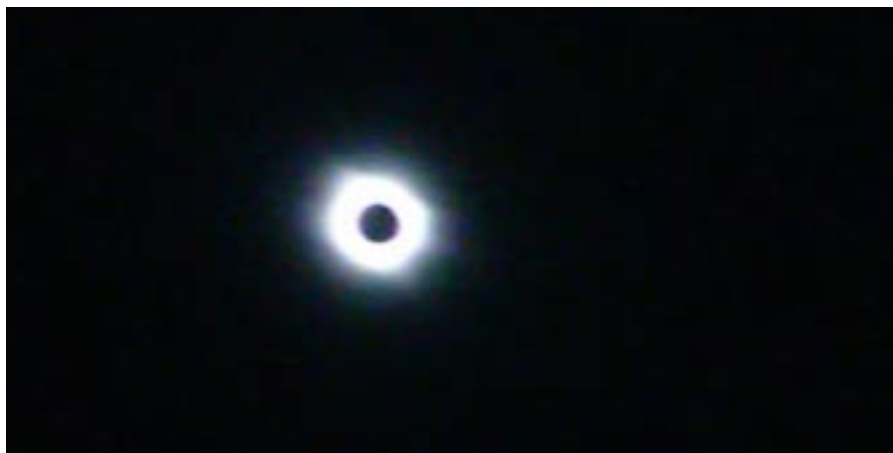
At the end of the period the students manufactured a machine vice as the final piece for their third-year exams.

*Rafik Costandi*



# Egypt Experiences a Complete Eclipse of the Sun

*SEKEM School employs phenomenon in hands-on education*



On the 29th of March 2006 parts of Northern Africa experienced a complete eclipse of the sun. The phenomenon could be seen in full beauty on the Mediterranean coast at the very western parts of Egypt. But the effect was also impressive in other parts of the country. The SEKEM school used this opportunity for a special lecture. On the SEKEM farm, the pheno-

menon could be experienced with ca. 80% coverage. Numerous SEKEM employees with their guests travelled to Saloum at the Libyan border to see the eclipse. The publishing company „Astro Media“ had sent filter foil to look at the sun and various kits for making telescopes and sun projectors as well as a number of filter sunglasses. With these tools

the pupils could gather their own impressions and experiences. The teachers had used the sun filter foil to make simple sunglasses and thus all pupils from grade one to eleven as well as the students from the Vocational Training Centre and the „Chamomile Children“ could watch the eclipse without being harmed. At about 12 o'clock everybody gathered in the school yard. The teachers distributed the sunglasses and within half an hour the sun was covered by the earth's shadow, until only a fine sickle was visible. Some spare sunglasses had also been sent to the SEKEM companies, so many of the colleagues could also join and watch the sun. The generous support of the publishing firm from Germany made a very rare and special experience possible for the SEKEM students. Thanks a lot! *Rafik Costandi*

## Invitation

The Association of SEKEM Friends in the Netherlands invites the public to participate in a conference on the 12th of May, 9.30 a.m. until 5 p.m. with the topic: „International Cooperation and sustainable economics from a new perspective“. The Place for the event is the cultural centre Antropia at „Landgut Reehorst“ in Driebergen, The Netherlands. Topics of the conference, which targets people working in development aid etc, will be:

- . to report on the realization of economic, social and cultural development work in SEKEM
- . to explore the possibilities

and opportunities in the cooperation and mutual inspiration of East and West, North and South.

The conference aims to develop new perspectives for development cooperation. Lectures by Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish, Mr. Willem Lageweg (director MVO, the Netherlands) and Dr. Christine Gruwez (author and philosopher) present the topics, and there will be opportunities for deep discussions on special aspects in working groups.

Further information can be found at [www.sekemvrienden.nl](http://www.sekemvrienden.nl) or [secretariaat@antropia.nl](mailto:secretariaat@antropia.nl)

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