

SEKEM *Insight*

SEKEM's Journal for Culture, Economy,
Society and Ecology in Egypt

Editorial

Dear Readers,

to strengthen the role of women in their private and professional lives in Egypt is not an easy task even for an initiative the size of SEKEM. Legally speaking, in the Egyptian men and women are by and large equals. The reality can, of course, be quite different.

The reasons are many and include cultural as well as socio-demographic and purely practical ones. With regard to private businesses such as those of the SEKEM Group, many problems remain with rather profane matters of implementation and a continuous adaptation of business processes and workflows that must fit the needs of individuals and large institutions alike. A year ago, the SEKEM companies with the support of the United Nations began a gender-sensitive analysis of the value chain at the Naturetex plant. In addition, SEKEM also participates in related programmes of the UN and has signed their declarations.

Now, the Heliopolis University, at which female and male students have always been equals, has launched a special support programme for disadvantaged women. The current issue reveals more.

Your Team of Editors

Find SEKEM also on the Internet at:



Heliopolis Uni

Supporting Female
Role Models

SEKEM Austria

Group Celebrates
10-year Anniversary

Music Education

Music and Community
Building

Heliopolis University Supports Young Female Role Models

The Austrian SEKEM friends have endowed the Heliopolis University with two „Austria Scholarships“ to support SEKEM's educational work for the disadvantaged in Egypt.



At Heliopolis University and Egyptian and foreign students and co-workers collaborate at three faculties dedicated to sustainable development issues.

The SEKEM Initiative has so far remained largely unaffected by the revolutionary upheavals in the country. This includes not only the SEKEM companies. The cultural and educational institutions have also been able to continue their educational and social work almost unhindered.

Thus, progress at the Heliopolis University has been very positive despite the social and political

situation remaining fragile throughout all of Egypt. Apparently, the need for specialised, well-founded high school education focusing on the practical requirements of present-day development needs is substantial. Therefore, Heliopolis University was fortunate to record a new enrolment high of 231 students for the upcoming academic year. The total number of students is now 363 in all faculties currently offered.

SEKEM's Austrian support association – "SEKEM Austria" – have and continue to support this development in many ways. This year, the group in addition to the "Elizabeth Gergely Scholarship" it is already providing to students of the Heliopolis University has for the first time been able to offer two "Austria Scholarships" to another two students at the same institution. With the total amount of 7.000 Euros, a full scholarship and a half scholarship will be awarded for the academic year 2013/14.

Full and Partial Scholarships Available From 2013

The full scholarship was awarded to a graduate of the SEKEM School named Mona Mohamed Abdallah Mohamed. Mona was born in the small village of Gelfina, one of the few settlements just outside of the original SEKEM farm. She grew up in a poor Egyptian family with four siblings. Her father has been a co-worker at SEKEM for over 25 years. At first he worked as a labourer in agriculture; today has is employed as an experienced foreman.



Mona Mohamed Abdallah Mohamed

Mona and her siblings have all visited SEKEM's kindergarten and school. Mona was successful not only in school but also steadily developed her artistic talent by studying the violin. She has been an active participant in musical performances at SEKEM. Based on her performance in school, she was accepted to the Heliopolis University

and has since begun studying at the Faculty of Economics and Sustainable Development. In light of her achievements and social situation, Mona will receive the full scholarship for 2013. It covers tuition fees, travel and meal costs, and teaching materials.

The partial scholarship goes to Esraa Tarek Elagrab. Esraa also attended the SEKEM Kindergarten and the SEKEM School and has now, after a one-year internship in the USA, taken up her business studies at the Heliopolis University.



Esraa Tarek Elagrab

The scholarships were awarded to young women because both have the potential for becoming role models in their social and communal environments. By supporting their advancement, SEKEM can demonstrate how women can have a place equal to men in a modern Egyptian society that is not confined to the family but may also include academic study and professional careers thus contributing to society's overall prosperity.

SEKEM Austria would like to thank all friends for their support so far and asks for further donations to be able to continue to provide the scholarships in the future.

SEKEM Austria, Bijan Kafi

Contact and Donations:
<http://SEKEMoesterreich.at>



YOU CAN VISIT SEKEM YOURSELF:
WWW.SEKEM-REISEN.DE
WWW.AVENTERRA.DE

SEKEM Friends Austria to Celebrate 10 Years of Work in 2014

SEKEM's Austrian support organisation – "SEKEM Austria" – was founded on 23 June 2004. Therefore, its organisers have agreed to not only focus on continuing their work of promoting SEKEM's work in ideal and material respects, but also to go public with a series of events aimed at promoting the work of SEKEM Austria and its importance to bringing development to the poorest parts of Egypt. While more events are still on the drawing board, the Board of Directors of SEKEM Austria would already like to announce the following dates:

1. On 28 February 2014 the association's annual general meeting will be held. It will take place at the Johann Joseph Fux Conservatory of Styria and be connected to a concert by the Egyptian harpist Neam Tarek. The artist's musical education is being supported financially by SEKEM Austria.
2. On 8 April 2014 SEKEM Austria together with the Institute of International Law of the Karl-Franzens-University Graz will co-host a lecture by Dr. Bruno Sandkühler on "Egypt Awakens – Considerations on Current and Historical Developments in Egypt".
3. As part of a major international occupied Montessori conference in Lower Austria, SEKEM Austria will host a seminar on the topic "From the 'Chamomile Children' to a University for Sustainable Development – SEKEM's Educational Paradigm as an Intercultural Way of Peace" on 25 April 2014.
4. On 21 May 2014, SEKEM Austria will co-host pro bono concert with the University of Arts Graz. Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish will also participate.

SEKEM Austria

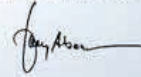
Impressions from SEKEM

During this time of *Worldwide Change and Transformation* the **SEKEM Family** wishes you peace and joy for the coming year

**SEKEM
2014**

Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish

Mr. Helmy Abouleish



خلال هذا الوقت من العالم الذي
تغير كثيراً مؤخراً
عائلة سيكم
تتمني لكم السلام والسعادة
في العام الجديد



The SEKEM Initiative and its co-workers would like to thank all the readers of SEKEM Insight and the supporters of their work throughout the year 2013.

We wish you a peaceful Christmas time, a contemplative turn of the year, as well as peace and happiness in 2014!

The SEKEM Community

Cross-Cultural Musical Workshop Aims to Train Community Building Skills

The Danish-German musician Hans Erik Deckert has visited SEKEM quite a few times already, most recently in the company of his cello orchestra. Here at the initiative, he has succeeded many times in getting co-workers excited for musical expression in the production facilities as well as on stage and in many other places.

The last time he decided to come to Egypt he arrived to work with 5 Egyptian musicians on a classical quintet by Schubert ("Trout Quintet") and to explain the work of the small group during the concerts the 6 musicians gave. At the same time, Deckert organized a workshop on „Understanding musical processes as a basis of and preparation for community building“.

Musical processes can easily symbolise human interaction. Music can act as a force for peace in a time of conflict. How do we discover what is exactly is going on "in the music"? Through practicing "structural listening", by paying close attention to musical contexts. "Musical awareness can be strengthened by the experiential appropriation of musical phenomena. Intellectual activity is an intermediate stage in this process. Musical awareness is knowledge we may employ to identify the unique laws of music", says Deckert. The sessions with Deckert at SEKEM aimed to provide the proper setting to stimulate an experience of exactly this kind of musical reflection.

Making use of the quintet by Schubert that is also called the „Trout Quintet" and that was rehearsed in the framework of a cooperation of SEKEM musicians and professional musicians from Cairo, Deckert carefully explained the subtle musical processes that form part of it. Individual voices and other musical elements were discussed, rhythms became clear and a lively debate on the function and effect of certain of these

elements ensued among participants of the workshop. It became clear, that the different voices could be interpreted as representing social processes and the interaction of individuals adhering to a greater musical scheme: emergence - relapse, forte - piano, question - answer, a dialog, a dispute, dissonance versus consonance, harmony versus disharmony, polyphony in everything in coexistence.

Deckert's practical explanations transformed the listening process of the participants into an entirely different, active experience. It succeeded in providing them with a much more nuanced understanding of how music "works". „The musical process represents the everlasting continuity of a bridge between the past and the future, overcoming the temporal, the perception of the eternal moment, the experience of the panorama of the simultaneity of beginning and end.", Deckert adds on his own understanding of music and the process of its perception.

Through the workshop, the many people participating in it and experiencing its music have been deeply touched – school children and university students, faculty, staff and artists included. In an engaging way, everyone present was involved into the musical production and perception process by Deckert, for instance when the pedal point was sung or a rhythm was clapped. This way, the music could also be experienced by entirely untrained ears. The experience of the musicians in sync with that of the audience transformed even the former's own style of play, some musicians later remarked – a prototypical example for social "co-experience".

Martina Dinkel

! More information:
• <https://hedmusic.net>

Connecting the Hands and the Brain

Thomas Hemelaar, an experienced teacher from Holland, who has already traveled the world a lot and has committed himself to the development of Waldorf education in many places of the world, returned to SEKEM this year to work with people in the initiative. He had already visited the initiative several times in the past.

This time his focus lay on giving participants an insight into his pedagogical research. In the framework of a workshop he discussed illustrations of sculptures typical to the ages of human evolution. He aimed to highlight the pedagogical importance of understanding the evolution of human consciousness in light of their arts.

In addition, Hemelaar also worked with students and staff of the Heliopolis University through a workshop on better understanding the link among manual labour and comprehensive thought. Such courses shall be made an integral part of the future curriculum.

At the SEKEM School, Hemelaar has already developed such a curriculum with teachers 10 years ago. He also visited the school this time to check up on and revise the material.

Yvonne Floride



Masthead:
The editors of SEKEM Insight wish to thank all contributors to this issue.

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