



Press Release

28th of May, 2014

Heliopolis University Hosts Public Day With Laureates Of “Alternative Nobel Prize” From Africa And The Middle East

8th of June, Cairo, Egypt

A group of award-winning human rights campaigners, environmental activists and academics working in Africa and the Middle East say that a new drive to strengthen civil society is urgently needed to safeguard Africa's future. The group, comprising of recipients of the Right Livelihood Award (RLA, also known as “The Alternative Nobel Prize”), will come to Egypt this week from 11 countries in the region to explore the crucial role that African civil society must play in building the best possible future for the continent, particularly in achieving food security and justice, reducing poverty, ending impunity and protecting the environment.

The Right Livelihood Award was established in 1980 to honour and support those “offering practical and exemplary answers to the most urgent challenges facing us today”. It has become widely known as the ‘Alternative Nobel Prize’ and there are now 153 Laureates from 64 countries. There are 28 Laureates from Africa and the Middle East. From June 7-6 the laureates will hold an internal meeting at SEKEM to discuss the issues they are engaged in: from human rights to environmental protection, women's health, organic agriculture, as well as social justice and community healing after violent conflict. This meeting is the second in a planned series of regional conferences and is made possible by the resources provided by the Church of Sweden.

On June 8, Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development will host the public meeting of the laureates. Heliopolis University has a unique focus on sustainable development with regard to the specific challenges in Egypt but also of human kind in general. Every aspect of the teaching and learning experience is designed to contribute to a better understanding of the concept of sustainable development.

The aim of the public meeting is to offer a platform for civil society and local NGOs to meet the laureates. It is also an opportunity to present the work they are doing here in Egypt and to build and extend their network for the exchange of ideas and potential collaboration.

Throughout the entire day there will be a market place where local NGOs and initiatives can present their work. The meeting will start with round table discussions between the laureates and local NGOs about the topics civil society, human rights, sustainable agriculture and health for the poor.

The afternoon is dedicated to representatives of the public and civil society in general. The following two panel discussions will be held:

“Against all Odds – Connecting Civil Society around Africa”

“Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security”.

Updated information about the conference and the public meeting can be found here:
www.rightlivelihood.org/cairo2014.html



Agenda

09.00 - 09.30 Arrival and Registration

09.30 - 09.45 Welcome

09.45 - 11.30 Parallel **Round Table Discussions**

Civil Society Networking Between Countries	Human Rights, Rule of Law and Conflict	Feeding the World with Sustainable Agriculture	Access to Health for the Marginalised
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11.30 - 13.00 Lunch and Visit of the Marketplace

13.00 - 13.10 Welcomes

13.15 - 14.30 Panel 1 «**Against All Odds - Connecting Civil Society around Africa**»
Moderator: Gunilla Hallonsten
Panelists: Jacqueline Moudeina, Nnimmo Bassey, Tenadam Bekele Wolde,
Guillaume Harushimana, Joel Ouédraogo

14.30 - 15.00 Coffee Break

15.00 - 16.15 Panel 2 «**Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security**»
Moderator: Helmy Abouleish
Panelists: Hans Herren, Ismail Abdelgelil, Joel Ouédraogo, René Ngongo

16.15 - 16.30 Wrap-up and Closure

Press Interviews

Media is invited to the open event, and interviews can be scheduled beforehand or at the venue. Please confirm your participation.

Location

The public meeting will take place at the Heliopolis University, 3 Cairo Bilbeis Desert Road

More information on all Award recipients can be found at www.rightlivelihood.org

More information about the Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development can be found at www.hu.edu.eg

High-resolution pictures are available on our ftp-server at http://download.rightlivelihood.org/files/Laureates_2013-1980_Media/

Contact

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