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INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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July 11, 2005

H.E. Dr. Amr Salama
Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
Cairo, Egypt
(Transmission by fax: 011-202-354-2556)

Egypt: Higher Education Enhancement Project (HEEP- Loan No. 4658)
Aide-Memoire
Mid-Term Review Mission, June 18-30, 2005

Excellency:

I would like to thank you and your team for the cooperation and hospitality extended to the Mid-Term Review (MTR) Mission of the Higher Education Enhancement Project (HEEP) conducted in June 2005, and led by Mr. Mahmoud Gamal El Din, Task Team Leader of the project.

The MTR team was pleased with the substantial progress made by the project under your leadership, especially during the past eight months. We noted that project disbursements began to increase and currently amount to about US\$14.7 million (29.4% of the loan) disbursed and US\$25 million (50%) committed. This reflects the increasing participation of faculties and administrators in the project and suggests that a major culture of reform has begun taking place at the higher education level in Egypt. We are also particularly pleased that Your Excellency has instructed that an independent evaluation of the project be carried out to assess the overall impact of the project in reforming the higher education system.

The mission also noted that the components of HEEP are being mainstreamed into regular university operations. The project has already engendered a very conducive context in higher education institutions for an improvement in quality and efficiency through the implementation of competitive grants (HEEPF); faculty leadership and training program (FLDP); quality assurance projects (QAAP); and consolidation of the MTIs into TCs.

As Your Excellency concurred, the above achievements will be jeopardized if the following actions are not seriously considered: (i) reforming the legal framework for higher education; (ii) implementing a strong monitoring and evaluation system; (iii) learning from international best practices; (iv) integrating activities horizontally among the different subprojects to improve effectiveness and avoid activity overlap; and (v)

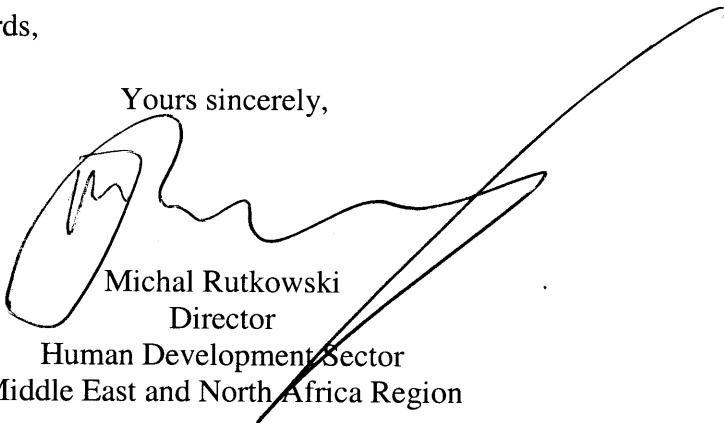
improving funding mechanisms both under HEEP and the Government and increasing funds allocated for some of the activities such as the Technical Colleges.

We very much appreciate Your Excellency's personal interest and careful oversight of this project. The attached Aide-Memoire provides details of the mission findings and contains a summary of agreed actions to be taken during the coming six months and beyond by the different partners (MOHE, PMU, UPMUs) and the various subprojects Steering Committees.

We are copying this letter to H.E. the Minister of International Cooperation given her interest in this project.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,



Michal Rutkowski
Director
Human Development Sector
Middle East and North Africa Region

Mr. Mahdy Ismail Aljazzaf
Executive Director
The World Bank

Copy:

H.E. Minister Fayza Abounaga
Minister of International Cooperation
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Cleared with & cc: Bendokat (MNSHD)

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