

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
HIGHER EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
IBRD Loan No. 4658-EGT

World Bank *Limited* Supervision Mission

July 4 - 19, 2006

AIDE-MEMOIRE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Introduction	3
II.	Critical issues and actions	3
III.	HEEP Sub-project updates	4
IV.	Next mission.....	6

ABBREVIATIONS and ACRONYMS

BOT	Board of Trustees
DE	Development Engagement
DSS	Decision Support System
ETCP	Egyptian Technical Colleges Project
EUN	Egyptian Universities Network
FfEE	Fund for Enhancing Education
FLD	Faculty Leadership Development
FLDP	Faculty Leadership Development Project
FMR	Financial Monitoring Reports
FOE	Faculty of Education
FOEP	Faculty of Education Project
GOE	Government of Egypt
HEEP	Higher Education Enhancement Project
HEEPF	Higher Education Enhancement Project Fund
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTP	Information and Communication Technology Project
ILS	Integrated Library System
INFCS	Information and Computer Services
IQA	Institutional Quality Assurance
MCIT	Ministry of Communication and Information Technology
MIS	Management Information System
MOHE	Ministry of Higher Education
MTI	Middle Technical Institute
NARS	National Academic Reference Standards
NQAAA	National Quality Assurance and Accreditation Agency
PMU	Project Management Unit
QA	Quality Assurance
QAAP	Quality Assurance and Accreditation Project
SCTC	Supreme Council of Technical Colleges
SCU	Supreme Council of Universities
TA	Technical Assistance
TC	Technical College
TCC	Technical College Council
UPMU	University Project Management Unit
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

HIGHER EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Limited Supervision Mission July 2006

I. Introduction

1. A World Bank team conducted a limited supervision mission of the Higher Education Enhancement Project (HEEP) in July 2006. The mission team and the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) team jointly reviewed the status of project implementation. A full supervision mission is tentatively planned for mid-September 2006.

2. The mission members were Mr. Arun R. Joshi, Sr. Education Specialist and outgoing Egypt Education Cluster Leader, Mr. Michel Welmond, Sr. Education Specialist and incoming Egypt Education Cluster Leader, Mr. Mahmoud Gamal El Din, Sr. Operations Officer, Ms. Christina Djemmal, Operations Analyst, Ms. Sahar Hegazy, Program Assistant and Ms. Engy Raafat, Research Assistant.

3. Mission leaders met with H.E. Dr. Hany Helal, Minister of Higher Education, Dr. Mohsen Elmahdy Said, Executive Director of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and the directors of the six HEEP subprojects: Dr. Galal Abdel Hamid (HEEPF), Dr. Mohamed El Said (ETCP), Dr. M. Shiera (ICTP), Dr. Nadia Badrawy (QAAP), Dr. M. Hafez (FLDP) and Dr. Ahmed Heggy (FOEP). Some mission members visited Halwan University and met with faculty members to collect feedback on their participation in various HEEP sub-projects.

4. The mission would like to express its appreciation for the cooperation and hospitality that was extended to the World Bank Team.

II. Critical issues and actions

5. The mission notes that the hiring of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) Expert for the PMU has still not taken place, as was agreed during the March 2006 full supervision mission. It was subsequently agreed that an M&E Officer will be hired for the PMU before the next full supervision mission in September 2006.

6. FOEP activities must be completed by August 31, 2006 (EEP closing date) and fully paid for by December 31, 2006 (end of EEP disbursement grace period). It was agreed that the FOEP Director, HEEP PMU Director and World Bank Sr. Operations Officer for HEEP, Mahmoud Gamal El Din, will monitor the compliance of these deadlines.

III. HEEP Sub-project updates

HEEP Fund (HEEPF)

7. A total of 158 HEEP projects were approved through a competitive selection process. To date, 26 projects have been completed and 47 projects are expected to be completed before the next supervision mission (mid-September 2006). HEEP is the sub-project with the largest number of staff for planning and monitoring activities. However, additional intensive monitoring is required to ensure that all HEEP projects progress with no financing bottlenecks. A pilot impact assessment study was carried out by a group of experts and implemented at Zagazig University through the support of HEEP in the form of provision of information and data needed about funded projects. Preliminary results of the study and follow-up recommendations are currently being shared with the HEEP Team. HEEP disbursement has reached US\$9.1 million as of June 2006, representing 70% of the total funds allocated for this sub-project. Disbursement is expected to reach 85% before the end of 2006. A detailed HEEP Quarterly Report was submitted to the mission and is attached as Annex 1.

Quality Assurance and Accreditation Project (QAAP)

8. The QAAP sub-project is progressing satisfactorily. Currently, 188 QAAP projects are under implementation. The National Quality Assurance & Accreditation Agency (NQAAA) is being established according to its recent approval (May 2006) by the Egyptian Parliament. NQAAA's bi-laws are currently being drafted and are expected to be proposed for discussion prior to the end of this year. The NQAAA will likely report directly to the Prime Minister. A Monitoring & evaluation expert to be hired for the entire HEEP will need to play a key role in monitoring the 188 QAAP projects and resolve implementation and financing issues faced by these projects. Disbursement has reached US\$ 1.9 million as of June 2006.

Faculty Leadership and Development Project (FLDP)

9. The FLDP sub-project is progressing well. To date, 4132 workshops have been conducted, reaching 95,316 workshop trainees (of which some attended several workshops). More than 60% of the faculty in all public universities have benefited from FLDP training programs of FLDP (updated from the 45% mentioned in the attached report). Two cycles of training were completed and the third is under finalization. To ensure sustainability, all 15 public universities will contribute 25% of the cost of the fourth round while the FLDP will cover 75%. In the fifth round, the universities will increase their contribution to 50% while the FLDP will decrease its contribution to 50%. In the sixth and final round financed under the project, FLDP will cover 25% while universities will cover 75% in order for them to be ready to finance the full 100% after the project closes. Disbursement has reached US\$3.5 million (as of June 2006). The FLDP has not yet measured the impact of the training programs on improving the teaching learning process. This is expected to be addressed by the M&E expert expected

to be hired by the HEEP. Annex 2 provides some details related to the FLDP training programs.

Egyptian Technical Colleges Project (ETCP)

10. The ETCP sub-project is progressing well and has made the following achievements: (i) clustered the 45 Egyptian Middle Technical Institutes into 8 TCs; (ii) nominated 8 directors and 16 deputy directors for the TCs a well established process; (iii) established the Supreme Council for Technical Colleges (SCTC); (iv) established Boards of Trustees (BOTs) for each TC; and (v) finalized new bi-laws for the TCs for H.E. the minister's approval. The new bi-laws will activate the BOTs and provide greater autonomy to the TCs, including their role in diversifying funding sources.

11. The ETCP has established partnerships with the private sector and has signed an agreement with Al Khorafy Group (a Kuwaiti Firm) to train 500 TC graduates annually for jobs which are needed in the labor market. Disbursement has reached US\$2.9 million (as of June 2006) and is expected to increase over the coming 9 months after additional commitments for purchasing equipment and constructing 3 new buildings in Upper Egypt (amounting to around US\$4 million) are approved.

Information and Communications Technology Project (ICTP)

12. The ICTP sub-project has made progress in some areas. The ICTP has established a Digital Library which now provides all public universities on-line academic and research content and full access to over 22,000 international journals in almost all subjects to faculty and students. The design of ICT courses (e-learning) has also been completed and will be applied during the coming academic year 2006/07. E-learning activities are also progressing well with the design of 10 e-learning courses completed and an additional 20 courses that will be completed before end of calendar year 2006. One e-learning course was already applied during the academic year 2005/2006 for post graduates of the faculties of education of which 29 students have graduated.

13. Provision of the Higher Education Management and Information Service (HEMIS) has been delayed due to the complex nature of determining the various technological needs for this activity. The infrastructure for all public universities is now under execution, a short list for the HEMIS provider has been approved and an RFP will be issued in August 2006.

Faculties of Education Project (FOEP)

14. The FOEP sub-project has progressed well over the past 18 months. 54 competitive projects will soon be completed. Improving the infrastructure of the Faculties of Education is underway through the provision of labs, equipment and internet connectivity. Training programs are being implemented in all Faculties of Education (FOEs) using FLDP and FOEP facilities. Four Faculties that have agreed to pilot reforms

and have already developed new curricula that began to be implemented in 2005/2006 academic year. An additional 14 Faculties of Education are taking the necessary steps to join the reform efforts this coming academic year 2006/2007. As these 14 Faculties of Education join the reform efforts, the total number will reach 18 Faculties, representing 70% of the Faculties of Education (26 total) in Egypt.

15. This subproject will also require intensive monitoring and an impact assessment. It has disbursed about US\$8 million (as of June 2006), representing about 60% of the total funds allocated to this component. US\$13 million from the Education Enhancement Project (EEP) are committed for this sub-project. The EEP will close on August 31, 2006, by which time all FOEP activities must be completed. The HEEP Team anticipates that most of the allocated funds will be disbursed before the end of the EEP disbursement grace period ending on December 31, 2006.

IV. Next mission

16. A full supervision mission is tentatively planned for mid-September 2006. The mission team will follow up on all agreed actions from the aide memoire of the March 2006 supervision mission. A statement of mission objectives will be issued prior to the start of the mission.

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