

Sixth Business Roundtable with the Government of Egypt

Maintaining reform momentum
in testing economic times

February 16th-17th 2009
Grand Hyatt, Cairo

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Can Egypt weather the global recession?

Economist Conferences' **Sixth Business Roundtable with the Government of Egypt** is your opportunity to join an exclusive debate on the country's business outlook and investment climate. You'll be able to exchange ideas and discover how the country's decision-makers are shaping Egypt's economic future.



Officials from the highest levels of government including **Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif** will be speaking and taking your questions.

Can the government maintain its reform momentum to ensure long-term growth? Will the crisis threaten social peace or ease it as inflation falls? How will this affect your business?

We'll be exploring issues such as:

- How sharply will Egypt's economy slow down in 2009?
- Can Egypt benefit from the crisis as a low-cost business location?
- What must Egypt do to attract more foreign investment?
- Will the 'trickle-down-effect' ease social tensions?
- Are price rises now under control?

Why should you attend?

- Discuss key questions for your business with the country's top decision-makers including **Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif**
- Gain an in-depth insight into Egypt's business and investment climate from Economist Intelligence Unit experts
- Network with an audience of international executives in a stimulating, off-the-record setting

Be one of the first to benefit. Numbers are strictly limited—reserve your place today.

Register today to guarantee your participation:

1. Register online at: www.economistconferences.com
2. E-mail: tamarajoseph@economist.com
3. Fax: + 43 (1) 712 41 65
4. Call Tamara Joseph on +43 (1) 712 41 61 21 to reserve your place

Monday, February 16th 2009

14.00 Registration and coffee

15.00 **Welcome and opening remarks**

Delia Meth-Cohn, *Editorial Director, CEMEA, The Economist Group*

15.05 **Economist Intelligence Unit briefing: How well can Egypt weather the global recession?**

- How sharply will Egypt's economy slow down in 2009?
- The outlook for foreign-exchange earnings: exports, tourism and remittances
- FDI from the West and the Gulf: how far could it fall?
- How serious is the threat to social peace?
- Is inflation not a risk any more?
- Questions and discussion

Ania Thiemann, *Senior Editor/Economist, Economist Intelligence Unit*

15.30 **Business leaders' debate: scenarios and strategy for the Egyptian market**

- Budgeting scenarios: the sales outlook for 2009
- Improving the business environment: a wish list for the government
- Should Egypt position itself as a low-cost MENA market?
- What must Egypt do to keep attracting FDI? And where will it come from?
- Egypt as a potential hub for sourcing and exporting
- Questions and discussion

16.30 Coffee break

17.00 **Opening address by Ahmed Nazif, Prime Minister**

Maintaining reform momentum in testing economic times

- Shifting priorities: from controlling inflation to maintaining growth?
- The Economic Reform Council: successes and next steps
- Addressing the bureaucracy problem, corruption and lack of accountability
- Reforming and modernising the education and healthcare sectors
- Questions and discussion

18.30 Networking reception

Tuesday, February 17th 2009

8.30 Late registration and coffee

9.00 **Managing the public finances: what it means for business**

Off-the-record discussion with Yusef Boutros-Ghali, Minister of Finance

- Controlling the budget deficit in a slowdown
- Lower commodity prices: the impact on the subsidy bill and social peace
- Can government investment compensate for lower FDI?
- Structural changes to fiscal policy: where to target spending?
- Integrating the Cairo bourse into international financial markets
- Questions and discussion

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 **Egypt and the global credit crunch: assessing the financial sector's stability**

Off-the-record discussion with Hisham Abdel Hafez, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt

- What access to credit will business have in 2009?
- Should policymakers worry less about tackling inflation?
- Consolidation in the financial sector: providing the basis for new services
- Developing a modern banking system
- Future regulatory improvements in the financial sector
- Questions and discussion

12.30 Lunch

13.30 **Interview: improving Egypt's business environment**

An off-the-record conversation with Rachid Mohammed Rachid, Minister for Trade and Industry

Pro-business policy reforms have led to rapid growth, but doing business in Egypt remains a significant challenge. This interview with one of Egypt's leading policymakers will address several issues of concern for investors.

- What impact is the change in Free Zone status having on business?
- What is the medium- to long-term government policy on energy subsidies for consumers and industry?
- To what extent will the economic courts allow equal competition and protect against corrupt practices?
- What plans does the government have to help modernise the domestic manufacturing sector?
- And how can Egypt's transport and communications infrastructure be improved?

14.30 Coffee break

14.45 **Labour-market reform and the pivotal role of education and training**

Off-the-record discussion with Youssef al-Gamal, Minister of Education, and Osman Mohammed Osman, Minister of Economic Development

- Understanding the skills shortage in Egypt
- Tackling overstaffing and poor management
- The impact of slower growth on the unemployment rate
- Focus on training: the roles of government and the private sector
- Encouraging links between industry and the educational sector
- How will the global slowdown impact human resources in Egypt?
- Questions and discussion

15.45 Coffee break

16.00 **Business meets government: Making the trickle-down effect work for Egypt**

Off-the-record discussion with Mahmoud Mohieldin, Minister of Investment, and business leaders

- How can Egypt continue to attract FDI in the downturn?
- Privatisation: balancing proceeds, potential and social impact
- Delivering basic services: the role of the private sector
- Why is the deepening of growth important for business?
- Will the oil and gas sector increase wealth for ordinary Egyptians?
- Questions and discussion

17.00 Farewell refreshments

Share your views with an expert panel of speakers

Speakers include:

- **Ahmed Nazif**

Prime Minister

- **Yousef Boutros-Ghali**

Minister of Finance

- **Osman Mohammed Osman**

Minister of Economic Development

- **Mahmoud Mohieldin**

Minister of Investment

- **Rachid Mohammed Rachid**

Minister for Trade and Industry

- **Youssry al-Gamal**

Minister of Education

- **Hisham Abdel Hafez**

Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Egypt



Ahmed Nazif
Prime Minister



Yousef Boutros-Ghali
Minister of Finance



Mahmoud Mohieldin
Minister of Investment



Rachid Mohammed Rachid
Minister for Trade and Industry



Chair: Delia Meth-Cohn
*Editorial Director, CEMEA,
The Economist Group*

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