



Issue 8 – June 29, 2011

This member-only update covers recent U.S.-Egypt Business Council activities.

News Coverage in Egypt

Business Promotion Trip June 6—8, 2011

Dear Members,

As a follow up to our mission report, below you will find the English translations to the media and news coverage generated by our Business Promotion Trip in June. The following are a collection of 30 print and web articles that ran in prominent English and Arabic publications.

The council hosted a brief media event on June 8 lead by the council's leadership companies, Apache, The Coca-Cola Company, ExxonMobil, and Citi. In addition, the government and private sector meetings drew tremendous media coverage.

Thank you again for your participation on the mission. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions you may have.

Best regards,

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**Please note that many articles have been translated from Arabic into English. Media coverage may inaccurately reflect certain facts and figures due to widely varying reporting practices.*



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Publication: Al Ahram

Date: 9/6/2011

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The U.S – Egyptian Business Council Forum

Abu El Naga: No intention to cancel the QIZ Agreement with a US agreement to expand its zone scope

During a meeting organized by the General Authority for Investment (GAFI) with a US businessmen delegation, Faiza Abu El Naga, Minister of International Cooperation, asserted that Egypt is not seeking to obtain donations and aid. However, it aims at participating in development process through investments. Abu El Naga stated that the government is committed to the free market policy and will support the investments.

Abu El Naga also pointed out that the Suez Canal Region has multiple potential investment opportunities that can be focused on in the coming period. “We don’t think about canceling the Qualified Industrial Zones (QIZ) Agreement. On contrary, there is a great American welcome to increase and expand the number of these zones,” she added.

“The Government is currently seeking to provide more investment incentives,” said Osama Saleh, GAFI’s Chairman. He mentioned that there are various aspects that attract and incite investments in Egypt. The most important aspects include: the geographical location, investment opportunities, and improved services for investors.

“The coming period will witness the establishment of several branches by GAFI throughout all governorates in order to facilitate investments. The market exit process, which is an important issue that hinders Egypt to attract investments, will be settled after the coming People’s Assembly Elections. A bankruptcy law will be presented allowing investors to exit the market and set forth the terms and conditions for the process,” he added.

Saleh also pointed out that the American investments are ranked number ten for foreign investments in Egypt and there will be an Egyptian delegation that will go to US by the end of this month. The delegation will be formed in coordination with several ministries with the purpose of promoting the Egyptian projects and opportunities available in numerous zones, principally East Port Said region.

Reem El Saady, SME's Unit Executive Director, talked about the establishment of Bedaya Center for Small and Medium Investment, which represents the largest part of the current projects.

Publication: Al Ahram

Date: 9/6/2011

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Major national projects to be announced within weeks

- **Sharaf: We are committed to fight corruption. At the same time, we will comply with market economy and encourage investments**
- **An American company announces injecting \$1b in its petroleum projects operating in Egypt**

Dr. Essam Sharaf, Prime Minister, announced that the Government is developing an ambitious developmental plan to establish a number of major national projects. The plan will be announced within a few weeks.

At a meeting held yesterday with an American delegation, made up of senior executives from 24 major American companies, Sharaf asserted that Egypt has taken irreversible path towards the complete democracy, which entails a strong and fruitful economic presence.

He mentioned that the country has the ability to pass through the current transitional phase asserting that the current investment in Egypt will be guaranteed in the future.

Members of the American delegation expressed their appreciation and estimation of the Egyptian revolution. They asserted that they will increase investments in Egypt during the coming period. Steven Farris, Chairman of Apache Corporation, announced that his company will inject an additional \$1 billion in investments in Egypt during the coming year.

Ahmad Al-Saman, Media Advisor to the Prime Minister, announced that Sharaf asserted during the meeting that government is strictly committed to fight corruption, which will result in attracting more investments, and complying with market economy and related international agreements.

During the meeting with the American delegation, Dr. Samir Rawdan, Minister of Finance, asserted there would be no change in the Egyptian economic drive and no going back on free market policies and economic reformation. The private sector will continue to play a role in leading development, and there are policies seeking to attract foreign investments to the Egyptian market, while focusing on achieving social justice.

Radwan emphasized that the government is exerting enormous efforts to solve all problems and overcome all obstacles that face investment in Egypt. He alluded to the steady improvement in the security status day after day adding that Egypt's infrastructure was not affected by the January 25 Revolution.

In a joint meeting between US-Egypt Business Council and Board of Directors of Federation of Egyptian Industries, Steven Farris, President of the American delegation, asserted that the American businessmen are committed to inject more investments in Egypt even if the Muslim Brotherhood should rise to power; this confirm that the Americans are not concerned about who will rise to power as much as they care about the policies that attract investment.

Galal El Zorba, Chairman of the Federation of the Egyptian Industries, asked to double American investments in Egypt pointing out that the country needs about \$10 billion a year to achieve the economic growth during the coming period.

In another development, Kingdom Agricultural Development Company (KADCO), owned by Saudi Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal, announced injecting new EGP500 million-worth investments to cultivate an area of 25,000 acres –plot of land allocated to Toshka Project- after signing a new contract.

In a press conference held yesterday, Ahmad El Halawany, KADCO CEO, said that the new investments include establishment of a standard farm, as well as the expansion of a modern agriculture programs and applying advanced techniques that will ensure increased productivity of different crops per acre.

He also pointed out that the coming period will witness implementation of a number of immediate programs to accelerate the performance rates of the lands allocated to the company in line with the new contract that was concluded between the company and the Egyptian government.

In Washington, a report developed by the World Bank about the global economic horizons predicts that the economy in Egypt and Tunisia will recover during the coming year. The report also mentions that Egypt will achieve a growth rate approaching 5% in 2013 even though its current growth indicators are negative,

The World Bank also predicted that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Egypt will witness 1% decline in the current year, and Tunisia will also witness a similar decline at 1.5%.

In the same context, Gregor Irwin, Chief Economist at the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, asserted that the Egyptian economy is strongly capable to grow and achieve great progress during the coming phase.

Irwin, who currently visiting Egypt on a British delegation, said that international rating agencies may increase the credit rating of the Egyptian economy in the light of the clear-cut democracy that Egypt enjoys in addition to elimination of corruption and providing more transparency in all political and economic fields.

Publication: Al Ahram

Date: 9/6/2011

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In his meeting with a US investment delegation, Sharaf said:

Investing in Egypt is guaranteed... and we are capable of overcoming the crisis and achieving stability

In his meeting with a US delegation, comprised of senior executives and representatives of 24 major US companies operating in different sectors, Dr. Essam Sharaf, Prime Minister, asserted that Egypt has taken permanent path towards complete democracy, which entails a strong and fruitful economic presence. He underlined that Egypt has the ability to pass over the current transitional phase and to achieve the economic stability that will guarantee democracy and encourage investments to come from all over the world. Dr. Samir El Sayyad, Minister of Trade and Industry, was among the attendees representing Egypt.

Dr. Ahmad Al-Saman, Media Advisor to the Prime Minister, said that Dr. Sharaf stressed during the meeting that current investments in Egypt will be guaranteed in the future. This explains his interest to meet the delegation and to focus on economy and investments during the meeting.

Dr. Sharaf added that the government is putting a developmental plan for Egypt to establish several major national projects. The plan will be announced within a few weeks.

Al-Saman said that Dr. Sharaf reaffirmed the State's compliance with the international agreements and market economy that observes the social justice as well as the mutual interests.

Sharaf added that the government exerts all possible efforts to make investment clear of any corruption and, in return, more investments will be attracted to the country.

The US delegation expressed their appreciation to the Egyptian revolution as well as their commitment to increase investments in Egypt.

Steven Farris, CEO of Apache Corporation, stated that the company will increase its investments in Egypt by \$1 million during the coming year.

He pointed out that the American companies have previously invested in Egypt and will increase their investments in the future. He also expressed his fascination with the situation in Egypt.

With the purpose of enhancing cooperation between the two countries, Lionel Johnson, Vice President of American Chamber of Commerce, headquartered in Washington, stated that the Chamber is enhancing the economic relations with Egypt. He also stated that the Chamber is

committed to encourage the US government to promote trade relations with Egypt and to conclude free trade agreement between both countries.

Dr. Samir El Sayyad asserted that the government is working to strengthen and expand the economic relations and it is also seeking to sign a free trade agreement with the US. He also stated that agreements will be concluded with countries such as China and Turkey to establish industrial and technological centers.

Dr. Essam Sharaf reassured the US delegation that Egypt is secure and stable and it welcomes cooperation with other countries based on the principle of exchanging mutual benefits and interests. He also emphasized that Egypt is a promising country for foreign and Arab investments in the light of the enormous capabilities that it has.

Publication: Al Ahram

Date: 9/6/2011

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Minister of Petroleum: Fresh bidding for oil and gas exploration to be announced

In his meeting with a US delegation headed by Steven Farris, CEO of Apache Corporation and Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce, Eng. Abdullah Ghorab, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, asserted that Egypt has strong and distinguished relations. These relations come in the light of the advantages that attract foreign investments in addition to the achievements made in oil and gas exploration activities in Egypt.

In the light of the good relations with US companies backed by unique experience which extends for many years, achieving remarkable successes in the various fields, Ghorab discussed with the CEO of Apache Corporation the investment opportunities that would be made in fields of oil, gas and petrochemicals in the future.

During the meeting, Petroleum Sector officials stated that fresh bidding for oil and gas exploration will be announced soon.

Publication: Al Akhbar

Date: 9/6/2011

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In his meeting with representatives of 24 major US companies, Sharaf, along with five other ministers, said:

Major national projects to be announced within weeks

US delegation leader: \$1B increase in petroleum investments

Dr. Essam Sharaf, Prime Minister, announced that the Government is developing an ambitious developmental plan to found a number of major national projects that will be announced within a few weeks.

Sharaf asserted that Egypt has taken permanent path towards complete democracy, which entails a strong and fruitful economic presence. He also stressed that Egypt has the ability to pass over the current transition phase.

These statements came when Sharaf received a US delegation, made up of senior representatives and executives of 24 major US companies operating in different fields. The delegation was headed by Steven Farris, CEO of Apache Corporation. Members of the delegation included Google, Microsoft, ExxonMobil, General Motors and Boeing Company as well as members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt.

The meeting was also attended by Dr. Samir El Sayyad, Minister of Trade and Industry.

Dr. Essam Sharaf reassured the US delegation that Egypt is secure and stable and it welcomes cooperation with other countries based on exchange of mutual benefits and interests.

Ahmad Al-Saman, Media Advisor to the Prime Minister, announced that Sharaf stressed during the meeting that the State is strictly complying with international agreements and market economy that guarantees social justice. He also stressed that the government is making all efforts possible to make investment atmosphere free of corruption and, in return, more investments will be attracted to the country.

Appreciation of Revolution

Members of the American delegation expressed their appreciation of the Egyptian revolution. They also asserted that the coming period will witness increased investments in Egypt.

Steven Farris, CEO of Apache Corporation, included that his company will introduce more investments in the amount of one billion dollars in the coming year. Farris said that the US

companies have previously injected investments in Egypt and they will increase their investments in the future. He also expressed his fascination with the current situation in Egypt.

With the purpose of enhancing cooperation between the two countries, Lionel Johnson, Vice President of American Chamber of Commerce, headquartered in Washington, stated that the Chamber is enhancing the economic relations with Egypt. He also stated that the Chamber is committed to motivate the US government to promote trade relations with Egypt and to conclude free trade agreement between both countries.

Dr. Samir El Sayyad asserted that the government is working to strengthen and expand the economic relations and also seeking to sign a free trade agreement with the US. He also stated that agreements will be concluded with countries such as China and Turkey to establish industrial and technological centers.

Dr. Magued Osman, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, met with American delegation. The Minister reviewed Egypt's current situation following the revolution, and highlighted the political and economic situations during this critical phase. He also referred to the various benefits of ICT tools in accomplishing political reforms and empowering community.

Dr. Osman also identified both available investments' opportunities in the Egyptian ICT sector and means to expand partnerships with international companies focusing on technology development.

Dr. Osman also presented the incentives packages offered to attract more Egyptian and foreign investments.

Eng. Abdullah Ghorab, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, also met with the US delegation yesterday. He discussed investment opportunities available in Egypt during the coming period in the fields of oil, gas and petrochemicals.

Ghorab stressed that the visit is considered a positive message that Egypt was, still and shall remain a stable country, maintaining strong ties with the major U.S. companies.

Free Market

US Goodwill Delegation also met with Dr. Samir Radwan, Minister of Finance, Dr. Magued Osman , Minister of Communications and other members of Federation of Egyptian Industries, Headed by Galal Al-Zorba.

Dr. Samir Radwan, Minister of Finance, asserted there would be no change in the Egyptian economic drive and no going back on free market policies and economic reformation. The private sector will continue to play a role in leading development, and there are policies seeking to attract foreign investments to the Egyptian market, while focusing on achieving social justice.

During the US-Egypt Investment Forum, organized by the General Authority for Investment, headed by Osama Saleh, Fayza Abu El Naga, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, denied that the QIZ agreement was halted or that there were any intentions to terminate it. She said that the agreement is valid with 10,000 beneficiary factories at the moment. Furthermore, there is an American Egyptian tender to increase the number of beneficiary factories and companies and to expand the number of qualified industrial zones. The Egyptian government also seeks to raise the competitiveness of Egyptian factories benefiting from the agreement. She stressed the strong ties Egypt has with US and that Egypt considers US a main ally.

Overcoming Obstacles

Abu El Naga stressed the government commitment to support all investors, national, Arab or foreign alike. It will also overcome all obstacles that the big projects, offered to them by the government, may face. On the top of these projects are "Development Corridor" project, Sinai and Delta development projects as well as other huge projects that require large investments such as transforming Canal cities into logistic area and to maximize the benefits that come from Suez Canal Passage in creating more job opportunities.

Osama Saleh, GAFI's Chairman, said that delegations will be sent to US till the end of this year in coordination with several ministries with the purpose of promoting investments in Egypt. The first delegation will go to Washington by the end of this month.

GAFI has also shortened the procedures determined for establishing companies. Now it can be completed within 72 hours. Electronic licensing is also offered by GAFI and 80 companies were electronically licensed since the beginning of this year.

Talking about the projects available to foreign investors, Ahmad Samir El Sayad, Advisor to the General Authority for Investment, said that the government will work in the coming period on several huge national projects such as two-direction Suez Tunnel that has railway line operating with magnetic levitation trains, developing the higher education sector, upgrading universities to the international levels, East Port Said projects including industrial and residential zones as well as an integrated port that extends to 2,400 km with logistic service area, container warehouses as well as projects of integrated residential cities on Cairo-Alex desert road, Alameen City and Upper Egypt- Red Sea road.

Investment Opportunities

On other side, Eng. Abdullah Ghorab, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, met yesterday with Steven Farris, CEO of American Apache Corporation and Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce, and his accompanying delegation made up of members of the Chamber and a number of US companies' officials to discuss the investment opportunities available in Egypt during the coming period in fields of oil, gas and petrochemicals.

Ghorab stressed that the visit is considered a positive message that Egypt was, still and shall remain a stable country, maintaining strong ties with the major U.S. companies, as Egypt is a significant place for the American companies to invest in backed by its distinctive experience which extends for many years, achieving remarkable successes in the various fields.

Publication: Al Alam Al Youm

Date: 9/6/2011

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During a conference which hosted 35 major US companies

Agreement has been made to develop Egyptian-American projects at the Federation of Egyptian Industries

During a conference held yesterday at Federation of the Egyptian Industries (FEI), Galal El Zorba, Chairman of FEI, along with other members met with US investment delegation, that is currently visiting Egypt. The delegation includes representatives of 35 major US companies.

During the meeting between Egyptian manufacturers and the representatives of US companies, El Zorba stressed that they have reviewed production and investment projects that both parties seek to develop in Egypt during the coming period to meet the new economic requirements that came up following January Revolution.

He explained that the projects will include pharmaceuticals, textile, readymade garment, and communications and information technology industries as well as investments in insurance and banking sectors in addition to all other projects that will be agreed upon between the Egyptian manufacturers and American investors.

Publication: Al Dostour

Date: 9/6/2011

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Abu El Naga: Egypt is seeking an economic partnership and is not waiting for aid..... QIZ agreement will not be cancelled

During the US-Egypt Investment Forum, organized by the General Authority for Investment, Fayza Abu El Naga, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, denied that Egypt would not continue applying policies set forth by QIZ Agreement following the revolution. Egypt applies this agreement based on the one concluded with the American government.

“It is not true that Egypt has broken the agreement, especially in the light of the American welcome to implement it and, furthermore, its intention to increase the number of industrial zones in accordance with the items of the Agreement,” she said.

She added that there are 10,000 factories in the free zones that have operation permissions in accordance with the agreement. She acknowledged that most of these factories do not currently export to the American markets. However, these factories are in existent and functional.

She referred that “Hillary Clinton”, Secretary of State, has given welcome to the principle of expanding the base of industrial zones operating in accordance with the agreement.

“Abu El Naga” expressed her welcome to the US investments in Egypt. The size of US investments in Egypt stands at US\$7 billion, with 147 American companies operating in the country. She stressed that the Egyptian government will not wait for aid or grant from other countries. However, it seeks economic partnerships to enhance the State’s economic activity, especially in projects such as development of Sinai Governorate and Delta; Development Corridor; national housing; northern coast; gas, oil and mineral resources; Suez Canal, Port Said and Ismailia and to transform them into logistical zones. The importance of aquatic zone should be reconsidered as the Egyptian government has used them only as water passages in the past.

The Minister pointed out that the General Authority for Investment has approved the plan to make the city of Suez a free zone with East Port Said.

Publication: Al Dostour

Date: 9/6/2011

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Minister of Petroleum meets with CEO of Apache Corporation to discuss investment opportunities for gas and chemicals

Yesterday, Eng. Abdullah Ghorab, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, met with Steven Farris, CEO of American Apache Corporation and Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce, and a number of representatives of US companies. They discussed the investment opportunities available in Egypt during the coming period in the following fields; oil, gas and petrochemicals.

The Minister of Petroleum mentioned that this meeting is considered a positive message that Egypt was, still and shall remain a stable country, maintaining strong ties with the major U.S. companies, as Egypt is a significant place for the American companies to invest in backed by its distinctive experience which extends for many years, achieving remarkable successes in the various fields.

Mr. Steven Farris pointed out that there are various bilateral and multilateral agreements as well as financial facilities offered by U.S. banks to contribute in supporting investments during the coming period, giving positive signals to the markets that Egypt is a promising country for investments after the revolution of January 25. He also added that the good relations between the American companies and the Egyptian petroleum sector contribute in supporting the American investments and, in return, support the Egyptian economy in the coming period.

He also stressed that the American companies operating in Egypt are committed to their plans and programs.

Publication: Rosal Youssef

Date: 9/6/2011

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During the US-Egypt Business Forum

QIZ Agreement with Israel and US is effective and no more negotiations over free trade agreements

During the US-Egypt Investment Forum, organized by the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), Fayza Abu El Naga, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, announced that the negotiations between Egypt and the US over establishing a free trade zone have been stopped. The negotiations will not be resumed as the focus will be paid currently on formulating a mutual investment framework, completed mechanisms.

The forum included an economic delegation, made up of 24 representatives of US major companies and headed by Steven Farris, CEO of Apache Corporation.

Abu Naga said that the Qualified Industrial Zones (QIZ) Protocol is still effective and the American side plans to increase the number of industrial zones. She said that there are 10,000 factories under the agreement, though most of them do not export.

Abu El Naga stressed that the economic relations between Egypt and the US will not rely on aid or grants in the coming period. However, the relation will be in the form of partnerships and mutual interests that can be achieved through investment and trade.

She said that the most important projects that can be joined by the American side represented in transforming Suez Canal Passage to an integrated logistic service area. They will also participate in low-cost housing projects, development corridors, development of Sinai and Northern Coast as well as mineral resources, oil and gas projects.

Osama Saleh, Chairman of GAFI, stated that the current year will witness three economic Egyptian delegations to the US. The first will be by the end of this June through a delegation from Ministry of Communications. The goal of this delegation is to study mutual projects that may be developed in the field of communications and information technology.

Osama denied that the American companies were provided with new incentives in the form of exemptions during the current period. He explained that the procedures related to establishment of investment projects will be facilitated and any problems that may face them will be solved.

Saleh also pointed out that the American investments are ranked number ten for foreign investments in Egypt at a capital that amounts to \$7 billion, with 147 American companies operating in the country.

Publication: Al Ahram

Date: 9/6/2011

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Head of the US delegation:

American investments are ongoing even if the Muslim Brotherhood should rise to power

El Zorba: Pumping investments to \$ 10 billion a year the way for economic growth

Steve Farris, CEO of American Apache Corporation and Chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce, asserted that the economic relations with Egypt will continue and that the US investment flow will continue even if the Muslim Brotherhood rises to power as long as the economic policies encourage and attract foreign investments.

He added that the most important thing is the policies themselves not who will rise to power.

In a meeting held yesterday between the American delegation and the Federation of Egyptian Industries, Farris said that he expects increased volume of American investments in Egypt during the coming period.

He also emphasized the importance of the Egyptian Government's role to create climate that fits and attracts investments. The same point was raised and emphasized by President of The Coca-Cola Company and a member of the American delegation who said that the current Egyptian government has an important role to play towards establishing the economic fundamentals and policies that attract and increase investments and business. The government should take into account the great competition that Egypt face with a lot of countries for attracting foreign investments; those countries include India, Brazil, Russia and China.

Responding to a question raised by a participant about the difficulty he faced to obtain US visas even though he participated along with a number of people in an international exhibition next July in US, the head of American delegation asserted that the problem to obtain US visas is not limited to Egypt. However, it is a general phenomenon that includes a number of countries based on the strict measures taken by the US to protect its security.

A member of the American delegation said that the strict measures taken by the US in the regard is being suffered a lot by some countries more than the ones that Egypt faces. He acknowledged that visas sometimes are being issued in untimely manner after the event that the businessmen will participate in.

On his part, Galal El-Zorba, Chairman of Federation of Egyptian Industries, assured that Egypt needs about \$10 billion a year to achieve the economic growth during the coming period in the

light of the increased investment opportunities. He also stressed the importance to double the American investments in the Egyptian market after the January 25th Revolution and that the food exports have witnessed a noticeable growth.

Commenting on that US does not have the intention to negotiate about the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Egypt in the current period, El-Zorba said that Qualifying Industrial Zones (QIZ) agreement provides real opportunities to develop Egyptian exports and it may be better in certain areas than the FTA, especially in terms of the difficulty of origin certificate conditions set forth in FTA. He also called for coordination of efforts between US and Egypt in order to enhance the cooperation and promote the investment opportunities in the Egyptian market.

Publication: Al Ahram

Date: 9/6/2011

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Samir Radwan: Economic drive to be maintained, role of the private sector in development to be boosted

Egyptian Finance Minister, Dr. Samir Radwan, asserted there would be no change in the Egyptian economic drive and no going back on free market policies and economic reformation. The private sector will continue to play a role in leading development, and there are policies seeking to attract foreign investments to the Egyptian market, while focusing on achieving social justice as the most important axis of the new general state budget bill.

The Finance Minister expressed these views in his meeting with a delegation of American companies investing in Egypt.

There are, the Minister added, a number of newly introduced programs in the new budget bill of 2011/2012 which target social justice, such as the introduction of a national housing project, setting a training program linked with actual employment, and the start of a reformation of the wage/salary structure through a total restructuring, rather than simply setting a minimum wage/salary level.

Concerning the mechanisms of augmenting the general revenues of the state, Dr. Radwan revealed that the budget bill introduced a new tax bracket of 25% in the structure of income taxes to readjust the escalating tax system—an effort to achieve social justice by charging the rich to spend on the poor.

Expected budget deficit will be around 11% in the next fiscal year, but the Ministry of Finance has set a plan to decrease this ratio gradually over the coming few years, according to Dr. Radwan.

On other side, Dr. Magued Osman, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, also met with the delegation and reviewed Egypt's current situation following the revolution, and highlighted the political and economic situations during this critical phase. He also referred to the various benefits of ICT tools in accomplishing political reforms and empowering community.

Dr. Osman highlighted Egypt as a distinguished destination providing IT services and hosting specialized outsourcing centers. Furthermore, he stressed on Egypt's unique pillars that have always been developed to guarantee the sustainability and prosperity of the ICT industry. As a result, Egypt is now ranked number one at the African level and number four at the international level in this industry.

Dr. Osman has presented the incentives packages offered to attract more Egyptian and foreign investments. Moreover, he referred to the current amendment of the Telecommunications Law No. 10 for the year 2003 through a fully transparent community dialogue.

According to the Minister, the Egyptian ICT sector participation in GDP reached the ratio of 4% during 2009-2010 while the rate of the sector's annual growth oscillated between 14.3 % and 13.4 % in the period of 2007-2010.

Publication: Al Ahrar

Date: 9/6/2011

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US-Egypt Business Council doubts about the possibility to implement free trade agreement between Cairo and Washington

During the Conference hosted yesterday by the Federation of Egyptian Industries, members of the US-Egypt Business Council (USEBC) revealed that the US investments do not care about whether there would be a religious or secular government in Egypt. “We are already investing in Iran, though it is an Islamic country” the USEBC members said.

The members said that what concerns them is the economic policy of that government in attracting foreign investments.

On the potential for a free trade agreement between the two countries, Farris said that the situation in the US does not allow the signing of free trade agreements with any country at the moment, which resulted in negotiations to be suspended. However, the issue is open for discussion and the US Administration is considering the situation and it adopts the point of view of both parties and their desire to sign the agreement.

Farris denied that the QIZ agreement may be the reason why the free trade agreement between Egypt and US was suspended. He added that the QIZ agreement has provided the Egyptian products the opportunity to enter US markets under no conditions taking into account that the Israeli component in Egyptian products of Qualified Industrial Zones (QIZ) represents 10%.

Galal El Zorba, Chairman of the Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI), referred that the FEI was not close to direct investments. However, the situation is different now as we would like to work with the American business community. Furthermore, we need to hold dialogue in order to agree upon the mutual points and to call for mutual cooperation and coordination.

Publication: Al Wafd

Date: 10/6/2011

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Economic laws do not need amendments except for the foreign employment permissions

American businessmen asserted that Sharaf's government "proceeds tentatively" towards managing the State and its economic affairs.

The American delegation, made up of 24 US companies operating in different investment fields, said that the economic laws do not require any amendments except for the facilities related to the foreign employment permissions.

During US-Egypt Business Council (USEBC) conference held two days ago, members of the delegation added that the US investments have been operating in the local market for several years and they will be increased in the coming period.

Lionel Johnson, Vice President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Washington, said that the American Chamber is seeking to implement several partnerships of all sizes and it will work to help the Egyptian economy to grow over the long term, especially in the light of the Egyptian government endeavors to regain trust in the economy.

Steven Farris, CEO of Apache Corporation operating in petroleum field added that the company is committed to invest in Egypt and to take part in developing and establishing the local market. He also said that the Egyptian laws do not require any changes or amendments except for foreign employment permissions.

He pointed out that the company is adding about \$10 million on a daily basis to the Egyptian economy.

Curt Ferguson, Coca-Cola Company, said that the transformation of Egypt is similar to that happened following the fall of Berlin Wall and there is optimism about the future of Egyptian market.

He also added that the company is working to grow at 20% and about 48,000 branches will be opened throughout all governorates creating numerous job opportunities. In addition, about 100 schools will be established. He also said that Egypt has major investment opportunities during the coming period. He also referred that there is no one single American company that would withdraw its investments from Egypt.

Publication: Al Alam Al Youm

Date: 11/6/2011

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USEBC announces two studies to assess US-Egypt free trade agreement

US-Egypt Business Council launched two new studies to assess a potential U.S.–Egypt Free Trade Agreement and the proposal for providing Egypt with further debt relief.

Recognizing that the Egyptian economy has suffered since January, the USEBC reiterated its endorsement of Egypt as an ideal country for business, in which American investment is welcome and can be successful.

“Given the recent, significant changes in Egypt and recognizing that the private sector will be the most important job creating engine for Egypt going forward, we continue to see Egypt as a cornerstone for business and trade in the Middle East, and indeed globally,” said, members of USEBC.

Publication: Business Al Youm – Al Alam Al Youm

Date: 14/6/2011

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US – Egypt Business Council is committed to bolstering investments in Egypt

U.S.-Egypt Business Council (USEBC) delegation has ended its last week visit to Egypt following a series of bilateral meetings with the government and the private sector. The council has discussed means of cooperation with the US Private Sector with the purpose of helping the Egyptian economy grow. The council said this would happen through enhancing the bilateral trade relations that will benefit both countries. Through 147 American companies, the US investment in Egypt is approximately \$7 billion and comes in the 10th place amongst all foreign investment.

The USEBC reaffirmed the commitment of the American business community to support the Egyptian economy over the long-term. The council acknowledges the challenges ahead in building a dynamic and comprehensive Egyptian economy that would provide a wide base of job opportunities. In addition, the council expressed the American business community intention to partner Egypt throughout this process, especially as the USEBC member companies have operated in Egypt for over 40 years.

"The American business community, represented in our delegation comprises of 24 American companies, is committed to partner with Egypt when the future government is formed. There are several American companies - employing Americans and Egyptians - that are currently doing business and have major investments in Egypt as well as future investment plans across various sectors including agriculture, automotive, banking & financial services, chemical, consulting services, courier services, food & beverage, healthcare, information technology, insurance, soil & gas, and pharmaceuticals" said G. Steven Farris, Chairman of the U.S.-Egypt Business Council.

"It is important to focus on open-economy policy and free markets," said Lionel Johnson, Vice President of the USEBC. He referred to the experience of Eastern Europe and how it achieved the democratic transition in terms of economy after the revolutions. He asserted his endeavor to keep continuous cooperation with Egypt during this transitional phase and to encourage private sector companies to work in Egypt in accordance with accountability and responsibility principles especially in the projects of infrastructure, as well as bolstering the growth and development of commercial markets as reviving the Egyptian economy and creating job opportunities are the most important priorities for Egypt in this transitional phase.

Website: www.youm7.com

Date: 7/6/2011

URL: <http://www.youm7.com/News.asp?NewsID=430486&>

“US-Egypt Business Council” Forum discusses mutual investment opportunities

Today, General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI) organized US-Egypt Business Council (USEBC) Forum. The Forum was attended by Osama Saleh, Chairman of GAFI, Fayza Abu El Naga, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, and members of the USEBC and American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt as well as representatives of 24 major US companies, the most important of them being Apache Corporation.

Osama Saleh, Chairman of GAFI, delivered the key note at the forum. He referred to the US delegation visit to Egypt as the first visit to be made by the American businessmen following January 25th Revolution. He asserted the importance of the visit in promoting projects being implemented by GAFI currently to increase the American investments in Egypt, which stands at \$147 million. He also pointed out that the American investments are ranked number ten for foreign investments in Egypt.

Steven Farris, CEO of Apache Corporation, said that the US looks at the current reforms in Egypt and they have a strong desire to be a part of this achievement.

Fayza Abu El Naga, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, explained that the visit represents a success for the discussions concluded by the Egyptian government with the American delegation during last season’s meetings and International Monetary Fund last March. Egypt does not look for aid or grant from US. However, we look for a true partnership in investment sector.

Ahmad El Sayyad, Advisor to the Chairman of GAFI for major national projects, has offered a number of projects to the American companies willing to invest in Egypt. These projects include: Port Said region that includes a number of major projects in the port and industrial zones, agricultural development projects in East Port Said, establishment of millennium cities in Eastern Port Said, and Upper Egypt- Red Sea Road, and medical city on Cairo-Alexandria Desert Road.

El Sayyad referred to “Development Corridor project” and “Zewail Initiative for Scientific Research Development” as important projects for the Egyptian government to implement. He also referred to the investment in equity funds related to small and medium enterprises to support the Egyptian economy.

Website: <http://gate.ahram.org.eg/>

Date: 8/6/2011

US-Egypt Business Council: There is no hope to enter free trade agreement with Egypt

During the Conference hosted today by the Federation of Egyptian Industries, Steven Farris, Chairman of US-Egypt Business Council (USEBC), asserted that the US investments do not care whether there will be a religious or secular government in Egypt. “We are already investing in Iran, though it is an Islamic country. What concerns us is the economic policy of that government attracting foreign investments,” he added.

On the potential for a free trade agreement between the two countries, Farris said that the situation in the US does not allow the signing of free trade agreements with any country at the moment, which resulted in negotiations to be suspended. However, the issue is open for discussion and the US Administration is considering the situation to adopt the point of view of both parties and enhance their desire to sign the agreement.

Farris denied that the QIZ agreement may be the reason why the free trade agreement between Egypt and US was suspended. The QIZ agreement has provided the Egyptian products the opportunity to enter US markets under no conditions taking into account that the Israeli component in Egyptian products of Qualified Industrial Zones (QIZ) represents 10%.

Galal El Zorba, Chairman of the Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI), referred that the FEI was not close to direct investments. However, the situation is different now as we would like to work with the American business community. Furthermore, we need to hold dialogue in order to agree upon the mutual points and to call for mutual cooperation and coordination.

On the problems that the Egyptian businessmen face, after the revolution in particular, to obtain visas from the US Embassy, an official at the US Embassy in Cairo acknowledged that there is a true difficulty to obtain visas. He asserted that the problem to obtain US visas is not limited to Egypt adding that it is not the Embassy decision to give visas or not. However, it is the responsibility of the US Government.

Website: www.mubasher.info

Date: 8/6/2011

URL:

[http://www.mubasher.info/portal/case/getDetailsStory.html?storyId=1888174&goToHomePageP
aram=true&siteLanguage=ar](http://www.mubasher.info/portal/case/getDetailsStory.html?storyId=1888174&goToHomePageP
aram=true&siteLanguage=ar)

Flow of American investments to Egypt increases

Steven Farris, Chairman of US-Egypt Business Council (USEBC), asserted the enthusiasm of US companies to invest in Egypt. The flow of investments to Egypt has increased after the January 25th Revolution. “We announce our commitment and support to keep the American investments continue in Egypt,” Farris said in the USEBC meeting with the Board of Directors of Federation of Egyptian industries at the latter’s headquarters.

He stressed that the investments were not affected by the current situation in Egypt. On contrary, the flow of investments to Egypt has increased since January 25th.

He stated that the USEBC will share its vision for the investment atmosphere in Egypt with more US companies to call them for investing in it. He mentioned that the delegation has met with Prime Minister Dr. Essam Sharaf and discussed how to develop investment policies that attract more investments to Egypt.

He stated that attracting investments is relied on the current government as there are other competitors to the American investors in the Egyptian market such as Chinese, Indian and Russian investors. “Everyone competes for investment in Egypt. But this requires serious policies to be set forth by the government. As long as there are opportunities to achieve profits, more investments will come for sure,” he added.

He asserted that the US investments do not care whether there would be a religious or secular government in Egypt. He said that what concern them are the policies of that government attracting foreign investments and a road map for investments unless they do not lose their way.

He said that many US companies have hope that the USEBC will provide opportunities to work in Egypt as long as the economic policies are good and have future vision. He asserted that the investments will be doubled in the future.

During the meeting, Steven Farris, said that the US investors do not fear from the Brotherhood in particular. They are concerned about the policy attracting foreign investments in general. “Religious tendency in Iran does not prevent us to invest there. The most important aspects are represented in partners, laws, legislations and investment atmosphere in general,” he added.

On the potential for a free trade agreement between the two countries, Farris said that there is a strong desire from the American side to reconsider the signing of the agreement. He added that there is a strong belief that this agreement is necessary to remove trade borders between both parties. He referred that there a study is being conducted currently by the USEBC to develop a road map for investment and trade in Egypt. However, the situation in the US does not allow the signing of free trade agreements with any country at the moment. But the aforementioned study is being conducted in Washington and will be submitted to the US Administration for review and it may approve the same to implement the agreement.

On the potential for cancelling the QIZ Agreement following the signing of a free trade agreement between both countries, Farris described the QIZ Agreement as a great idea and has an equal importance compared to the free trade agreement and it also considered a great achievement. There is a need for free trade agreement, but it should not affect any other agreements.

Galal El –Zorba rejected to associate the current political situation in Egypt with the economic one. Although the significant decline in automotive industry, food industries have achieved growth oscillated between 5% and 8% following January Revolution.

He asserted that several companies were suffering after the revolution. However, the Private Sector companies have passed through this critical phase, though there are concerns exist.

In the same context, Zorba rejected to associate passing the free trade agreement with cancelling the QIZ agreement. He said that both agreements are important to remove borders that hinder trade between Egypt and the US and we discuss the issue with the American Chamber of Commerce. But this does not mean to annul the QIZ Agreement that helped in supporting the Egyptian exports during the last year.

Website: <http://cp2.gom.com.eg/~almessa/index.php>

Date: 8/6/2011

URL: http://213.158.162.45/~almessa/index.php?c=html/main/articleDetails&article_id=25762

Major US companies assure that they will have more investments in Egypt after the revolution

Members of the US-Egypt Business Council (USEBC), comprised of senior executives and representatives of major US companies, asserted the continuous flow of US investments to Egypt during the coming period.

Steven Farris, Chairman of USEBC and CEO of Apache Corporation, said that the American investors will increase their investments capitalizing on the democratic shift that Egypt witnesses.

These statements came at the USEBC Forum, which is organized by General Authority for Investment (GAFI) for the first time following the revolution. The forum was attended by Fayza Abu El Naga, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, and Osama Saleh, GAFI Chairman, as well as representatives of 24 major US companies.

Abu El Naga asserted that the Egyptian government is determined to explore investment opportunities to be offered to Egyptian, foreign and Arab companies. "Egypt is not waiting for aid or grant. It looks for partnership opportunity in trade and investment," she stressed.

She added that the State aims at creating huge industrial entities and associations in Suez Canal region, from East Port Said Port, passing through Ismailia, to the city of Suez. The State also aims to proceed with the implementation of comprehensive developmental projects such as development corridors; development of Sinai, Delta and Northern Coast; providing investment opportunities in the fields of natural gas, oil and mineral materials; and establishing low-cost housing developments. As a result, the investment opportunities will expand, there will be an atmosphere suitable for new investors and partners, more job opportunities for Egyptians will be provided, and small and medium enterprises will be encouraged.

Responding to questions raised by journalists whether the QIZ Agreement would continue or not, she said the agreement will continue expecting that the industrial zones will be expanded... She denied that the number of factories operating in accordance with this agreement has diminished. However, there are 10,000 factories enjoying QIZ exemptions and privileges.

Website: www.misrnewsagency.com

Date: 8/6/2011

URL: <http://www.misrnewsagency.com/main/art.php?id=86&art=8527>

US-Egypt Business Council rejects to describe American investments in Egypt and an aid

Participants at the US-Egypt Business Council (USEBC) Forum, held yesterday at the Headquarters of General Authority for Investment (GAFI), refused to describe assistance provided by the American companies through investing in the Egyptian market as a part of the annual aid that Egypt obtains from US. However, it comes within the framework of bilateral partnership between the two countries and helps the Egyptian economy to recover from recession it suffers since January 25th Revolution.

Osama Saleh, Chairman of GAFI, and Steven Farris, Chairman of USEBC, asserted that the latter has contributed in enhancing relations between both countries before the revolution and has faced several challenges after that. They asserted that the volume of American investments in Egypt have reached \$7 billion through 147 companies. The American investments are ranked number ten for foreign investments in Egypt and the coming period will witness more investments that will help the government drive towards open market economy as a rapid and guaranteed means for economic growth.

He referred that the political scene has changed more than once during the last period. Although Mubarak has stepped down and the ministerial structure has been changed more than once, GAFI was providing assistance for investments and help investors to have a more solid position than before. It capitalized on the political reform status in the country and Military Council endeavors to meet the demands of protestors including providing job opportunities and creating good work environment for education and training.

Saleh added that Egypt has natural resources that are not available in economies of several other countries in the region. These resources have helped banking sector to maintain stability in Egypt and also helped the infrastructure processes to improve.

Steven Farris, Chairman of USEBC, referred that he felt more enthusiasm at his meeting with a number of Egyptian ministers last days. However, he did not feel like that in the era of the old regime. He has visited Egypt on a mission last December and found no enthusiasm. He, as a representative of 24 major and best US companies in the world, referred that the US desires to be a partner in these achievements.

Dr. Fayza Abu El Naga called for the participants to visit Tahrir Square and to touch the dignity and freedom created by the blood of martyrs in its corners. She stated that the US is an essential

strategic ally and this was clear when USEBC called a group of Egyptian ministers of the revolution government for a business lunch in Washington following meetings with IMF. Investment became a main component in the public budget being prepared currently by the ministries as it is different from the previous ones as the business now is going progressively. In addition, civil society organizations are now being added into the budget plan.

Abu El Naga added that the current attitude is going towards private sector and foreign investments. The new contract, concluded between Prime Minister Dr. Essam Sharaf and Saudi Prince Al-Waleed Bin Talal, asserts the investment opportunities available in Tosha and supports development corridor. The vast sector of the Egyptian people is youth. This represents a huge amount of low-cost labor that will help to implement new investment projects, especially with the reuse of waterways in the Suez Canal, which represent an investment treasure that would create millions of job opportunities.

Dr. Samir El Sayyad, Advisor to the Chairman of GAFI, revealed a great number of major investments and projects that the different ministries want to implement in the light of support of investments coming from abroad in accordance with previous partnership agreements with American, Qatari and Saudi businessmen. GAFI supports these projects through steering committees that manage the projects, provide several studies to promote them, find solutions for the lack of land problems and obtain the required licenses. These projects include East Port Said area that has several projects; most notably the establishment of a comprehensive sea port, the largest in the region; an industrial city; agricultural development projects; container plant; and a residential city attached called millennium housing development.

El Sayyad added that a new tunnel will be established under the Suez Canal. The tunnel will facilitate movement from the project location and to Western Port Said along with Shaheed Ahmad Hamdy Tunnel. The investments will amount to EGP5 billion. The tunnel will include two dual-lane ways. The first will be for automotive and the other will be for trains. A magnetic levitation train will be established to connect eastern side to the western one.

He stated that an integrated medical city will be established at the end of Cairo-Alexandria Desert Road. Hotel and commercial areas will be annexed to the city. The government will announce the price of land and will implement the project whether in partnership with investors or through usufruct contract. In addition, a residential area will be developed in El Alamein for a variety of tourist purposes. Another residential city will be developed on roads to connect Upper Egypt to Red Sea, especially as the lands on both sides of the road are owned by governmental companies. Water desalination plant will be developed in Safaga as well as an economic city but its location is not specified yet and it will be located 20,000 km far with another residential city to be annexed to the economic city for employees.

He concluded that the government intends to establish Zewail City for Sciences. Specific cities will be established for education. The cities will develop education process through establishing

new headquarters for universities such as Cairo University Project, which will cover an area of 700 hectares to be developed in accordance with international university specifications including a playground and indoor hall, etc.

Website: www.alwafd.org

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URL:

http://www.alwafd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=54796#axzz1P3filiGY

Apache “active oil driller” increases its expenditures in Egypt by \$1 billion

Steven Farris, Chairman of US-Egypt Business Council (USEBC), announced that Apache, the most “active oil driller” in the country, has laid out a budget that will allow them to invest \$1 billion in the Egyptian market this year. Therefore, the total investment volume of the Corporation in Egypt will reach \$9 billion.

In a meeting between the US delegation, comprised of representatives of major US private sector companies and members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt, and Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Farris said that the USEBC encourages major US companies to increase their investments in Egypt. This comes in the light of the American attitude to help Egypt to pass through this critical period and to overcome its economic crisis.

By way of background, Farris met earlier today with Eng. Abdullah Ghorab, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources. They discussed investment opportunities available in Egypt during the coming period in the fields of oil, gas and petrochemicals.

Website: www.shorouknews.com

Date: 8/6/2011

URL: <http://www.shorouknews.com/ContentData.aspx?id=474214>

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Website: www.eqtesady.com

Date: 9/6/2011

URL: <http://www.eqtesady.com/site/index.php?go=news&more=9019>

USEBC considers a road map for investments in Egypt

“US-Egypt Business Council (USEBC) is carrying out a study to develop a road map for American investments in Egypt,” said, Steven Farris, Chairman of USEBC and CEO of Apache Corporation, during the meeting, organized by General Authority for Investment (GAFI), hosting about 24 major US companies operating in Egypt.

Osama Saleh, Chairman of GAFI, announced that GAFI, in cooperation with Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, will organize three trips to the US to present investment opportunities available in Egypt, according to Shorouk Newspaper.

On the potential to provide new exemptions for investors during the coming period, GAFI Chairman denied that saying that the current period does not allow to provide exemptions. However, the country will work to create good atmosphere for investment.

The American investments are ranked number ten for foreign investments in Egypt at a capital that amounts to \$7 billion, with 147 American companies operating in the country.

In a related context, Apache Corporation announced its intention to inject an additional \$1 billion in investments in Egypt during the coming year. The Corporation will not change any of its investment plans in the Egyptian market following January 25th Revolution.

“The American investors do not care about the internal political developments to decide whether they will invest in the Egyptian market or not. The American investors do not care whether there would be a religious or secular government in Egypt. They don’t fear from Brotherhood Movement in particular. What concern them are the policies of that government attracting foreign investments in general,” Steven Farris, CEO of Apache Corporation, asserted. “The religious tendency in Iran does not prevent us to invest there,” he added.

Website: <http://cp2.gom.com.eg/~almessa/index.php>

Date: 9/6/2011

URL: http://cp2.gom.com.eg/~almessa/index.php?c=html/main/articleDetails&article_id=25871

American investors do not fear the Brotherhood rising to power

“The American investors do not care whether there will be a religious or secular government in Egypt. They don’t fear Brotherhood Movement in particular; as they are concerned with the policies of that government attracting foreign investments in general,” Steven Farris, CEO of Apache Corporation, asserted. “The religious tendency in Iran does not prevent us to invest there. We care about the partner itself, laws and the investment atmosphere,” he added.

“The American investors do not care about the internal political developments to decide whether they will invest in the Egyptian market or not. They are determined to continue investing in Egypt despite the uncertainty about the country’s political and economic aspects,” said, Steven Farris, Chairman of USEBC and CEO of Apache Corporation, during the meeting, organized by General Authority for Investment (GAFI), last night.

He explained that the flow of investments will rely on facilities being provided by the transitional government as well as the policies to be set forth following the presidential election encouraging foreign investments.

He stated that the US delegation comprises of 24 major US companies that emphasize their commitment to the American investments in Egypt. The delegation’s member companies, such as Apache Corporation, also stressed that they will increase their investments in Egypt.

On other side, Galal El Zorba, Chairman of Federation of Egyptian Industries, rejected to associate passing the free trade agreement with cancelling the QIZ agreement. He said that both agreements are important to remove borders that hinder trade between Egypt and the US.

Website: www.alborsanews.com

Date: 9/6/2011

URL:

<http://www.alborsanews.com/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1/tabid/124/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/8903/---.aspx>

The U.S – Egyptian Business Council Forum

“Steven Farris”: the Egyptian Market is full of investment opportunities

Following meetings held between members of the US-Egypt Business Council (USEBC) and Egyptian governmental officials, including Prime Minister Dr. Essam Sharaf, Steven Farris, Chairman of USEBC and CEO of Apache Corporation, asserted that the US companies are seeking to increase their investments in Egypt.

In conclusion of the USEBC delegation visit to Egypt, Farris said that the purpose of this visit to Egypt is to communicate three messages including that the delegation’s mission is economic not political, and that the all member of the delegation, representing 24 major US companies, intend to continue and increase their investments in Egypt during the coming ten years.

Farris added that the company’s volume of investments in Egypt will go beyond \$1 billion by the end of this year. The company also adds about \$10 million day-to-day investments to the Egyptian economy. He referred that the company is operating effectively in drilling works in Egypt through 24 drillers. He would not expect that the company’s operations will continue during the revolution without any drilling platform to be lost.

Farris referred that he does not expect a crisis to happen in securing water that the company needs in drilling works during the coming period. He also pointed out that the company is working to recycle water used in horizontal drilling works in desert, which makes it in less need of more water.

On his part, Lionel Johnson, Vice Chairman of the USEBC, asserted that the Egyptian people have managed to pave its way to a future full of challenges and sacrifices. “The USEBC seeks to enhance the US investments in Egypt,” Lionel added.

Lionel said that the meetings the USEBC had with Egyptian officials reflected the government priorities in building trust with investors, creating more job opportunities for youth, achieving democracy and respecting the rule of law.

Thomas Walter, Chairman of ExxonMobil Egypt, added that the company is looking forward to increasing its investments in Egypt. He also referred that there are great challenges facing the working companies; however, the Egyptian market is still has good investment opportunities.

Alberto Verme, CEO of Europe and Middle East for Citi, asserted that the government has an opportunity to raise more funds from international banks to support the Egyptian monetary reserves. He stated that Egypt is currently passing through transition phase that should be dealt with in a good manner.

Alberto added that the banks, in collaboration with international institutions, will try to cover the budget's deficit. He added that there are international banks willing to provide the government with funds necessary for infrastructure projects such as electricity and ports.

Curt Ferguson, President of the Middle East & North Africa (MENA) Business Unit at Coca-Cola Company, considers that the Egyptian laws and legislations are able to attract investments without any amendments that need to be made. However, the US agreements with Egypt to enhance the economic relations between both countries should be amended to match Egypt's current economic importance that is similar to other countries around the world.

Website: www.mubasher.info

Date: 9/6/2011

URL:

<http://www.mubasher.info/portal/case/getDetailsStory.html?goToHomePageParam=true&siteLanguage=ar&storyId=1888719>

US-Egypt Business Council assures its commitment to support the Egyptian economy

American members of the U.S.-Egypt Business Council (USEBC) reaffirmed their commitment to Egypt during a business promotion trip this week. Recognizing that the Egyptian economy has suffered since this January, the USEBC reiterated its endorsement of Egypt as an ideal country for business, in which American investment is welcome and can be successful.

By the way of background, Dr. Samir El Sayyad, Minister of Trade and Industry, has announced the new Egypt-U.S. Business Council, the counterpart of the USEBC located in Egypt and headed by Mr. Mohamed Younes, Chairman and CEO of Concord International Investment.

USEBC is formed voluntarily by U.S. companies and housed at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC.

"The American corporations, which make up the U.S.-Egypt Business Council, remain strongly committed to Egypt and to doing their part to help the Egyptian economy grow. With more than 40 years of experience in the country and with a cumulative investment of more than \$11.5 billion, U.S. companies realize that investing in Egypt continues to make compelling business sense today. As the chairman of the U.S.-Egypt Business Council and a current representative of Egypt's most significant foreign investors, we are here to pledge the council's full support for Egypt's future governments as they develop policies to stimulate job creation and lay the foundation for greater economic opportunity," said G. Steven Farris, Chairman & CEO of The Apache Corporation, a significant long-time U.S. investor in Egypt and chairman of the U.S.-Egypt Business Council.

The council continues to see Egypt as a cornerstone for business and trade in the Middle East, and indeed globally.

Given the recent, significant changes in Egypt and recognizing that the private sector will be the most important job creating engine for Egypt going forward, the council sought to listen, engage and learn how American investment can further support economic empowerment in Egypt by building partnerships and economic opportunity, as well as developing new infrastructure necessary to jumpstart the Egyptian economy.

USEBC members, including Apache Corporation, The Coca-Cola Company, Exxon Mobil, Citi, General Electric, General Motors, AECOM, The Barnett Group, The Boeing Company, Cargill, Dow Chemical, DuPont, Hill International, IBM, Merck, MetLife, Microsoft, PepsiCo, Pfizer, Philip Morris, Raytheon and Visa International, have operated in Egypt – some for more than 100 years – and employ both local and international associates. The companies recognize the importance of developing the country’s human resources to meet the needs of the Egyptian market.

“The Coca-Cola Company has enormous confidence in the Egyptian economy’s ability to grow because we have witnessed first-hand the country’s robust economic performance. Together with our bottling partners, The Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Egypt and El Nile Bottling Company, we plan to increase our investments to create more jobs, more economic opportunities and to help communities become more sustainable,” said Curt Ferguson, President, Middle East & North Africa, The Coca-Cola Company.

The current visit reinforced the USEBC’s commitment to Egypt and its economy. The visit announced the council’s launch of two new studies to assess a potential U.S.–Egypt Free Trade Agreement and the proposal for providing Egypt with further debt relief.

“Exxon Mobil has been a partner in Egypt's growth for more than 100 years and we look forward to continuing our investments and business growth in the country,” said Thomas F. Walter, Chairman ExxonMobil Egypt.

The council acknowledges the challenges ahead in building a dynamic and comprehensive Egyptian economy and therefore met with a range of private sector participants that will provide further insight into the progress of the Egyptian economy. The delegation held bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister, senior Cabinet ministers, private sector and emerging business leaders. Additionally, the USEBC met with nongovernmental groups including the Federation Egyptian Industries, Egypt Vision 2030, Egyptian Junior Business Association, Federation of Economic Development Associations, and the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt, an independent affiliate to the U.S. Chamber.

Website: www.masrawy.com

Date: 9/6/2011

URL: <http://www.masrawy.com/news/egypt/economy/af/2011/june/9/6507104.aspx?ref=rss>

Apache to invest \$1 billion in Egypt this year

In the meeting organized by General Authority for Investment (GAFI), hosting 34 major US companies operating in the Egyptian market, Steven Farris, CEO of Apache Corporation, said that his company will inject an additional \$1 billion in investments in Egypt during the coming year.

Steven added that the company will not change its investment plans for this year and will maintain the volume of annual investments in Egypt.

“The American investors do not care about the internal political developments to decide whether they will invest in the Egyptian market or not. The American investors do not care whether there would be a religious or secular government in Egypt. They don’t fear from Brotherhood Movement in particular. What concern them are the policies of that government attracting foreign investments in general,” Farris asserted. “The religious tendency in Iran does not prevent us to invest there. We care about the partner itself, laws and the investment atmosphere in general. Therefore, our companies are determined to continue investing in Egypt,” he added.

On the potential for a free trade agreement between the Egypt and US, Farris said that there is a strong desire from the American side to reconsider the signing of the agreement.

He added that there is a strong belief that this agreement is necessary to remove trade borders between both parties. He referred that there a study is being conducted currently by the USEBC to develop a road map for investment and trade in Egypt. However, the situation in the US does not allow the signing of free trade agreements with any country at the moment.

On the potential for cancelling the QIZ Agreement following the signing of a free trade agreement between both countries, Farris described the QIZ Agreement as a great idea and has an equal importance compared to the free trade agreement and it also considered a great achievement. There is a need for free trade agreement, but it should not affect any other agreements.

In the same context, Zorba rejected to associate passing the free trade agreement with cancelling the QIZ agreement. He said that both agreements are important to remove borders that hinder trade between Egypt and the US.

During the meeting, Fayza Abu El Naga, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, stated that there are several governorates have applied for entering the Qualified Industrial Zones

(QIZ). This year may witness a significant increase in the number of those zones, which give privilege to factories operating in exportation to the US without any Custom duties to be applied.

GAFI, in cooperation with Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, will organize three trips to the US to present investment opportunities available in Egypt, according to Osama Saleh, Chairman of GAFI.

The American investments are ranked number ten for foreign investments in Egypt at a capital that amounts to \$7 billion, with 147 American companies operating in the country.

On the potential to provide new exemptions for investors during the coming period, GAFI Chairman denied that saying that the current period does not allow to provide exemptions. However, the country will work to create good atmosphere for investment.

Website: www.elbashayer.com

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URL: <http://www.elbashayer.com/news-141653.html>

US-Egypt Business Council is ready for development projects

US-Egypt Business Council (USEBC) had recently ended its visit to Egypt following a long series of meetings with several entities including Ministry of Trade and Industry, General Authority for Investments, American Chamber of Commerce, and Federation of Egyptian Industries and well as the Prime Minister.

The Council assured its commitment to partner Egypt in development and to promote the social responsibility throughout its activities in Cairo.

By the way of background, Dr. Samir El Sayyad, Minister of Trade and Industry, has announced the new Egypt-U.S. Business Council, the counterpart of the USEBC located in Egypt and headed by Mr. Mohamed Younes, Chairman and CEO of Concord International Investment. USEBC is formed voluntarily by U.S. companies and housed at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC.

"The American corporations, which make up the U.S.-Egypt Business Council, remain strongly committed to Egypt and to doing their part to help the Egyptian economy grow. With more than 40 years of experience in the country and with a cumulative investment of more than \$11.5 billion, U.S. companies realize that investing in Egypt continues to make compelling business sense today. As the chairman of the U.S.-Egypt Business Council and a current representative of Egypt's most significant foreign investors, we are here to pledge the council's full support for Egypt's future governments as they develop policies to stimulate job creation and lay the foundation for greater economic opportunity," said G. Steven Farris, Chairman & CEO of The Apache Corporation, a significant long-time U.S. investor in Egypt and chairman of the U.S.-Egypt Business Council.

The council continues to see Egypt as a cornerstone for business and trade in the Middle East, and indeed globally.

Given the recent, significant changes in Egypt and recognizing that the private sector will be the most important job creating engine for Egypt going forward, the council sought to listen, engage and learn how American investment can further support economic empowerment in Egypt by building partnerships and economic opportunity, as well as developing new infrastructure necessary to jumpstart the Egyptian economy.

USEBC members, including Apache Corporation, The Coca-Cola Company, Exxon Mobil, Citi, General Electric, General Motors, AECOM, The Barnett Group, The Boeing Company, Cargill,

Dow Chemical, DuPont, Hill International, IBM, Merck, MetLife, Microsoft, PepsiCo, Pfizer, Philip Morris, Raytheon and Visa International, have operated in Egypt – some for more than 100 years – and employ both local and international associates. The companies recognize the importance of developing the country’s human resources to meet the needs of the Egyptian market.

“The Coca-Cola Company has enormous confidence in the Egyptian economy’s ability to grow because we have witnessed first-hand the country’s robust economic performance. Together with our bottling partners, The Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Egypt and El Nile Bottling Company, we plan to increase our investments to create more jobs, more economic opportunities and to help communities become more sustainable,” said Curt Ferguson, President, Middle East & North Africa, The Coca-Cola Company.

The current visit reinforced the USEBC’s commitment to Egypt and its economy. The visit announced the council’s launch of two new studies to assess a potential U.S.–Egypt Free Trade Agreement and the proposal for providing Egypt with further debt relief.

“Exxon Mobil has been a partner in Egypt's growth for more than 100 years and we look forward to continuing our investments and business growth in the country,” said Thomas F. Walter, Chairman ExxonMobil Egypt.

The council acknowledges the challenges ahead in building a dynamic and comprehensive Egyptian economy and therefore met with a range of private sector participants that will provide further insight into the progress of the Egyptian economy. The delegation held bilateral meetings with the Prime Minister, senior Cabinet ministers, private sector and emerging business leaders. Additionally, the USEBC met with nongovernmental groups including the Federation Egyptian Industries, Egypt Vision 2030, Egyptian Junior Business Association, Federation of Economic Development Associations, and the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt, an independent affiliate to the U.S. Chamber.

Website: www.almasry-alyoum.com

Date: 10/6/2011

URL: <http://www.almasry-alyoum.com/article2.aspx?ArticleID=299794&IssueID=2162>

American investors do not fear the Brotherhood rising to power, but guarantees are required to put their money in the market

Through eight intensive meetings with government officials and business associations over the last two days, a number of US investors said they do not fear the Brotherhood rising to power, but they need to be reassured that the government will continue to adopt policies of free market economy.

The American investors said that they do not care about the internal political developments. However, they concern about the strict compliance with the legislations and procedures regulating investments and protecting investors. This compliance will guarantee their presence in Egypt and Middle East so that they can fairly face their Asian competitors.

During their meeting with the Federation of Egyptian Industries two days ago, they stressed that rising of the Muslim Brotherhood to power or forming a religious government will not affect their decision to invest and expand their operations in the Egyptian market. They also said that their decisions are based on the economic facilities and policies that the government will apply in order to encourage foreign investments.

“Irrespective of whether there would be a religious or secular government, what concerns us is the economic policy of that government guaranteeing our investments,” said Kurt Ferguson, president of an American global company.

Steve Farris, head of the American side of the US-Egypt Business Council, said American companies are committed to investment and to their expansion plans in Egypt, regardless of the political situation.

On the potential for a free trade agreement between the two countries, Farris said that the situation in the US does not allow the signing of free trade agreements with any country at the moment, but it is open for discussion. “We, as investors, have the desire to reach a joint agreement to remove the barriers between both countries,” he added.

Farris also said that annulling the contracts of state-owned land that was sold before the revolution should be justified in order to reassure foreign investors. He also asserted that annulling the contracts often damages the investment atmosphere.

Gwyneth Barnett, former official of the US Department of Trade, said the US should not allow the Egyptian revolution to fail due to economic problems. "We should talk to our administration about that," she said.

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American Companies: Brotherhood rising to power is not an obstacle to investing in Egypt

Steve Farris, Head of the US-Egypt Business Council, asserted that the American investors do not care about whether there would be a religious or secular government in Egypt, what concerns them is the economic policy of that government attracting foreign investments.

He referred that the religious tendency in Iran does not prevent investments there. The most important aspects are represented in the partner, laws and investment atmosphere.

During the press conference held by US-Egypt Business Council, Farris added that the American firms do not wait for political changes that may happen to investments in Egyptian market. The firms will continue their investments despite the uncertainty about the future political and economic aspects in Egypt.

He also said that the current foreign investment flow depends on the facilities that the transitional government will provide. The flow does not rely only on the policies that would be set forth following the election of the new president, to attract the American investments in Egypt.

Farris also said that annulling the contracts of state-owned land that was sold before the revolution should be justified in order to reassure foreign investors. He also asserted that annulling the contracts if often damage the investment atmosphere.

By the way of background, a US delegation, representing 24 major US companies, held 8 intensive meetings in Cairo with government officials and business associations over the last two days.

The American investors said that they do not care about the internal political developments. However, they concern about the strict compliance with the legislations and procedures regulating investments and protecting investors. This compliance will guarantee their presence in Egypt and Middle East so that they can fairly face their Asian competitors.

“Irrespective of whether there would be a religious or secular government, what concerns us is the economic policy of that government guaranteeing our investments,” said Kurt Ferguson, president of an American global company.