



STATE INFORMATION SERVICE

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Mohammad Saleh



Sixth National Youth Conference



President Abdel Fattah El Sisi said he felt proud and hopeful while attending the sixth national youth conference with Egyptian youths in Cairo University.

Sisi was speaking on Sunday during the concluding session of the sixth national youth conference held in Cairo University.

Egypt became more stable and secure after facing and solving various challenges, crises and problems including terrorism, the president noted.

He added that the government had taken a number of steps en route to development, economic reform, enhancing infrastructure and regaining Egypt's regional and international role.

The upcoming period requires putting the Egyptian citizen on top of the state's priorities in which the most important national project for the state will be regaining the Egyptian identity via launching an overall strategy that aims at reforming and developing the systems of education and medical insurance, Sisi added.



The President noted that he directed higher education minister to activate the cultural, artistic, sports activities in the universities as well as support innovators and talented students in all fields.

The President also revealed a number of decisions including announcing 2019 as the year of education, launching the national project for developing the Egyptian education system, 20 percent of the scholarships in Egypt and abroad will be allocated for teachers for ten years and establishing a body for approving the vocational education programs to be compatible with the international standards.

The decisions also include establishing a training center for the teachers of the vocational education programs to be compatible with the international standards, assigning the cabinet and other bodies concerned to link the researches and plans in the universities with the state's needs, and ask the universities to find solutions for the educations problems.

The President also decided to assign the cabinet and the Supreme Council of Universities to develop a comprehensive plan to restore the sports, artistic, and cultural activities to the campuses.

The President also stressed that Egypt deserves from all Egyptians more efforts and more sacrifices in order to create its present and open up new horizons in the future.

The World's Biggest Solar Farm Is Coming To A Desert In Egypt

By: MARISSA HIGGINS

The biggest solar farm in the world is set to open in the desert. The \$2.8-billion Benban complex will open 400 miles south of Cairo in Egypt's Western Desert. It's expected to open next year.



Without a doubt, this is a huge move for Egypt. The country has a complicated history with green energy. In fact, they've relied heavily on state-subsidized fossil fuels for a long time. Currently, about 90 percent of their electricity comes from oil and gas.

The new goal? That by 2025, Egypt will get 42 percent of its electricity from green sources. This would actually give them a 5-year lead on their sustainability goals with the United Nations.

Many will also recall Egypt's difficult history with power. Following the revolution in 2011, Egypt experienced nothing short of an energy crisis. Blackouts occurred regularly, which not only impacted people at home, but also led to businesses and factories closing for extended periods. At some points, parts of the country experienced six power cuts each day. Each lasted up to two hours at a time.

The country found a temporary solution by importing liquified natural gases into the country. Given that Egypt's need for power is expected to significantly increase by 2030, going green now is definitely a move in the right direction.

It's expected that the new solar farm will generate as much as 1.8 gigawatts of electricity. For perspective, this is enough to power hundreds of thousands of businesses and homes.

The Benban complex will also offer new employment opportunities. It will include 30 separate solar plants and employ 4,000 workers. The U.S. is backing a program that will help prepare technical students in solar and wind energy.

“This is a big deal,” said Benjamin Attia, a U.S.-based solar energy analyst, when discussing the new solar complex. “I can’t think of



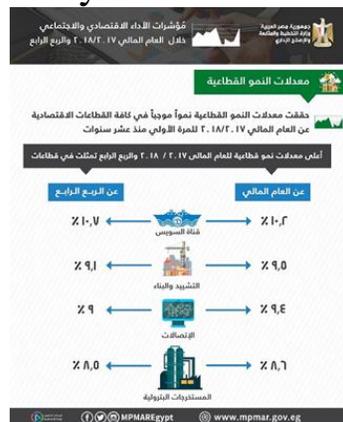
another example where so many big players have come together to fill the gap.”

This stage of Egypt's energy transformation is definitely a multi-nation effort. Energy reform has been on the horizon for Egypt for some time; The International Monetary Fund has encouraged cutting back on fossil fuel subsidies, as well as outreach to attract solar, wind, and nuclear energy companies from around the globe as a means of reducing dependency on fossil fuels.

This enormous solar farm isn't the only impressive progress Egypt is making to go green, either. For example, their new "farm city" will house 5,000 smart greenhouses. Students in Cairo also designed a solar-powered car that is intended to empower those with disabilities.

Planning Ministry publishes infographic on 2017-2018 economic growth rate

The Ministry of Planning published an infographic on its Facebook page expounding economic and social performance indicators during the 2017-2018 fiscal year.



The infographic showed that the economic growth rate of 2017-2018 FY climbed to 5.3 percent against 4.2 percent in 2016-2017



FY, thus realizing the highest annual growth rate over the past 10 years.

It also revealed that the economic growth rate in the fourth quarter of 2017-2018 FY was up 5.4 percent against 5 percent in the same period in 2016-2017 FY, recording the highest economic growth rate in the fourth quarter in eight years.

Investments and net exports represented 76 percent of the growth in 2017-2018 FY.

Egypt's trade exchange rates hit \$ 44.8bn in 6 months

Ministry of Trade and Industry said that Egypt's trade exchange rates have increased by 15.5% during the first half of the current year as compared to the same period of the previous year.

The ministry's report about indicators of non-petroleum foreign trade showed that Egypt's trade exchange rates have recorded USD 44.863 billion during the first six months of this year against USD 38.829 billion during the same period a year earlier.

The report showed that Egypt's exports have increased by 14% during the first half of the current year while exports have increased by 16% as compared to the same period of 2017.

CBE: Egypt's foreign reserve rise to USD 44.314 billion in July

Egypt's foreign currency reserves spiked by dlr 56 million to reach dlr 44.314 billion at the end of July, up from 44.258 billion in June, the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) announced.



Egypt's bourse gains 21.9 billion pounds in week; indices up

The Egyptian Exchange (EGX) gained 21.9 billion pounds this week as the market capital went up 2.6 percent to 880.3 billion pounds compared to 858.4 billion pounds in the previous week.

The EGX 30 benchmark index upped 3.99 percent, according to the weekly bourse report, a copy of which MENA obtained.

The broader EGX 70 index of the leading smaller and mid cap enterprises (SME) went up by 1.84 percent to 748 points.

The all-embracing EGX 100 index also increased 2.44 percent to close at 1,942 points.

EGPC, BP sign deal on oil exploration in Suez Gulf with USD 46 million investments

The Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) and BP-Egypt signed an agreement on oil and gas exploration in northeast Ramadan area in the Gulf of Suez, with investments amounting to 46 million dollars.

The agreement was signed by CEO of the EGPC Eng. Abed Ezzelregal and Hesham Mekawi, the regional president, North Africa for BP.

In a statement, Petroleum Minister Tareq el Molla said that his ministry is adopting an ambitious plan to beef up investments in the oil and gas exploration and develop discovered oil and gas fields.

The plan aims at increasing crude oil and natural gas production and reserves, the minister said.



Today's agreement brings to 88 the number of new oil and gas deals that have been signed since 2014, he noted.

Egypt's Zohr production capacity at 1.6 bcf/d, to reach 2 bcf/d by September

The supergiant Zohr gas field is now pumping out 1.6 bcf/d and is expected to reach 2 bcf/d by September, Eni said in a release.

The company also said it raised EUR 50 mn “as an advance on future gas supplies to Egyptian state-owned partners to finance Zohr.”

This came as the Italian oil producer reported EUR 1.25 bn in net profits for 2Q2018, up from EUR 18 mn in the same period last year, thanks mainly to higher global crude prices.

Here's How Egypt Could Become a Major Gas Exporter

By: Scott B. MacDonald - The National Interest Magazine

Geography remains a significant factor in global energy politics. Nowhere is this more evident than in the case of energy-hungry Europe and gas-rich Russia. U.S. President Donald Trump made this point during his July 2018 European trip.

The U.S. leader criticized Germany over its Baltic Sea gas pipeline deal with Russia, calling the leading European power "a captive to Russia."

The observation did little to warm trans-Atlantic relations. However, a development in the waters off Egypt's northern coast could offer a new option for energy-hungry Europe and in doing so change the dynamic of Eurasian energy politics.