



3RD AFRICAN SEMINAR FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AFRICAN ENERGY INFORMATION SYSTEM AND DATABASE (AEIS)

“Developing the African Energy Sector through Proper Information and Reliable Energy Data”

14-16 November 2011 Sonesta Hotel, Cairo, Egypt

INFORMATION RESOURCE

Dear Participant,

We are delighted to invite your country to participate in the upcoming International Seminar for the Creation of the African Energy Information System and Database (AEIS). Please review the following Information Resource about the seminar and kindly fill the attached registration form.

Registration

Please note: this will be a secured event. Registration has to be made before accessing the Seminar Hall. It is recommended, if possible, that you arrive on the day prior to the event. Registration will take place on 15th November and 16th November (8:00 am). Further information will be provided ahead of the event.

Event Schedule

- 13th November:** Meeting of the Managing Committee of the Seminar and orientation meeting for the moderators, speakers and training staff. These groups will have to arrive in Cairo on 12 November 2011. Confirmation will be appreciated by 9th November 2011
- 14th-15th November:** The Seminar
- 16th November:** Training and Capacity Building Course

Visa

It is crucial to obtain the visa prior to travel. Official passport holders will not need to pay for visas. Please use the government invitation as supporting documentation.

Conference Venue

Sonesta Hotel, Tower & Casino Cairo
3 El-Tayaran Street
Nasr City, Egypt
Tel. +20.2.22641111 - +20.2.22641100
Fax +202.2403.9980
Email: reservations@sonestacairo.com
www.Sonesta.com/Cairo

Accommodation

All participants will stay at the Sonesta Hotel in Cairo. Funded participants will get free rooms and will be paid daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the event within the established African Union's rules. Seminar lunches are also covered. However,

participants are responsible for all other costs and incidentals (Other dinners, mini bar, laundry, telephone, etc.)

Airport Services Protocol services for arrival and departure will be being arranged for all participants at the Cairo International Airport based on the travel itinerary. Participants are requested to check the “AEIS Seminar” desk at the Sonesta Hotel for assistance.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Visa All participants coming from countries where there are Egyptian Embassies or consulates will be expected to obtain their visas there. In case of any difficulty, participants should immediately get in touch with the Seminar organizers who will facilitate the issuance of visas on arrival at Cairo airport. Participants coming from countries where there are no Egyptian Embassies or Consulates are requested to send, as soon as possible, the following passport details along with photocopies of the first three pages of their passports to the event organizers. Please send this to: Mrs. Baya SOUKI at: bsouki@hotmail.com

Full name
Nationality
Passport Number
Date of Birth
Date of Issue
Date of Expiry

Credit Cards/ATMS The hotel and many shops accept MASTERCARD and VISA There are also many money exchange bureaus and ATMS available in the hotel, all malls and shopping areas.

Internet Facilities High speed wireless internet access is available in the hotel rooms and is free in the hotel lobby.

Hotel Facilities The hotel offers a range of facilities such as a gym, pool, shopping, restaurants, etc.

Telephone Costs These are usually expensive at hotels, so please check your bills carefully.

Contact Sheet: A full contact sheet will be made available at the end of the event.

Medical Issues Hotel reception will assist for any queries.

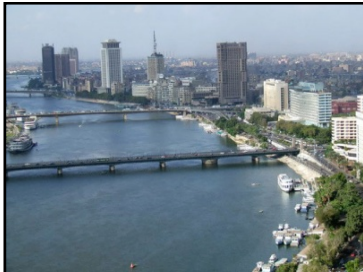
Hotel Bills Please check your bill the night before departure to avoid any inconveniences.

Health Issues According to the advices of the World Health Organization (WHO) all visitors should be in possession of a valid yellow fever vaccination.

Currency The “Pound” (£E) is the Egyptian currency. U.S. \$ 1.00 is equal to about Pound 5.96 while Euro 1.0 equals to about Pound 8.62.

THE CITY

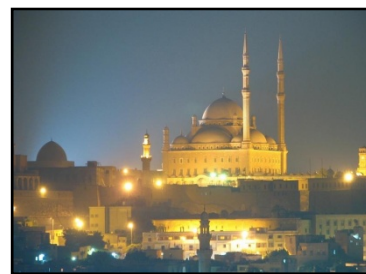
Cairo is located in northern Egypt and lies along the Nile River immediately south of the point where the river leaves its desert-bound valley and branches into the low-lying Nile Delta region. Although the Cairo metropolis extends away from the Nile in all directions, the city of Cairo resides only on the east bank of the river and two islands within it on a total area of 453 square kilometers (175 sq mi)



Cairo, which pronounced in Arabic as *al-Qāhira*, literally means "The Vanquisher" or "The Conqueror", is the capital of Egypt and the second largest city in Africa and the 16th metropolitan area in the world. Nicknamed "The City of a Thousand Minarets" for its preponderance of Islamic architecture, Cairo has long been a centre of the region's political and cultural life. It was founded by the Fatimid Dynasty in the 10th century AD; but the land composing the present-day city was the site of national capitals whose remnants remain visible in parts of Old Cairo. Cairo is also associated with Ancient Egypt due to its proximity to the ancient cities of Memphis, Giza and Fustat which are nearby to the Great Sphinx and the pyramids of Giza.



Cairo has the oldest and largest film and music industries in the Arab World, as well as the world's second-oldest institution of higher learning, al-Azhar University. Many international media, businesses, and organizations have regional headquarters in the city, and the Arab League has had its headquarters in Cairo for most of its existence.



With a population of 17 million with an additional ten million inhabitants just outside the city, Cairo resides at the centre of the largest metropolitan area in Africa and the eleventh-largest urban area in the world. Cairo, like many other mega-cities enjoys a metro which is currently the only one on the African continent – also ranks among the fifteen busiest in the world, with over 700 million passenger rides annually. The economy of Cairo was ranked first in the Middle East and 43rd globally by Foreign Policy's 2010 Global Cities Index.



The city also famous of its extraordinary and historic sites such as the Tahrir Square, the Egyptian Museum which was established in 1835, Cairo Opera House, Khedivial Opera House, Khan El-Khalili which is an ancient bazaar, or marketplace and dates back to 1382, Cairo Tower which rises in the Zamalek district on Gezira Island in the Nile River at 187 meters, 43 metres higher than the Great Pyramid of Giza in addition to many mosques including the Fatimia Mosques.

Language The official language in Egypt is Arabic but English is widely spoken by many people.

Weather It is moderate temperatures in Cairo in November with daily mean of 19.5 °C (67.1 °F). Rainfall is sparse in this month with annual average precipitation of 3.8 mm (0.15 inches).

Shopping Shopping in Cairo is rather like shopping in one enormous, sprawling marketplace - there are shops everywhere! Virtually any item from any part of Egypt can be found for sale somewhere in Cairo and you often don't have far to search to find some great souvenirs of your holiday. A large number of modern shopping malls have recently become an integral part of the city and are especially popular with visiting tourists. Many shopping malls have started appearing all around the suburbs of Cairo in recent years and have become particularly social places, when many young Egyptians meet up and hang out, particularly in the large food courts and around the atriums. The main shopping malls in Cairo are as follows:

- **Arkadia Mall** (Corniche el-Nil, Bulaq, Cairo): The largest shopping mall in the whole of Cairo, with more than 500 different stores in total. Other highlights here include restaurants, bars and a huge amusement arcade with the latest video games.
- **First Residence Mall** (35 Sharia al-Giza, Giza, Cairo): A particularly exclusive place to shop, with many designer stores and boutiques, together with a number of local retailers.
- **Ramses Hilton Mall** (Midan Abdel Moniem Riad, Cairo): A fairly family orientated space with plenty of clothing stores, homewares, jewellers, a cinema and even an outlet of McDonalds, where the burgers, fries and cola are often popular with western tourists.

- **Talaat Harb Shopping Complex** (Sharia Talaat Harb, Cairo): Located in the heart of the downtown district and especially popular with young 'Cairenes', the Talaat Harb Shopping Complex offers a range of fashion boutiques and a good food court with plenty of inexpensive eateries.
- Other popular shopping malls located both in and around the city of Cairo include: Dandy Mall , Genena Mall, Horeya Mall, Maadi Grand Mall, Nile City Towers Mall, Serag Mall, Stars Shopping Center, Tiba Mall, Wonderland Shopping Center

We hope this helps you prepare optimally for your stay in Cairo and we look forward to welcoming you soon!

Sincerely,

Event Organising Committee

Contacts: afrienergy@yahoo.com , afrec3seminar@moe.gov.eg