

Speech Müller-Römer, March, 04.2016, Districtconference 245,1 Assuan



Dear Governor Hafez, dear Rotarian friends, dear guests,

As Chairman of the Intercountry Committee Egypt – Germany I am pleased to be here in Assuan and to attend your District Conference. Thank you for the invitation. The first one I attended had convened in Cairo in 2009.



Let me start with a personal remark: How did I manage to develop my good contacts to so many Egyptian friends and to several Rotary Clubs in Cairo? I went like this: In 1997 my wife and I visited Egypt for the first time. The size and the gigantic measurements of the pyramids in Gizeh impressed both of us. Being an engineer by profession, a number of questions popped up in my mind immediately: How were these buildings set up? By what means, and how much time did it take to complete them?



This experience was a challenge; it caused me to go after the answers. I enrolled at the University of Munich, like any ordinary student, and studied Egyptology. During my semesters I visited Egypt again several times.



My first friendly contact in Egypt was with Salem Mashhur, Member of Rotary Club Cairo Zamalek. I had arranged a journey to Egypt with friends of some Rotary clubs from Munich in November 2007. On this occasion we visited a meeting of the Rotary Club Rhine - Nile in Cairo.



Based on earlier contacts to our Rotarian friend Amir Saba from RC Heliopolis, my club München-Land initiated a project together with the members of Rotary Club Giza North in 2009. Center of gravity of that project was job training with sewing machines for 60 girls and young women in Cairo- Embaba besides information about personal care and health. We were following lines of an earlier project carry out by the German Rotary Club Oldenburg which had been initiated by my good friend Gutsche with the assistance of Amir Saba.



In the last years several German Rotary Clubs started a number of Matching Grant Projects in Alexandria and Cairo. Here again the Club in Oldenburg and the RC München Englischer Garten must again be mentioned. They handled a series of Literacy projects, Drinking Water projects and Sewage projects with the help of our Egyptian friend Amir Saba in Qalioubia.



Presently, the RC Heliopolis and the RC Oldenburg are jointly launching a new Global Grant Project which aims to procure incubators for early born children in a hospital south of Cairo. A number of other clubs in Europe and the United States of America are participating.



Since 2006 I was member of the German Section of the Intercountry Committee Egypt. 2011 District 1842 elected me as chairman of that Section. District 1842 has the leadership in Germany for the ICC Egypt – Germany. I am pleased to say that the Past Governor of the District 1842, Gerhard Zierl, is also present here today.

I must not forget to mention that during all these years there has been a wonderful and perfect cooperation between Soheir Wahib, ICC Chair Egyptian section. We all profited from a number of joint sessions with the ICC Egypt that she had arranged.



In May 2014 a detailed schedule for future cooperation between Districts 2451 and 1842 was reduced to writing, agreed upon and signed by the parties.

Since then the contacts between the German section and quite a number of Rotary Clubs in Cairo have deepened. A number of joint projects has either been completed during that time, or are underway toward completion.



During 2013 and 2015, points of gravity in Egyptian projects handled were the connection of houses of poor peoples to the Public Drinking Water Supply and to the Sewage System. The basis for these activities is outlined in the Project Description “Water for Life” agreed upon between District 2450 and UNICEF in 2013.

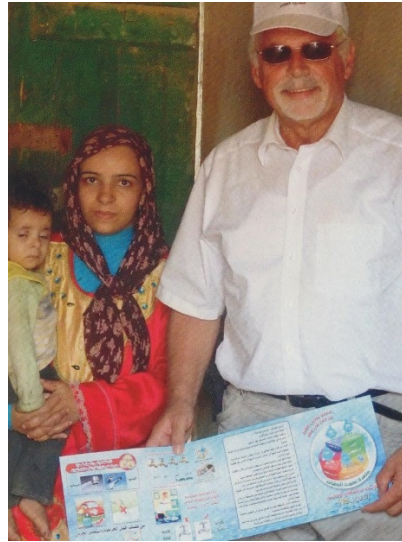
Some photos will give you an impression of what goes on in that course of action:



In 2013 an MG Project launched by the RC Horus Heliopolis under the presidency of Magda Girgis and the RC München Englischer Garten led to a connection of a settlement near Qalioubia to the Public Drinking Water Supply.



In 2014/2015 a GG Project handled by the RC Al Shorouk and the RC München Englischer Garten made it possible to connect 452 houses in three settlements near Beni Suef to the Drinking Water Supply. The activities were coordinated by my friend Amin Sabri from RC Al Shorouk. One club each in Hungary and Austria and two clubs in Munich participated. The project was a big and lasting success in the area and has been successfully completed in 2015.



Because things had gone so well, another drinking water project was launched in the Beni Suef district last year. The RC El Maadi and the RC München-Land - my own club - filed an application with the Rotary Foundation (TRF) with a project sum of 90.000 US \$ to realize a project “Water for Life Beni Suef”.



In June last year, Past District Governor Gerhard Zierl of District 1842 and I visited Cairo. During our visit, the project agreement with Afaf Estmat, project manager of RC El Maadi, was signed.

Eight clubs from Egypt and seven clubs from Munich participated in the Project. Both districts gave subsidies. According to the approval by the Rotary Foundation the Federal Republic of Germany granted a subsidy in the amount of 270.000 US \$. This amount corresponds 75% of the totally project sum of 360.000 US \$



Negotiations with the Water Authority in Beni Suef ran in an excellent atmosphere and in good spirit. The project when completed will have led to the connection of approximately 1.500 houses to the Drinking Water Supply. The talks with the authority were conducted effectively and professionally by Afaf Estmat and Amin Sabri. I am very grateful for their engagement in the matter, and wish to thank them very much.



In late 2015, the RC Al Shorouk and the RC München Land resolved to start another Global Grant Project “Water for Life 2 Sohag” with a volume in the amount of 56.500 US \$. The application at the Rotary Foundation was made. Project Manager is our friend Amir Sabri. I am most grateful for his energy and for his intention to handle the immense workload. A total of

twenty-two Egyptian clubs and fourteen clubs in District 1842 will participate. The Federal Republic of Germany will also sponsor that project, this time they will contribute 508.000 US \$ which is 90% of the total project sum of 565.000 US \$. The money will suffice to finance the connection of 1.500 houses in the Sohag district to **both** the Public Drinking Water Supply **and** the Sewage System. This will be a great help for the poor and needy. The project will have a beneficial effect upon the preventive health care of the residents and will reduce the mortality rate of children in particular.

Coming to the end of my address, I would like to mention two additional Drinking Water Projects. Presently, the RC Cairo Cosmopolitan and the German Club Worms Nibelungen are conducting a project for the connection of 60 houses in the Beni Suef district.

The second one is: The District 2000 in Switzerland and the RC Rhine-Nile are in the planning stage of a GG project also in Sohag for the connection of houses to the Drinking Water Supply and the Sewage System. The details follow the pattern set up in the Al Shorouk – München Englischer Garten project.



Last but not least I would like to draw your attention to the Internet Pages of the Intercountry Committee Egypt – German Section. The text on all pages is in both – German and English.

There you will find more detailed information of projects under way, of the activities of the German Section of the Committee as well as relevant publications and documentations.

That was it, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for your interest and your patience.