

## Rotarians visit Egypt

### Seven humanitarian projects



At the end of January, 2008, 10 representatives of 6 Rotary Clubs from the District 1850 visited Cairo and Alexandria for 4 days and met Rotarians of 5 Egyptian Rotary Clubs. They were impressed when they learned the details of 7 social world projects that the said clubs completed with the support from Districts 1850 and 2450 and from Rotary Foundation (Matching Grants).

The following projects are concerned:

- RC Alexandria El-Nozha and RC Oldenburg-Ammerland: Reading and Writing (CLE-method), child spacing, health care, professional training (computer and sewing) for 100 young women.
- RC Heliopolis and RC Oldenburg: Professional training (computer, sewing, hairdressing or working with leather), child spacing, health training, job finding for 150 young women.



- RC New Cairo and RC Nordenham: Technical training and installation and maintenance of a greenhouse in a state-run orphanage for about 40 handicapped young people.

- RC Heliopolis East and RC Friesoythe-Artland-Cloppenburg: Development of an education center for the dual education, i.e. studies and professional training, of young people.



- RC Heliopolis and RC Oldenburg: Follow-on project: Professional training (computer, sewing, hairdressing or working with leather), child spacing, health training, and job finding for 150 young women.

- RC Heliopolis El Golf and RC Syke: professional training (computer or sewing), child spacing, health care, job finding for 100 young

women.

- RC Alexandria El-Nozha and RC Oldenburg – Graf Anton Günther: Reading and writing (CLE-method), child spacing, health care, professional education (computer or sewing) for 100 young women.

Every year 1,5 million children are born in Egypt which stands for 2,1 % of the world population. In 2020 the population of Egypt will have reached more than 100 million people. Today 74 million people live in Egypt. The unwanted and uncontrolled growth of population implicates illiteracy, unemployment, poverty, disease, a growing crime rate and social unrest. The economy of Egypt might be destroyed which would have further negative consequences.



Egyptian women get married when they are quite young in order to establish a livelihood. They give birth to many children to prevent their husbands from deserting the families. The mortality rate of mothers and children is comparably high due to insufficient medical care and scant knowledge of general health matters which implicates serious disease.

The projects are complex and follow the substantial aims of Rotary worldwide: fight against illiteracy, discrimination of women and unemployment.

In all projects Rotary cooperates very closely with state-run and quasi legal authorities. Rotary helps to initiate projects and to try out solutions that can later be continued by other institutions. All projects are completed in cooperation with Rotaract and some of the projects with a Rotary Community Corps.



All projects have been developed locally; they were planned, supervised and completed by Rotarians from Egypt. The German clubs participate in planning the projects and are in steady e-mail contact with their Egyptian partner clubs. Moreover they regularly visit the site. This contributes to a mutual understanding, helps to develop the Rotarian network with the consequence that the projects are getting more

and more effective. By the visits the beneficiaries of the project receive a great deal of attention and the local Rotarians gain a lot of appreciation and also attention (two Egyptian Government ministers joined us on the occasion of our visit which helped to give the project a lot of publicity), also a contribution to make the measures sustainable.



The six German clubs have raised 35.000 US \$. Together with the contribution from the Egyptian clubs, from the two Districts, from RFPD and the Rotary Foundation the total amount raised came up to 125.000 US\$, which means a factor of 3,4. The projects have substantially improved the living conditions of about 750 young people. They set up – in the Rotarian sense and in unison with the

Egyptian friends – another bulwark against poverty, disease, starvation and ignorance which is a significant contribution to a more peaceful world and to a mutual understanding.

Those four days in Egypt with a very full program to visit all the projects also made us happy. We saw a lot misery, but were pleased to see that the projects brought people closer to one another.



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