MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY
OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY,
OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

AND

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Building on the continuous cooperation and historical relations between Egypt and the United States in all fields,

Noting the importance of President Obama's announcement in Cairo, on June 4th, 2009, to deepen ties between business leaders, foundations and business as well as social entrepreneurs in the Muslim Majority Countries (MMCs),

Recognizing that a successful Global Entrepreneurship Program (GEP) model in Egypt may be replicated in other MMCs and that Egypt could play a pivotal role in coaching and helping many countries after developing its own skills,

Recognizing that fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic growth in Egypt will further boost and advance the close partnership and cooperation on science & technology innovation and entrepreneurship between the United States and Egypt,

Mindful of the need to maximize trade potential between the two countries with a vision of upgrading cooperation in the Information Technology sector,

[In furtherance of/Consistent with] the 2011-2014 new Egyptian ICT strategy, primarily focused on "Supporting Entrepreneurship & Innovation in Egypt", and the U. S. Department of State's "Global Entrepreneurship Program" (GEP),

Laying the foundation through this Memorandum, The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the U. S. Department of State (DOS) aim at promoting cooperation in the information and communication technologies (ICT) sector in the following areas:

I.   Implementation of the Global Entrepreneurship Program in Egypt

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) plans to be a full partner in the Global Entrepreneurship Program (GEP) in Egypt with

particular responsibility for participation in the ICT component of the GEP, alongside the U.S. and Egyptian non-government entities that comprise the majority of the GEP partners. The specific ways in which the MCIT plans to participate in the GEP is to be defined over the coming weeks and months.

II.   Sharing Best Practices
Encourage exchange of expertise between the United States and Egypt in the field of innovation in the ICT for SMEs.

III.   Training & Capacity Building

Cooperate in ICT-related training and capacity building for Egyptian entrepreneurs.

IV.   Coordinating Efforts at the International level

The participants intend to coordinate their efforts in order to encourage entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic growth for all.

V.   Basic Principles

The participants hereby confirm their intention to promote closer cooperation and the exchange of information pertaining to enhancing entrepreneurship in the ICT.

General Matters

Any disputes between the Participants concerning the interpretation and/or implementation of the present Memorandum of Understanding may be resolved through mutual consultations between the Participants.

The present Memorandum of Understanding may be revised or modified by the Participants.

Cooperation under this Memorandum of Understanding is intended to commence at the date of its signature and is intended to cease two (2) years thereafter.
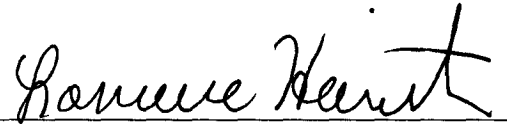
This Memorandum of Understanding does not impose, nor is it intended to impose, any legal commitments on the Participants.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT	FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(signature)   _(signature)_

Dr. Hoda Baraka
First Deputy to the Minister for
Communications & Information
Technology

Lorraine Hariton
Special Representative for
Commercial and Business Affairs

Signed: June ____, 2010 in Washington, D.C.

Annex 1

The Information Technology Innovation Initiative for SMEs

MCIT is committed to the new Information Technology Innovation Initiative for SMEs, which is a special program that supports collaborative projects involving US and Egyptian professionals in selected technology areas that may include:

1. Cloud computing

2. Data mining,

3. Cyber security

4. Green-ICT

5. Mobile applications.

The program also supports short-term internships in leading industrial and research institutions.

In that sense, support through other US programs can be harnessed to support the US counterparts to participate in this program and entice them to collaborate with their Egyptian counterparts. The US participants could be coming from academia or the private sector.