

2017 Gabr Fellows Complete their Egypt trip



2017 Gabr Fellows with Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Minister Sameh Shoukry (left), and with AUC President, Ambassador Francis Ricciardone (right).



The 2017 Gabr Fellows have finished the Egypt part of the Fellowship program, after nine days of intense meetings, roundtables, and discussions with an array of distinguished guests and speakers.

The very first day the Fellows arrived to Cairo, they were treated to a panel discussion entitled *Overview of the Middle East* which featured as its distinguished guest speakers **Dr. Mohamed Kamal**, Professor of Political Science at the American University in Cairo; **Dr. May El Batran**, Member of Parliament and CEO at TMA Education; and **Mr. Karim Darwish**, Member of Parliament and Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

During the Fellows' stay in Egypt, sessions were held for them on various aspects of politics, security, history, religion and diplomacy, including visiting the Egyptian Ministry of Defense with **Major General Mohamed El Kishky**, Deputy Minister of Defense for Foreign Affairs; a discussion with **Ambassador Karim Haggag**, Former Deputy Director of the Egyptian Institute of Diplomatic Studies; discussion with **Dr. Mona Makram Ebeid**, 2013 Senator and Distinguished Lecturer of Political Science at the AUC; a discussion with **H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Anis Salem**, the Head of Development Works; and a session with **Dr. Dalia Youssef**, Member of Parliament and Foreign Relations Committee. They also had a visit and tour of the Arab League and a discussion with **Ambassador Hussam Zaki**, Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab League; they met with **Ambassador Mohamed El Orabi**, Member of Parliament and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Ambassador Thomas H. Goldberger**, Chargé d' Affaires at the US Embassy in Cairo; and **Dr. Hossam Badrawi**, Politician and former Secretary General of NDP and activist. The Fellows had a special meeting at the General Intelligence Services, where they had a session on Egypt-US Bilateral Relations. They finished the Egypt trip in an impressive way – meeting with Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs, **H.E. Minister Sameh Shoukry**, who held a session entitled *Status Quo of the Middle East*.

There was also room for talks about business and economics, with **Dr. Noha Bakr**, Political Science Professor at the American University in Cairo (AUC) and former Deputy Minister of International Cooperation; **Mr. Hisham El Khazindar**, the Co-Founder and Managing Director of Qalaa Holdings; **Mr. Hisham Ezz El Arab**, the Chairman and Managing Director of CIB Bank and the Chairman of the Banking Federation; **Mr. Ahmed El Alfi**, Founder and Chairman of Flat6Labs; and **Mr. Youssef AL Shorafy**, CEO of Omega Capital.



2017 Fellows with Mr. Hussein Fahmy (left) and at the Roman Theatre in Alexandria (right).

Since education and culture are foundations of our society, we have not forgotten their role and importance, so the team visited The American University in Cairo (AUC), where they met **Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone**, President of the University, and **Dr. Hafez El Mirazi**, Professor of Practice at the Department of Journalism & Mass Communications. The Fellows went to the Library of Alexandria, where they met **Dr. Moustafa El Feki**, Bibliotheca Alexandrina Executive Director. Their sessions with **Dr. Ismail Serageldin**, former Bibliotheca Alexandrina Executive Director, and **Mr. Hussein Fahmy**, famous actor and Global Ambassador to the Special Olympics, were very interactive. The 2017 Gabr Fellows have visited Al Azhar, where they met with **Ambassador Abderahman Mousa**, the Advisor of the Grand Imam, and **His Grace Anba Youannes**, Bishop of Assiut, Selim Coast, Elbadary and all its belongings at the Saint Mark Cathedral premises.

In addition to these intense meetings, the 2017 Gabr Fellows had the opportunity to visit the Giza Pyramids, the Religious Complex of Old Cairo, and they also enjoyed a tour of Alexandria. The Fellows had a Felucca dinner on the river Nile, and they visited the Suez Canal Authority, where they were treated to an afternoon of guided tours and lectures on the various aspects of the Suez Canal and its importance.

The Fellows were specially honoured at the Fifth Annual *East-West: the Art of Dialogue* Dinner Reception hosted by **Mr. M. Shafik Gabr**. Mr Gabr introduced the Fellows to a number of distinguished guests, ranging from politicians and Members of Parliament, to businesspeople, economists, and leading figures in culture, media and technology.

After the intense but rewarding Egypt program, the 2017 Gabr Fellows are actively preparing for the US portion of the Fellowship, which shall take place 21st – 28th October in New York, New Jersey and Washington, DC.



2017 Gabr Fellows at the Giza Pyramids



Gabr Fellows with Mr M. Shafik Gabr at the Fifth Annual East-West: the Art of Dialogue Dinner Reception



Gabr Fellows with Mr Ahmed El Alfi