Last month, world leaders met at the G7 summit in France to discuss challenges that are facing our world. Similarly, next January, world leaders in business and politics will meet at the World Economic Forum in Davos. These global events should be more youth inclusive, for the simple reason that because young people are tomorrow’s leaders, and they should be involved in shaping their own future.

As actions speak louder than words, I have translated my deep belief in the power of youth into initiatives. The East-West: the Art of Dialogue initiative is a proof that young people can succeed in what older generations have failed in.

The 120 Gabr Fellows from Egypt and the US demonstrate that our similarities mean much more than our differences. I believe one day, very soon, many of the Gabr Fellows will be in leadership positions and maybe even become key speakers at global summits like the G7 Summit and the World Economic Forum, thus inspiring other young people to build bridges of understanding between East and West.

Last year in Davos, I happily accepted the request of young leaders from Egypt and US for a meeting on the sidelines of a World Economic Forum event. Investing time, effort and money in youth is something that I have never regretted. Throughout my life I have travelled the world and met many leaders who shaped it, and yet I continue to learn new things from the young and, of course, from the Gabr Fellows.

M. Shafik Gabr
**News and Updates...**

2016 Gabr Fellow Anis Issa has been accepted to College of Europe (Natolin site) in the academic year 2020, where he will specialize in European Neighborhood Policies. The College of Europe is a well-known postgraduate school in the field of European Interdisciplinary Studies, and it attracts students from all over Europe and beyond who are seeking a multicultural experience and an international career.

2017 Gabr Fellow Abdel Rahman Amr recently defended his thesis at Simon Fraser University, Faculty of Communication Art and Technology. His thesis title was "Understanding Anti-Religious Discourse Online in Post-Revolutionary Egypt". This is another step to concluding his academic journey, as he is currently finishing writing the thesis in order to receive a Master of Arts degree. Abdel Rahman received his Bachelor’s degree in Mass Communication from the Canadian International College in Egypt.

2018 Gabr Fellow Maram Osama will be starting her Master's degree in Public Health at Imperial College London this fall. She has received the School of Public Health scholarship for the online Master's program so she will be able to simultaneously work on the social and behavioral change communication portfolio as a Communication for Development Consultant at UNICEF Egypt country office. Maram graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University and she uses her creative abilities for the advancement of healthier communities.

2018 Gabr Fellow Fabrice Guerrier gave an interview at Full Service Radio Podcast show ‘Window Seat.’ The show gives a ‘behind the scenes’ look into the Syllble community, Fabrice’s personal journey and explores his business and leadership philosophies. Fabrice is the Co-founder & CEO of Syllble Studios, a collaborative storytelling studio startup that publishes original serialized fiction stories and books through collaborative writing. To listen to Fabrice full interview, Click here or go to https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/building-community-writers-syllble-fabrice-guerrier/id1334427747?i=1000444244394
2017 Gabr Fellow Amr Seda was part of the organizing committee of the 7th National Youth Forum hosted in the New Administrative Capital where he had the chance to directly engage with the government, MPs, and President El Sisi. Amr believes that one of the most interesting sessions in the Forum was a simulation of the Egyptian government where young people directly debated with ministers and the President. During the Youth Forum, Amr met with Prof. Karim Darwish and they discussed the crucial role of the Shafik Gabr Foundation in enhancing Egypt-US relationships.

2017 Gabr Fellow Aly Salem recently advised the Egyptian Ministry of Transport and the National Authority for Tunnels on the engineering, procurement, construction, operation and maintenance of the USD4.5 billion New Administrative Capital and 6th of October Monorail project. Aly completed his secondment with Latham & Watkins law firm in London and he was the first Egyptian lawyer to be accepted to participate at the International Lawyers for Africa, a London-based foundation.

In his latest meeting with the Gabr Fellows on August 31st, Mr. Shafik Gabr, Chairman of the Shafik Gabr Foundation, discussed several topics with the Gabr Fellows.

In this meeting, the Gabr Fellows shared their latest updates and asked Mr Gabr’s opinion about various local and international issues. During the meeting, the Chairman spoke about the importance of new ideas in creating our future and how technology will create new worlds where new jobs appear and other traditional jobs vanish. Chairman Gabr advised the Gabr Fellows to be armed with creative thinking, technology skills and knowledge in order to cope with the new world.

Towards the end of the meeting, the Chairman praised serious steps taken by the Egyptian Government to include Egypt’s youth in political life and preparing them for leadership positions.
The Foundation Reading Corner is encouraging Fellows to critique the books that have been recommended over the past many issues.

For this issue, Mr. Gabr recommends "The Hell of Good Intentions: America's Foreign Policy Elite and The Decline of U.S. Primacy" by Stephen M. Walt, which focuses on the foreign policy of the U.S. Government and argues that past U.S. presidents avoided accountability for repeated failures of their foreign policies. The Hell of Good Intentions dissects the faults and foibles of recent American foreign policy — explaining why it has been plagued by disasters like the “forever wars” in Iraq and Afghanistan and outlining what can be done to fix it.
As the Gabr Fellows enter into leadership roles — in business, diplomacy, government, finance, and more—they will continue to grapple with significant challenges, magnified by an increased pace in technological advancement, the potential for ramped up global inequalities, and changes in governance and economic structures.

To better understand the pulse of the Gabr Fellowship community and to begin to articulate substantive dialogue, the Foundation polls the Fellows each month on the key issues facing their respective countries and the global community at large.

During his meeting with President Sisi on the sidelines of the G7 Summit, President Trump praised the strategic cooperation between Egypt and the US. Do you think the economic cooperation between the two countries is on the same level as their strategic cooperation?

Yes 12.9 %
No 67.74 %
I don’t know 19.35 %

In the light of China imposing tariffs on some American products, do you think there is a possibility for the US and China to reach a trade deal before the end of the year?

Yes 38.71 %
No 51.61 %
I don’t know 9.68 %

During the G7 Summit, US President Donald Trump said he was open to meeting Iran's President under the right circumstances. Do you expect this to happen in the near future?

Yes 35.48%
No 58.06%
I don’t know 6.45 %

Stay tuned for next month’s question of the month and the Gabr Fellows’ takes on current events, as our community of future leaders grapple with the most pressing challenges of today and tomorrow.
The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

For more information on the Shafik Gabr Foundation and its *East-West: The Art of Dialogue* Initiative, please visit the website [https://eastwestdialogue.org/](https://eastwestdialogue.org/).

For earlier itineraries of the US program, please see the previous years’ reports at [https://eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/brochures/](https://eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/brochures/).

Eugène Fromentin, *Le Simoun*, The Shafik Gabr Collection

Connect with us

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