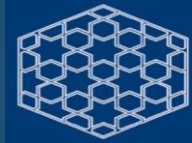




CHAIRMAN SHAFIK GABR MEETS WITH GABR FELLOWS AT ARTOC HEADQUARTERS IN CAIRO IN 2019



The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation

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IN THIS ISSUE

A New Decade

2020 is the start of a new decade. A new year with fresh beginnings and a time for new opportunities.

The last decade of the 20th century and the two new decades of the 21st century can be labelled as decades of misguided vision, lost opportunities and difficulties on many fronts covering a wide spectrum of aspects, including but not limited to war, conflict, revolutions, terrorism, protests, financial crises, technology cold war and much more.

The US, after the failure of communism, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the disintegration of the Soviet Union, was the world's unipolar superpower. Reading Stephen Walt's *Hell of Good Intentions* (recommended reading in the September 2019 Newsletter) and Bill Burns' *The Back Channel* (recommended in this month's Newsletter) shows the number of lost opportunities and mistakes causing numerous catastrophes which could have been avoided by simple 'win-win' dialogue rather than 'zero-sum' vision.

Challenges shall continue to multiply and this new decade shall see, in addition to the aftermaths of what we witnessed in 2019 (conflict in Kashmir, continued occupation of Palestinian lands, protests across the world from Hong Kong to Chile, war in Yemen, instability in Iraq and Libya, Brexit, Muslims under fire in India, China and Myanmar, and much more), the rise of intelligent automation and robots, the complexity of differentiating fact from fiction, the widening gap of the rich and technologically enhanced versus the poor and technologically incapable, enhanced data mining, the disappearance of privacy and the continued US-China cold war for technological supremacy.

Since the fall of the world order that rose after the end of World War II, nothing has replaced it and the reason is both complex and simple. The US first attempted to impose its vision of a liberal, democratic free market world dominated by American influence and allies. That stumbled under Bush and Obama, witnessing more tensions and stress points between the White House and different leaders across the world, opening the door for pushbacks, failure of summits and lack of progress.

Although the end results are due to a multitude of reasons, the key in my humble opinion is the lack of serious win-win dialogue. Summits and leadership meetings are mostly choreographed by bureaucrats that don't know each other and believe they serve their bosses' agenda by inserting more conditions and red lines than finding common ground.

The more there is dialogue in a win-win framework, the more the protagonists get to know each other and engage, the better the chances the next generation shall chart the course to a better world.

It is for this reason that I designed and launched in 2012 the *East-West: the Art of Dialogue* initiative, to invest in, inspire and empower the next generation of leaders to get to know each other, engage in constructive dialogue and develop long-lasting friendships away from virtual instruments and social media, so that the world may be a better place.

M. Shafik Gabr

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Applications for 2020 Gabr Fellowship Open in January



Gabr Fellows in Giza, Egypt and Washington, D.C.

The East-West: The Art of Dialogue will begin accepting applications for its 2020 Gabr Fellowship program in January.

- We accept applications from the United States, Egypt, the UK, Jordan, Lebanon, and France.
- All applicants need to be between 24 and 35 years of age.
- All applicants must have English language proficiency.
- Egyptian applicants cannot have visited the United States previously, and United States applicants cannot have traveled to Egypt. If you are an applicant from France, Great Britain, Jordan, or Lebanon you should not have visited the US or Egypt.
- Those selected are known as Gabr Fellows and are selected by an expert panel throughout a rigorous application process.
- All applicants should present an Action Project during the application process. This Action Project may be adjusted during the course of the program and the creation of the action project teams.
- For more information about the Fellowship, [please review the Fellowship Handbook](#).

News and Updates...

Karim El Sharkawy Attends Aswan Forum



2018 Gabr Fellow Karim El Sharkawy participated in the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development in Egypt last month as a protocol officer for the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He accompanied the President of Comoros Azali Assoumani. The topics of the seminar were tailor made by the UN and the Egyptian government, including the Cairo Center for Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA). The initiative was launched by President el-Sisi to discuss and create interlinkages between “sustainable peace” and “sustainable development” in Africa.

Sarah Badr Speaks at World Youth Forum



2017 Gabr Fellow Sarah Badr participated in the World Youth Forum in Sharm El Sheikh again this year where she co-recorded a podcast titled “Diaries for the Forum” which touched on global issues including climate change, global conflict, artificial intelligence, social media influence, and how to achieve global peace among other topics. Sarah also coached several speakers for the closing session and wrote a speech for one of the speakers there. This year's forum theme revolved around the 7 pillars of the Egyptian character among other important topics.

Nathan Thomas Receives \$300K Grant



2014 Gabr Fellow Nathan Thomas received a \$300,000-dollar grant, from the Roy & Christine Sturgis Charitable Trust, for the Educational Programs Department which he directs at the Clinton Foundation. The grant will help implement a Student Presidential Leaders Series over the course of three-years and will help to serve high school students and educators in Arkansas, where Nathan grew up.

Menna Farouk Launches Two Startups



2017 Gabr Fellow Menna Farouk launches two startups aimed at empowering women and creating job opportunities for them. The two startups are “Dosy” and “Lebet el-Set”. Dosy is an online platform that matches women who want to learn how to drive scooters and bicycles with nearby instructors. Lebet El-Set is another online platform that encourages skillfull female cooks to prepare their meals at home and deliver them to people who order food.

Soaad Hossam to speak in Thailand



2018 Gabr Fellow Soaad Hossam was invited to speak at the 13th Annual Forum of Developing Country Investment Negotiators in Bangkok, Thailand from February 18-20, 2020. The three-day meeting is being organized by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and hosted by the Government of Thailand. Soaad is a prosecutor at the Administrative Prosecution Authority.

Murray Abeles Career Change



2015 Gabr Fellow Murray Abeles became the Chief of Administration and Finance of NYC Kids RISE, a non-profit organization working to expand economic opportunity and equity by providing families, schools, and communities with ways to work together to save for their children's education. In this role, Murray leads as a member of the Executive Team, overseeing finance, technology, compliance, human resources, and organizational operations.

Eze Redwood Launches Startups



2015 Gabr Fellow Eze Redwood participated in the Forbes 30 under 30 Forum in October in Detroit and also participated in the highly-competitive 500 Startups BAM accelerator program in San Francisco; the top business accelerator in the world. He also launched a business accelerator program with several friends, that helps tech and non-tech companies to scale faster. Eze has also started LV8 with a friend which is focused on solving hard problems including reducing crime and helping small businesses scale.

Chase Bowman Art Show Opening



2014 Gabr Fellow Chase Bowman has a solo show opening on January 18, 2020 at Gradient Projects in Thomas, West Virginia. The name of the show is "Strange Visitor". Chase presents his work under name "Oddy Gumption". Chase is a classically-trained draftsman and art-maker who works as Professor of Design at Concord University in Princeton, West Virginia.

Meet the Gabr Fellows

Morgan Williams, 2013 Gabr Fellow, U.S.

Profession: Earth Scientist with the U.S. Department of Energy

I live in Oakland, California, where I work as a scientist with the Department of Energy in the Office of Legacy Management. As an earth scientist, I help develop technical documents and educate policymakers about the long-term containment of radioactive waste throughout the United States. I have a P.h.D in Physical Geography from UC Berkeley.

Several of my hobbies include fly fishing and collecting natural earth pigments from all over the world for paint making. Many of the paintings from Mr. Gabr's renowned Orientalist collection are crafted with paint from these same materials.

There are many different ways the Gabr Fellowship has impacted me. both personally and professionally. Visiting the different places and meeting with some of the people I got to meet helped me become more comfortable engaging with policymakers and regulators which is something I do frequently in my current role. Additionally, the various sensitive and high-pressure topics the Gabr Fellows were exploring left an impact on me. I would love to visit Egypt again.



Zeyad El Kelani, 2014 Gabr Fellow, Egypt

Profession: Senior Fellow at TransResearch Consortium

I believe that it takes more than an idea to see reality, and the Gabr fellowship is a vision of a global doer who single-handedly designed and executed a world-class educational program that will have an ever-lasting impact on generations.

The Gabr Fellowship and Family taught me that success in life lies in the understanding that life is the negation of absolutism, equilibrium happens far from equilibrium and the space of possibilities is set by one's own values and cognition.

I was lucky to be part of the second cohort of the Fellowship program, and from now on, I will always be indebted to the Fellowship and the Family, and will always be a loyal member and supporter.



Sarah Badr, 2017 Gabr Fellow, Egypt

Profession: Reservoir Geophysicist at Schlumberger

I am from Alexandria, Egypt. I currently live in Cairo and work as a Reservoir Geophysicist at Schlumberger, one of the major Oil and Gas services companies. I studied Petroleum Geology and Energy Engineering. I enjoy reading; it's my food for thought and I also enjoy learning new languages. It's fascinating how through the different languages one can get to experience all the different cultures.

The Gabr Foundation was a remarkable experience for me. I got to interact with brilliant people from both Egypt and the U.S., building bridges of friendship and eternal cultural bonds. I got to see a whole new side to the U.S. beyond the media's exported images. I also got a feel of how different sovereign, cultural, religious and artistic organizations paint the global world scenery in both the U.S. and Egypt. This experience inspired me to pursue a master's degree in Energy Economics and Finance, where I wanted to get to learn more about economic terms and how the global economy is shaped in the Energy domain. This was sparked through the different encounters and discussions we had during the fellowship and with Mr. Gabr.

Mr Gabr is a truly inspirational figure that I look up to and admire. Only a wise mind like his could see the true value of establishing such a Foundation for such a purpose of connecting people of potential together. It's only through dialogue that we can work through our differences and find what truly unites and empowers us.



Kristina Ryan, 2017 Gabr Fellow, U.S.

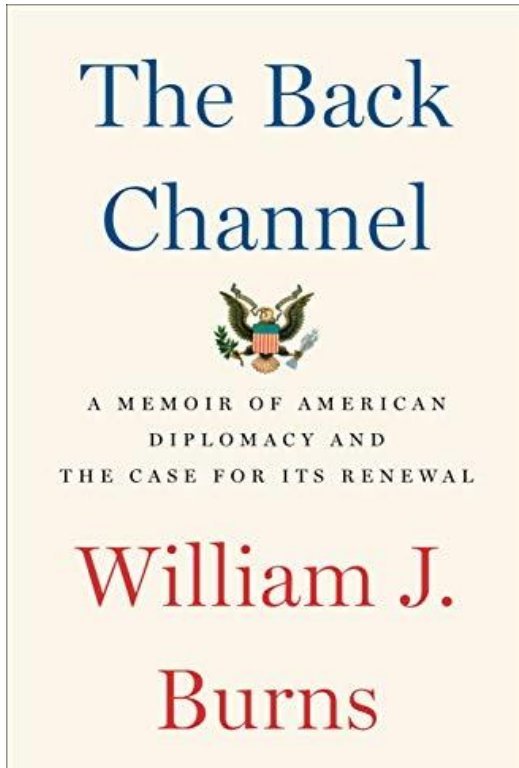
Profession: program officer with the U.S. Department of State

I live in the Washington, D.C. area, but grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii and Colorado Springs, Colorado. As a program officer with the U.S. Department of State, I focus on raising awareness of U.S. foreign policy abroad and countering false narratives regarding policy priorities. Prior to this, I quantitatively examined public opinion patterns and trends among foreign populations to aid the formulation of U.S. foreign policy and cataloged non-violent protest movements for the University of Denver. I hold a Master of Arts in Global Finance, Trade, and Economic Integration from the University of Denver's Josef Korbel School of International Studies and I received a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs and Anthropology from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

I enjoy traveling to new places in the United States and abroad, and in my spare time I experiment with new baking and cooking recipes. The Gabr Fellowship reignited my love of traveling and engaging with new cultures and people. The Fellowship allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of the various regional dynamics in the Middle East; knowledge that will continue to aid in my government career.



Gabr Foundation Reading Corner



The Foundation Reading Corner encourages Fellows to critique the books that have been recommended to them in each issue. For this issue, Mr. Gabr recommends “The Back Channel: A Memoir of American Diplomacy and the Case for Its Renewal,” by career diplomat William Joseph Burns. This insightful book examines why things don’t always work out the way statesmen plan and analyzes the series of failures by Democrat and Republican presidents that Burns sees as having contributed to the current distress the U.S. is facing. In his book, Burns – who began his career in the foreign service during President Reagan’s administration and retired as deputy secretary of state during President Obama’s second term in 2014 -- also contemplates ways in which America can rebuild itself at the diplomatic level.

Egypt’s International Economic Forum



On December 10, 2019, **Chairman Shafik Gabr** hosted and moderated Egypt’s International Economic Forum; a roundtable discussion on the topic of “U.S. – Egypt Bilateral Relations” at the ARTOC Headquarters in Cairo. The event was held in honor of the visit of the U.S. delegation led by former Congressman **Dana Rohrabacher**, who is now the Founder and a Partner at R&B Strategies. A special recognition was made to the Gabr Fellows, who through the Shafik Gabr Foundation, continue to make a positive impact on U.S.-Egypt relations by building strong and lasting bridges of understanding between both countries. The fellows who attended are Ahmed Assal (2014), Ahmed Naggar (2014), Nourhan Moussa (2014), Basma El Baz (2015), Basma Fahim (2015), Yasser El Zahar (2016), Mohamed El Attar (2016), Ibrahim Hammouda (2017), Aly Salem (2017), Marwa Abdallah (2018), and Soaad Hossam (2018),

Question of the Month: A Pulse of the Gabr Fellowship Community



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.

1. Do you think President Donald Trump's impeachment in the House of Representatives was justified?

Yes: 69%

No: 25%

I don't know: 6%

2. Do you agree with the United States' decision to increase the legal smoking age to 21?

Yes: 67%

No: 23%

I don't know: 10%

3. How do you see Turkey's intervention in Libya?

Positive: 4%

Negative: 67%

I don't know: 29%

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.

Egypt's 'history of humanity' monuments face climate change threat



By: Menna A. Farouk

LUXOR, Egypt, Dec 20 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - It's a steamy November day in the southern Egyptian city of Luxor, and the tourists tramping through the ancient temples of Luxor and Karnak are sweating. But the city's famed 7,000-year-old antiquities are feeling the heat too.

Increasingly high temperatures linked to climate change, as well as wilder weather, particularly heavy rains and flooding, are taking a growing toll on the ancient stonework, said Abdelhakim Elbadry, a restoration expert who works at Karnak temple.

"The changes appear noticeably, in the damage and cracks of the facades of many graves as well as the change of the color of the archaeological stones, as a result of high temperature and humidity," Elbadry told Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Granite that was once rose-coloured has faded to a pale pink or even light grey over the last 15 years, he said.

"In every archeological site here in Luxor, you can witness the changes," he said.

Climate change is making efforts to protect Egypt's famed but fragile archaeological sites even harder, preservation experts say.

From the pyramids and Sphinx to the Citadel of Qaitbay and an ancient Roman amphitheatre near the Mediterranean Sea, the country's historic sites face growing threats from harsher weather and rising seas.

Egyptologist Zahi Hawass - the country's former Minister of State for Antiquities Affairs - said virtually all open-air archeological

sites in Egypt are in danger from stronger winds and humidity, higher temperatures and bigger floods.

"I believe that in 100 years all these antiquities will be gone because of climate change," Hawass said, referring to expected serious deterioration of the monuments.

He said offices staffed by specialists should be set up near each of the country's archeological sites to record the changes taking place, try to find immediate solutions and to coordinate restoration of damage.

He has called for a joint effort by Egypt and the European Union to try to mitigate the effects of climate change on Egyptian antiquities.

Monica Hanna, an archaeologist with the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport, said she believes many Egyptian historic sites near the Mediterranean Sea could see significant damage from rising sea levels linked to climate change within about 30 years.

Alexandria, Egypt's second-largest city, faces some of the biggest risks.

In remarks in Germany last year, Patricia Espinosa, head of the U.N. climate change secretariat, warned that climate change posed particularly severe threats to low-lying coastal cities such as Alexandria and Osaka in Japan.

Climate impacts "are not going to get better, they are going to get worse," she warned.

But a shifting climate also is just one of the threats to Egypt's antiquities, which also face pressure from everything from worsening air pollution to expanding settlements as the country's population grows, Hanna said.

Air pollution can erode the limestone and sandstone blocks that make up many ancient structures, she said, and the construction of housing areas without proper sewage systems, in areas near historic sites, can cause "tremendous" damage.

Disclaimer: The views presented in this article are the authors' alone and do not represent the opinion of the Foundation. This article was originally published in [Reuters](#).

Menna A. Farouk is 2017 Gabr Fellow and a journalist for four years and is currently Front-page Editor of The Egyptian Gazette.

Stay tuned for more articles and thoughts from Gabr Fellows in the next newsletter.

The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

For more information on the ShafikGabr Foundation and its *East-West: The Art of Dialogue* Initiative, please visit the website <https://eastwestdialogue.org/>.

For earlier itineraries of the US program, please see the previous years' reports at <https://eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/brochures/>



Ivan Aivazovsky – The Great Pyrmid at Gizal, 1878, The Shafik Gabr Collection

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