



2016 GABR FELLOWS MEETING WITH MR. SEAN CLEARY, CHAIRMAN OF STRATEGIC CONCEPTS (PTY) LTD; AND DR. MARIANNE AZER, MEMBER OF EGYPTIAN PARLIAMENT

No Man Is an Island

Even with all the technological advancements in the 21st century that humankind has at its disposal, the world we live in today is a far cry from where it should be for the sake of human beings that inhabit our Earth.

Human trafficking and slavery are still alive and rampant. Terrorism has become a global cancer that is destroying the very fabric of society. Geopolitical conflicts and wars are threatening to make a significant negative impact in the world economy. Peaceful coexistence has become an exception rather than the norm.

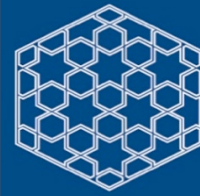
And yet, the world does not seem to listen. Leaders are so consumed with their own private interests, maintaining their power and next elections that they do not see the bigger picture.

COVID-19 has brought to the forefront the challenge and serious need for nations to work together. Local problems need to be solved globally. As the poet John Donne said, 'no man is an island.' We simply cannot afford to deceive ourselves in thinking that we can look away.

The clock is ticking, and it is high time for people, nations and leaders to unite against common enemies, against the widespread diseases, be it COVID-19, hunger, homelessness, poverty, human slavery, racism, terrorism or terror financing. We need visionary, courageous, responsible, responsive, capable and honest leadership, for the sake of humanity and future generations.

Above all, we need open and honest communication and understanding. Rather than being focused on the things that divide us, we need to zero in on the things that unite us. To be open to learning and critical thinking, rather than be seduced by fake news and inciting hate. It is up to each and every one of us to take responsibility, and to demand responsibility from those in charge.

M. Shafik Gabr



The
SHAFIK GABR
Foundation

The Gabr Fellowship Newsletter

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News and Updates...

Michael Matthiesen at GWU Law School



2017 Gabr Fellow Michael Matthiesen recently transferred to the George Washington University Law School to complete his Law Degree.

At the same time, Michael started an internship with the Federal Public Defender's Office in Miami this month.

Menna Farouk is a finalist in University Startup World Cup



2017 Gabr Fellow Menna Farouk was selected as one of the finalists of the University Startup World Cup competition this year. The event will start in October with the finalists attending online seminars, workshops and sessions on entrepreneurship and leadership. The winner will be announced by the end of the year.

Alexis Taylor and Social Innovation



2017 Gabr Fellow Alexis Taylor has been accepted to University of Pennsylvania's Executive Program for Social Innovation Design, which starts in September.

Alexis also just graduated from Al Gore's Climate Reality Training Program – a week-long global training on environmental justice and the facts/science behind climate change.

Nick Thomas delves into directing



2014 Gabr Fellow Nick Thomas has been chosen to be the 1st Assistant Director on a feature length film this October and will be traveling down to the Amazon for the month for filming.

Sarah Badr and the British Council in Cairo



2017 Gabr Fellow Sarah Badr has been featured on the British Council in Cairo web page celebrating International Youth Day and Female Youth achievements. The post highlighted Sarah's personal experience with FameLab Science Communication competition and how proud she is to be part the FameLab community in Egypt. You can view the post on:

<https://www.linkedin.com/posts/activity-6699258226120118272-6OkA/>

FameLab is an international competition to find and support the world's most talented new science communicators. The competition was introduced to Egypt in 2009 in support of the government's efforts to advance science and to build a culture that understands and supports the positive role science plays in the economic and social well-being.

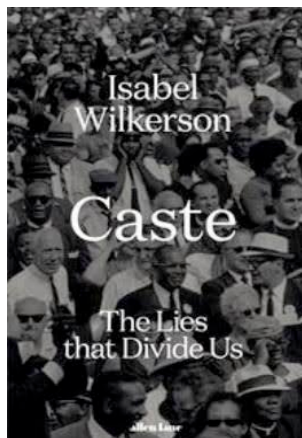
Alexis Taylor invites Fellows to the Global Entrepreneurship Summit



In **Alexis Taylor's (2017 Gabr Fellow)** work with the Global Entrepreneurship Network, they are inviting top leaders driving economic growth and fueling healthier entrepreneurial ecosystems for the Global Entrepreneurship Summit March 14-17, 2021 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

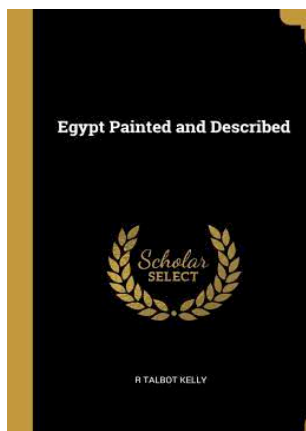
If there is anyone from the Gabr network who classifies themselves as an ecosystem builder, please reach out to Alexis (lexjtay@gmail.com) who kindly offered to invite them as an official delegate.

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 *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson and *Egypt Painted and Described* by Robert Talbot Kelly.

In *Caste*, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America. Linking America, India and Nazi Germany, Wilkerson reveals how, beyond race or class, the caste system's rigid, arbitrary hierarchies still divide us today.



In *Egypt Painted and Described* by artist Robert Talbot Kelly, numerous full-color paintings accompany his description of Egypt at the turn of the 20th century.

Kelly quit his family's business in the early 1880s and traveled to Cairo, where he established himself as an artist, became fluent in Arabic, and spent a good deal of time living with Bedouin tribes. His travels throughout the country form the basis of this volume, which features both Kelly's artwork and his writings about the people, scenes and culture he found in Egyptian towns and deserts.

Sponsor a 2020 Gabr Fellow

Sponsoring a Gabr Fellow for the 2021 Fellowship Program goes beyond financial support—it helps build bridges of cross-cultural understanding between the East and the West.

The sponsorship package costs \$35,000 which includes the sponsoring of a Fellow who can carry the name of the individual, organization, or corporation making the contribution.

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Cautious hopes for slum dwellers relocated in Egypt housing project

by Menna Farouk

In a compound in southeastern Cairo, Elham Fouad walks through a clean, organised street full of colourful buildings with her husband and young daughter.

The scene in the Mokattam suburb is a far cry from el-Deweika, a sprawling slum in the Egyptian capital, where she used to live in a dilapidated house with her family. “We were always at risk of landslides and we barely had access to many of the basic services like water and electricity,” 32-year-old Fouad told the Thomson Reuters Foundation from a small grocery store. “Now, it is a whole different life. We are living like all other humans in a good house with access to all services,” said Fouad, who now lives the el-Asmarat compound in Mokattam.

She is one of about 750,000 slum dwellers who have been relocated in the past four years to social housing units across the country, according to Khaled Sedeek, executive director of the government’s Informal Settlements Development Fund (ISDF).

About 22 million Egyptians – roughly a quarter of the population – live in slums, including 850,000 people who live in unsafe settlements at risk of landslides and floods, says the ISDF. Sixty percent of slum dwellers live in the greater Cairo area, including an estimated 1.5 million in a sprawling cemetery known as the City of the Dead. But relocated residents point to challenges such as higher overall expenses in the new housing units and an uncertain future for the informal businesses they used to run in slums.

MODERN HOUSING

The housing scheme is part of a five-year government project started in 2016 to either demolish or upgrade unsafe slums and relocate some 850,000 people. It is part of Egypt’s commitment to globally agreed sustainability goals, which include making cities safer and more resilient by 2030.

The new homes are fully-furnished, include household appliances and are let on a symbolic rent between 300-350 Egyptian pounds (\$19 -22), depending on the standard of the unit. New compounds include gardens, schools, sports facilities, medical centres, shops, places of worship and access to public transport.

Modernising Cairo is also part of efforts by President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi to attract investment and boost Egypt’s economy still reeling after the Arab Spring upheaval of 2011. Since taking office in 2014, Sisi has sought to transform the city, building a new administrative capital on its outskirts and aiming to attract investors to its centre.

The Maspero triangle, a slum amid high-end buildings in the heart of Cairo, is being developed into a commercial and entertainment hub, with money generated from land sales providing cash for the government to finance relocation and compensation costs. The government also demolished about a dozen slums in Egypt’s second-largest city of Alexandria and Port Said, on the Suez Canal, Sedeek said in a phone interview.

HOUSING COSTS

But such housing changes come at a cost, some of those who have benefited from relocation or slum upgrading have found.

Saber Ahmed, 41, said it is a better life for his family, but their expenses have significantly increased since they were relocated. “We pay rent of 300 Egyptian pounds in addition to electricity, water and household gas bills. For me, it is too much,” said Ahmed, who works as a factory worker. “It was better living in our house which we owned. We did not have such expenses,” he noted, adding he now needs to take public transport to get to his workplace, an additional cost.

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

Those relocated to social housing compounds also fear they may not be able to keep the informal businesses they used to run in the slums.

Sedeek said the government had allocated 38 billion Egyptian pounds (\$2.4 billion) to destroy all unsafe areas by the end of the year. A total of 157,000 out of 240,000 housing units have been built so far to relocate residents from unsafe areas, he added. Consultations with residents is part of the relocation process, said Sedeek.

Reda Haggag, professor of urban planning at Cairo University, said Egypt is facing an uneasy task as some slum dwellers are restoring slums or building new ones because they do not want to leave or in order to avoid paying rent in the new houses.

The government has suspended issuing permits for new buildings to help end an illegal construction boom which started after the 2011 uprising.

Meanwhile Fouad has hopes for a better life in her new home, and plans to send her daughter to a school nearby for the first time. “We had no hopes for our daughter before we came here. But now we are full of hope,” she said.

Disclaimer: The views presented in this article are the author’s alone and do not represent the opinion of the Foundation. This article was originally published in Reuters: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-egypt-cities-housing-feature-trfn/cautious-hopes-for-slum-dwellers-relocated-in-egypt-housing-project-idUSKCN25A0DP>

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 Senator Kamala Harris is a good choice for the Democratic vice presidential nominee?

Yes: 59%

No: 18%

I don't know: 23%

2. Do you support Israel's agreement with the UAE?

Yes: 41%

No: 20.5%

I don't know: 38.5%

3. Do you think a direct intervention of Egypt in Libya will happen?

Yes: 28%

No: 36%

I don't know: 36%

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



September 3: Jack Gordon, 2017 Gabr Fellow



September 5: Nourhan Moussa, 2014 Gabr Fellow



September 10: Allison Feikes, 2018 Gabr Fellow



September 12: Hala Abdelgawad, 2016 Gabr Fellow



September 12: Shady Saleh, 2018 Gabr Fellow



September 15: Ahmed Mostafa, 2018 Gabr Fellow



September 16: Haroun Habib, 2013 Gabr Fellow

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

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



John Frederick Lewis – *Halt in the Desert*, The Shafik Gabr Collection

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