



THE EGYPTIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION
IN NORTH AMERICA (ESANA)

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ESANA General Assembly (GA 2005)
Annual Report
Jan. 14-17, 2005

Location: Egyptian Cultural and Educational Bureau (ECEB), Washington D.C-USA.

Attendees:

- Mr. Nabil Fahmy, Ambassador of Egypt to the United States.
- Dr. AbdAllah Bazaraa, Cultural Counselor of Egypt to the USA.
- Dr. Ismail Gomaa, Cultural Counselor of Egypt to Canada.
- Mr. Hisham Ahmad, Administrative Attaché at ECEB.
- Tamer Awad, ESANA President.
- Akram Fayed, ESANA Vice President.
- Tamer Mahmoud, ESANA Units' Affairs Officer.
- Ahmed Eissa, ESANA Science Officer.
- Abdel-Fattah Mady, ESANA Media Officer.
- Mohamed Ibrahim, ESANA Social Affairs Officer.
- Mohamed Elfeky, ESANA Treasurer.
- Presidents and Representatives of ESANA units in the USA and Canada.

The Opening Ceremony:

ESANA president, Tamer Awad, welcomed all the attendees. He underscored the importance of the attendance of Mr. Nabil Fahmy, the Egyptian Ambassador to the US. The presence of the ambassador is considered very important for the support of the Egyptian students as the Egyptian diplomats are considered the backbone for Egyptian scholars abroad. In particular, Tamer Awad referred to challenges facing ESANA especially after September 11 and gave examples of some suspicious organizations that were trying to approach ESANA and invite their executive committee members to participate in meetings under the main theme of discussing peace in the Middle East. After further investigation on ESANA's part and consulting the Educational Bureaus in North America, it was discovered that these meeting had ulterior motives, the aim being



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disturbing the Egyptian national security. ESANA stand point is always to be careful not to participate in those events whatever the pressure is, Tamer Awad emphasized.

Tamer Awad also highlighted the importance of hosting the GA meeting by the ECEB after a stopping period of over 5 years. The main reason of having the meeting, he emphasized, is to discuss our hopes and dreams as Egyptian students of how to serve our nation and our country. With this in mind, this was the first GA meeting in ESANA's history that dedicated a session to discuss the role of Egyptian scholars abroad in contributing to the development of scientific research in Egypt. Tamer Awad ended his introductory remarks with a greeting for Eidul Adha.

Dr. Ismail Gomaa, on behalf of Dr. Mahmoud El Saeed the Egyptian Ambassador to Canada, is sending his greetings to the Egyptian students. He emphasized the role that the Egyptian students should have in keeping our nation up to date with the huge strides forward in science and technology. He encouraged all the students to be the best at what they do by working hard and diligently and setting an example for future generations. Dr. Gomaa also encouraged extra-curricular activities and attending as many conferences as possible. He promised that the students will find all the support they need from the ECEBs.

Dr. Abdalla Bazaraa, on behalf of Dr. Amr Salama, sends his greetings to the students. Dr. Abdalla outlined some of the problems faced by students in North America. Students are on the defensive side with regards to their identity as Muslims or Arabs, especially after the negative impression associated with this identity. Dr. Bazaraa stated that the number of international students in the US has decreased by 2.4% over the past year. Dr. Bazaraa also outlined the role of the ECEB and the responsibility towards the Egyptian students in the US, as well as the role of the Bureau in reflecting the cultural image of Egypt in meetings and conferences. The Bureau also acts as a guide for students in the choice of outstanding US faculty members to collaborate with. He emphasized that the link between the students and the Bureau was considered very important towards achieving all these goals.

Mr. Nabil Fahmy, began his speech by outlining the main purpose of having graduate students studying in the US and Canada. As Egyptians we dwell too much on our history which should not be the case, he said if we plan for development and advancement. A very important factor is a well-qualified Egyptian scholar, which is the reason why Egypt encourages having students study abroad.

The other important point Mr. Fahmy talked about was the relationship between the student and the representatives of the Egyptian government abroad like the Egyptian



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embassy and consulates. The Embassy and all the staff are doing their best to heed all the Egyptians' concerns. It also goes both ways, he says; meaning that the students have to actively be involved in conveying their day to day experience in their schools. The feedback they provide will be crucial for the help and aid other Egyptians who will be future students here in the US or Canada, said Mr. Fahmy

Mr. Fahmy also talked about the role of the students and their responsibility towards their community here in the US. He encouraged the students to communicate and intermingle with their peers in the workplace. The students should be proud of their identity as Egyptians for a multitude of reasons. The students should also learn about the positive aspects of the American character, customs and traditions. They should consider their presence here as a learning experience in terms of science, culture and ethics. They have a role in reflecting an image of the American society to their people in Egypt. He emphasized that all Egyptian scholars and students are considered as ambassadors of a whole nation which is a huge responsibility. Mr. Nabil Fahmy ended his remarks by saying that he would be happy to answer any questions.

Mohamed Nashaat, representing Manntioba unit, asked the question of why there was a huge lack of electronic communication between the students and the ECEBs. Dr. Gomaa replied that there is a website for the ECEB in Canada that should act as interface between the students and the officials at the ECEB. He also pointed out that there is a complete database of Egyptian professors in Canada which is available upon demand. The ECEB in Canada is also in the process of making the website more interactive.

Hatem Seliem from NC State University suggested that to maximize the number of students studying in North America, the government should also support those who apply for self fellowships or assistantships in North America starting with the application process from Egypt. He also asked how to maximize the utilization of the expertise acquired by the doctoral students when they go back to Egypt. Dr. Bazaraa mentioned that the Missions Department has more focus in terms of the specific fields where Egypt needs a lot of expertise. Regarding the second part of the question, Dr. Bazaraa said that it was possible for students to apply for grants and work on collaborations between scientists here in North America and back in Egypt.

Mohamed Ibrahim from SUNY University in New York asked Mr. Nabil Fahmy for his insights about amending the rules and regulations for Higher Education in Egypt and wondered if it was possible to emulate those regulations implemented here in the US. Mr. Fahmy emphasized that with all the obvious shortcomings, the same regulations allow for



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a full support of students and their families, a privilege that is not enjoyed by students of other developed countries such as Denmark for example.

Ashraf Singer from Claremont University, California asked why ESANA did not participate with other Non-Governmental Organizations from the USA in any activities. Tamer Awad replied that this was possible as long as ESANA had its own standpoint and was not forced into activities that affect the national security of Egypt. Awad stated that if we disagree politically with the government this should be solved within the Egyptian house and according to the Egyptian family traditions. We should not allow others to interfere with Egyptian affairs through using ESANA, Awad emphasized. Mr. Fahmy agreed with and emphasized on Awad's reply.

At the end of the opening ceremony, certificates of acknowledgment were handed out by Tamer Awad, on behalf of ESANA, to the Ambassador of Egypt, Mr. Nabil Fahmy and to the cultural counselors at the ECEBs. ESANA award was granted to Dr. Joyce C. Torio, project book share of the American Chemical Society (ACS), for her invaluable contributions to the ESANA Book Campaign project.

Session I: Students Rights & Responsibilities By Hisham Ahmed, the administrative attaché at ECEB-Washington

Mr. Ahmed talked about the rights and the responsibilities of the students towards the ECEBs. The ECEB is responsible for attending to all of the problems facing Egyptian students abroad, said Mr. Ahmed.

Students are classified into four categories:

- A. Full government mission student for 4 years.
- B. Channel student or joint supervision student for one year.
- C. Students on study leave; those who are able to get their own fellowships or pay the tuition and fee themselves.
- D. A scientific mission student for 3-6 months.

Mr. Ahmed explained the rights and benefits entitled to the full government mission student. They are entitled to a monthly salary that was determined based on the living expenses of the country where they conduct their research. They also receive money to assist in monthly rent (badal sakan which is 15% of monthly salary for the single student or 25% for the married student), as well as money for clothes and books (which amounts to a half month salary). Their health insurance as well as tuition and fees are also fully



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covered. The student is treated as a single student for the first and last six months of his four-year study period. The student is provided with airline tickets for him and his family at the beginning, at the end and at the mid-term. They are allowed up to 80 kgs of baggage that is custom-free. All these benefits also apply to the joint-supervision student except that he is treated as a single student for the first and last 3 months of his mission.

Mr. Ahmed then talked about what the benefits entitled to students as they leave the US or Canada. The students get a disbursement equivalent to a quarter of a salary per year spent as preparation for departure. They also get two months salary upon return to Egypt. The mission ends on the day the student has his final public defense. The student also gets a reimbursement of half a month salary for the publication of the dissertation as well as half a month salary for shipping expenses.

Mr. Ahmed also explained that the ECEB acts a link between the student in Egypt and the university here in the US. The Bureau also follows up on the visa process of the student. It is also responsible for submitting reports on the performance of students here in the US to the Missions Department in Egypt.

Mr. Ahmed then illustrated what the student should do as soon as he arrives to his allocated university. The first thing a student should do is to make a photocopy of the passport and I-94 form and fax it to the ECEB. The student should also register with the closest Egyptian consulate in the US or Canada, then provide his/her registration number to the ECEB. The student should also provide his/her bank account information including; the type of the account, routing number and bank account number for the ECEB to process the direct deposit method for payment of salaries. All the student's contact information should also be provided in detail to the ECEB. The same applies to the information of the student's family members. The preferred method of contact with the ECEB is by fax or e-mail.

Mr. Ahmed then outlined what the student should do during his study period. The student should not leave his university for a vacation without informing the ECEB. Failure to do so might lead to the termination of the student's mission. The student should not get married to a foreigner during his stay. The student should also ask his academic advisor to submit a progress report to the ECEB every six months. The student should comply with all the rules and regulations of the country he is going to and not cause any security breaches. The student should also try to establish a link between his academic advisor and some other Egyptian students who are willing to pursue their doctoral studies in the US or Canada.



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Mr. Ahmed then described what the student should do as he/she leaves the US or Canada having finished his dissertation. The student should inform the ECEB of the day of his departure and should contact Egypt Air to make flight reservations. The student should later inform the ECEB of his reservation number. The ECEB will address Egypt air to send the ticket(s) to the student. If the student will extend his study program for another fifth year at his own expense, he should be reporting to the ECEB every six months as usual. The student's transcript and degree certificate have to be registered at the ECEB. The ECEB's authorization on these documents is required for subsequent steps of degree recognition in Egypt.

Dr. Ahmed Hassan from Sandia National Laboratories suggested that the students on a scientific mission should stay in US or Canada for at least six months due to the time spent in the beginning to acclimatize. He also suggested having Mr. Ahmed's presentation posted on the website and to create an on-line forum for FAQ's. He also suggested preparing a handout book about living in North America to be handed out to students before departure from Egypt. All the information should be clear to the students while the student is in Egypt to save time. He also suggested having all the information necessary for F-1 and J-1 visa posted on the website.

Ehab Fathy from Colorado State University asked about the time at which the latest rules pertinent to salaries took effect. Mr. Ahmed replied that the latest salary increase was on Jan 2004. However, money disbursed for rent (badal el sakan) was implemented on July 2004. He also pointed out that mistakes in any of the reimbursements made on the students' behalf will be uncovered by auditors in the Missions Department in Egypt.

Ehab also asked about whether self-financed students are entitled to any benefits. Ms. Amal from the ECEB stated that the Missions Department pays for the returning ticket for the student and his family if he came to the US prior to 7/2002. Any student who came after this date is entitled to one ticket only. This benefit is only for those self-financed students who are on a study leave from their universities in Egypt. Mr. Hisham also mentioned that the Missions Department is considering financial aid to self-financed students in the near future.

Dr. Ismail Gomaa encouraged all the students to be pro-active and look for all the information they need via the internet before they arrive. The student does not have to wait for the Missions Department to provide the information for him.

Mohamed Abdel-Dayem from the University of Tennessee asked about the money



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disbursed as preparation for return, is the student still entitled to receive this money if he extends for a fifth year? Tamer Awad explained that if the student was on a mission prior to 7/2002 and still has the right to extend for a fifth year on the missions department expense, he will be denied this money. However, if the student is on a mission after this date, he is entitled to receive the money in full if he extends for a fifth year on his own expenses.

Session II: ESANA Achievements over the Past Year

Tamer Awad, ESANA President started this session by mentioning the duties of the ESANA President which include:

- The representation of ESANA in front of the organizations whether they are governmental or not, in Egypt and North America.
- The serious cooperation in solving the problems of the members whether it's general or private.
- Following up with the decisions that were taken in the General Assembly meeting.
- Consult with the other members of the Executive Committee (EC) on the issues that are important to the ESANA members.
- Running the GA meeting.

Tamer then talked about ESANA projects and they are :

- The Book Campaign.
- The ESA link.
- The SINA (Study in North America).
- The ESA Social Project.
- The Egyptian Professors Database.

Tamer discussed ESANA achievements as follows:

1. Achievements for the members:

- A report was submitted December 2003 to the Missions Department in Egypt to consider increasing the salary of the mission students. The report was based on a study that included the cost of living in the United States in



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various states. The study showed that the Egyptian students were found to be below the poverty line which according to the INS regulations is illegal and they can face deportation. The report was approved and the Mission Department raised the salary of Egyptian students in the USA and Canada by 20% starting January 2004.

- Another request was submitted to the Missions Department about the reimbursement of residential costs (rent). Approval to the request was granted on July 2004 and the benefits were found to be approximately:

\$3600/yr. for the single mission student.

\$4400/yr. for the married mission student.

\$4700/yr. for the married with one kid.

\$5000/yr. for the married with two kids.

- As far as the returning ticket for the mission student & his family, upon the request, the ticket can be extended till the fifth year or even till after the practical training provided that the ticket will be issued at the end of the fourth year with Egypt Air & the student will pay the difference in price from the issuing date till the desired check in date. Also the student can travel back to Egypt with a ship if he needs to ship his furniture if it is within the limits of the shipping company and the Mission Department will cover these shipping costs if rates are equal to or less than that of airline fares.
- Depositing \$3500 into the Social Fund from ESANA account to keep it running instead of waiting on the money from the endowment of Late President Sadat which was not accessible at the time.
- Solving three problems that members had with the health insurance company.

2. Achievements of ESANA Projects:

- The Book Campaign: The American Chemical Society donated twenty tons



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of recent Chemistry books and periodicals to the book campaign. Suez Canal University was the recipient of this gift. It is worth mentioning that Al-Menia University deposited the money for the expenses of the 8th book campaign. El-Menoufia University expressed interest to receive the 9th book campaign.

- ESANA annual budget now is supposed to be US\$22,000+ Can\$2000 after problems with funding that ESANA faced. Those problems were resolved after a report was submitted to the Missions Department and the former Minister of Higher Education. The total budget is broken down into:
 1. \$8000 from the Ministry of Higher Education in Egypt.
 2. \$4000 from the ECEB in USA.
 3. \$10000 from the endowment of Late President Sadat, which are directed to the Social Fund.
 4. \$ Canadian 2000 from the ECEB in Canada in addition that ECEB in Canada hosts Semiannual ESANA meeting.
- Donations were gathered to help the spouse of a mission student because he needed a liver transplantation. ESANA President was informed by Cleveland unit president that donations contributed in covering the living expenses and the medications for a period of time before and after the surgery. The liver transplantation was done successfully to the patient and he is recovering very well.

At the end of this session floor was opened for discussion. Important questions and comments were raised to the Cultural Counselors about the rights or increasing the rights of self-financed students who are not affiliated to any governmental institution. Counselors reply to these concerns was that everything was dependent on the budget provided. The counselors said they would raise this issue to the officials in Egypt.

Session III: Problems facing ESANA:

The session was presented by Tamer Awad, ESANA president. He outlined the problems as follows:

- The Missions department cut the funding for attending conferences, which is an important part of the educational experience for any PhD.



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student. The Counselors' reply was that universities normally have a budget for that even if the student wasn't financially aided by the school itself. The student should ask about that. The counselors would raise the issue to the officials in Egypt.

- The cut off of the mission students' salary after the oral defense not after graduation, although the student might need to do some corrections or changes to the thesis after the oral defense as instructed by the student's thesis committee members. Furthermore he could also be instructed to conduct further experiments to be added to the thesis. It is also the case in Egypt with students getting the degree from home. Both counselors agreed on ESANA point of view and promised they would work to change this bylaw.
- Lowering of the customs exemption when returning home. The counselors said they would raise this issue to the officials in Egypt
- Extension of the study leave for the practical training, as the practical training enhances the researcher's experience in science. The answer of Dr. Ismail Gomaa was that we have to evaluate the situation based on cost-benefit analysis and that the departments in Egypt sometimes really need the student to come back to benefit his department and resume his academic responsibilities. Dr. Bazaraa said that some departments have plenty of staff members to cover so in this case the department will approve of the extension, otherwise the department won't.

At the end of the session, the floor was opened for discussion. Ahmed Abdel-Fattah from the University of Maryland asked about the cost-benefit analysis idea. Ahmed suggested that instead of waiting 5 years or so for the student to return to Egypt to benefit his department why not take advantage of any Egyptian student who is done already with his PhD. from USA or Canada (without paying attention if he is a mission student or not or has a post in Egypt or not). Ahmed believes that would be a quicker more effective way to benefit departments in Egypt. Since he is already in the USA and will not cost Egypt any additional fees for having the practical training and for sure he/she will not have visa issue as trying to have it from Egypt. The answer of Dr. Ismail Gomaa was that this is what some departments are doing and they are taking advantage of these scholars who are done already with their PhD's as visiting professors to teach some courses and help graduate



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students in Egypt in their research.

Session IV: ESANA Science Officer's report:

Ahmed Eissa, ESANA Science officer, presented this session starting with an outline of the duties of the Science Officer which are as follows:

- Manages and promotes all scientific activities of the ESANA, especially those related to the internet and computer-based.
- Follows up deficiencies and problems in the scientific fields in Egypt and investigates ways to solve them in cooperation with the ESANA members and the Egyptian Scholars Associations in the USA and Canada.
- Collects the most recent scientific news with assistance from the ESANA members.

Ahmed then talked about his work during the past year. He was responsible for updating the ESANA website. He would keep abreast of the scientific meetings and conferences in Egypt and posted information about it on the website. He introduced new on-line media links and has done a substantial amount of work for the Egyptian Research Support (ERS) project.

Ahmed then described some of the problems he faced as an officer. He thinks there was a mix-up between the job of the science officer and that of a webmaster. He had had also problems with the web hosting company and suggested to change it. Finally, he suggested to have an on-line forum on the ESANA website and to elaborate more on the ERS project.

At the end of the session, the floor was open for discussion. A suggestion was made to have two email lists one for the official email and one for the non-official ones so that members can pick and choose whether they want to receive non-official ones or not. The answer was that this is by all means possible and can be done. It will be just more work on the moderators of the email.

Another comment was made that the Science Officer should not be the one actually updating the website. There should be a webmaster that is capable of doing such things in a much more professional way and the science officer should be the one focusing on the different activities and the information itself to give it to the webmaster and telling the webmaster where to put it.



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Session V: ESANA Units Officer's report:

Tamer Mahmoud, ESANA Units Officer's presented this session. He started the presentation by outlining the responsibilities of the Units Officer as follows:

- Data filing and registration of all ESANA unit information.
- Formation of New ESANA units.
- Notifying ESANA unit executives with decisions.
- Implementation of ESANA constitution.
- Supervise annual unit elections.

Tamer then showed the audience the locations of ESANA units; 30 units in the US and 8 in Canada. He cleared the point that the all the West Coast states do not have a single local unit. He emphasized that next elected units affairs officer should do more work to recruit more students from different states to join the association.

Tamer then showed the following:

A list of the new units opened over the past year as follows:

- Sherbrooke, Quebec.
- Baltimore, Maryland.
- Fort Collins, Colorado.
- Columbus, Ohio.
- Dallas, Texas.

A list of inactive units:

- Boston, Massachusetts.
- Portland, Oregon.
- Claremont, California.

A list of units pending their election results:

- London, Ontario.
- Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Fargo, North Dakota.
- Cincinnati, Ohio.



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- Stillwater, Oklahoma.
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Attempts to open new units at the following locations:

- Vancouver, British Columbia.
- Tucson, Arizona.
- Provo, Utah.
- Memphis, Tennessee.
- Athens, Ohio.

Tamer then pointed out that the number of units is declining. He also emphasized on keeping the updated databases for all these members is instrumental to the function of ESANA projects like the SINA, ERS and ESA-LINK. He also encouraged for expanding the current database of Egyptian professors in North America.

At the end of his presentation, Tamer Mahmoud announced the winners of the best unit awards. The Edmonton unit at Alberta, Canada won the first place. The units at Texas A&M and at Michigan State split the prize of second place. Amir Eissa, the Edmonton unit president then gave a synopsis about the unit activities and contributions to ESANA projects.

Session VI: ESANA Media Officer's report:

Abdel-Fattah Mady, ESANA Media officer, presented this session. He summarized the duties of the media officer to be as follows:

- To prepare the ESA Media Plan this includes both propagating Egypt and ESANA to all concerned students and officials.
- To implement the ESANA Media Plan.
- To contact and correspond to national and international media related agencies and events.
- To manage and promote all Media assets and activities of the ESANA such as Newspapers, mobile exhibitions, media campaigns about the ESANA, etc...
- Chief Editor of the VESA magazine (Voice of the Egyptian Student Association), and responsible for its production and distribution.



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- Chief Editor of the EC Newsletter.

Abdel-Fattah then discussed some of the challenges over the past year. He pointed out that there were so many events that needed to be addressed and that there was a lack of resources, money and experience. He specifically expressed his disappointment from the lack of ESANA members' participation.

ESANA mobile exhibition was requested by seven units this past year, six of which were from the US and one was from Canada. Abdel-Fattah emphasized that the current exhibition need to be updated and pointed out that some unit presidents lose items of the exhibition.

Abdel-Fattah then outlined national and international events that ESANA has responded to in the past year. Among these events was the Hijab issue in France, the assassination of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the Death of Yasser Arafat and the Rafah attack on Egyptian soldiers. Abdel-Fattah had also responded to ESANA members who were concerned about other local, regional and international events.

Three ESANA newsletters were issued this past year. The newsletters included EC activities and news, ESANA community news, ESANA announcements and acknowledgments. Abdel-Fattah recommended that the newsletters need to be further developed and that more cooperation from the EC and units members was required.

Abdel-Fattah has also played a fundamental role in writing ESANA memos to officials in Egypt. He helped with the rest of the EC in working out members' problems and presented suggestions, ideas and mechanisms to amend ESANA constitutions and bylaws.

Suggestions were then made to improve the performance of the media office. Abdel-Fattah pointed out that ESANA needs to purchase more media materials, to find a sponsor for VESA and a more active Media campaign. He also pointed out that since there are many events need to be addressed, it would be better if the media officer addressed the political and social events brought up by ESANA members. Also there were suggestions to make printable poster presentations to introduce Egypt to non-Egyptians. . It was also suggested to print brochures about ESANA and send them to Egypt to be handed out to students who are coming to North America from the Ministry of Higher Education. There were suggestions concerning increasing the budget for buying media materials from \$100 to \$500 a year.



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Session VII: ESANA Social Officer Report:

This session was presented by Mohamed Ibrahim, ESANA social officer. He began the presentation by outlining the regulations for social fund reimbursements. In brief, the social fund covers 35% of paid medical bills uncovered by the health insurance with a limit of \$120 for the single members and \$150 for the married member. There are also \$50 gift certificates for newborn babies.

Mohamed then described in detail deposits made to the social fund account:

- Opening balance from 2002/03 \$ 856.1

- ECEB deposit
 - Dec., 2003 \$ 2,000
 - Jan., 2004 \$ 1,000
 - May, 2004 \$ 2,000
 - June, 2004 \$ 1,000
- Opening of US bank account \$ 110.3

- ESANA deposit
 - Oct., 2004 \$ 2,000
 - Nov., 2004 \$ 1,000
 - Dec., 2004 \$ 500

.....
Total inflow \$ 10,466.4

He then itemizes the cash outflow as follows:

- Checks cashed by 04/30/2004 \$ 739.31
 - From the 03/04 social fund
- Checks issued and cashed by 12/25/2004 \$ 8,268.23
 - From the 03/04 social fund
- Checks issued and/or not cashed yet \$ 909.16
(By Dec. 25th)



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- Money Remained after the Riggs bank Account closing \$ 497.13
 - Check printing charge \$ 15.95
-

Total outflow (12/25/04) \$ 10,429.78

Mohamed then showed the number of members who had benefited from the social fund; a total of 95 members, 38 from Canada and 57 from the US. Mohamed then suggested having more funds available for eye glasses. He ended the presentation by thanking the members and apologizing for any delays in issuing the checks.

Session VIII: ESANA Treasurer Report:

This session was presented by Mohamed El-Feky, ESANA Treasurer. Mohamed started by outlining ESANA balance summary as follows:

Opening Balance	\$855.64
Total Income	\$28,384.54
Total Outcome	-\$10,862.37
Current Balance	\$18,377.81

Details for total income were as follows:

Income	
ECEB USA	\$9,000.00
ECEB Canada	\$1,585.41
Helwan U.	\$7,826.13



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Menia U.	\$9,973.00
\$28,384.54	

Details for total outcome were as follows:

Outcome	
Social Fund	\$3,500.00
Book Campaign	\$6,169.73
Miscellaneous	\$209.39
Offices Expenses	\$983.25
\$10,862.37	

Each of these expenses was detailed as follows:

Book Campaign (Helwan)	
Final Shipment	\$2,430.00
Hesham Ismail	\$446.38
Purdue	\$134.19
\$3,010.57	

Book Campaign (Menia)	
Alberta	\$2,000.00
Shipments	\$325.27
Auburn	\$833.89



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\$3,159.16

Offices Expenses	
President	\$698.99
Media Officer	\$167.06
Treasurer	\$57.79
Science Officer	\$34.99
Social Officer	\$24.42
	\$983.25

Mohamed ended his presentation by apologizing for delays in issuing any checks to members. Mohamed was also the manager for the 7th ESANA Book Campaign. He was awarded a certificate of appreciation by ESANA EC for his outstanding efforts as book campaign manager.

Tamer Awad commented that there should be a separation in the outflow between buying equipment and offices expenses for example among the presidents' office expenses there was almost \$350 for buying a new 4 in one fax machine. A suggestion about starting fund raising campaign was also made.

Session IX: The US Department of State Representative session:

The US Department of State representative, Dr. Reynolds, presented this session. He started by thanking the audience specially, Dr. Othman Sheneshen as one of the leaders of NSF and the Department of State Science, Technology and Engineering Division. He introduced to the audience the Division of Science & Technology in the US Department of State, why it was developed and the impact of the US foreign policy before and after September 11th attacks on collaborations in the fields of Science and Technology. He also emphasized the division's aim as to how to keep open but safe and secure borders.

The speaker mentioned how science and scientists play a fundamental role in shaping the relations between nations. He chose to speak about the role of engineers and engineering



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and how they affect the infrastructure of civilization for mankind. He also emphasized that although the United States is recognized as the giant in the field of science, technology and engineering, no nation in the world has monopoly over knowledge.

He ended by addressing his own knowledge of Islam, the foundations of the Islamic culture, Ijtihad and the golden era of Islam in the fields of science and technology. He became interested in acquiring this knowledge especially after September 11th attacks and in an attempt to further understand the relation between Islam and the west.

Following this session were some questions and comments by some members of the audience, most importantly about the difficulty of issuing visas for international students and scholars who come to conduct research and attend conferences. Dr. Reynolds replied by saying that this is why this unit of Science & Technology was developed in the US Department of State so as to facilitate the issuing of visas to people who are experts in various fields to come. There have been suggestions in the division to issue blank visas to international scholars who have to come regularly to attend conferences in the United States. At the end of the session a recommendation was made to keep up regular meetings between Mr. Reynolds, ECEB officials and ESANA EC on regular annual basis.

GA Theme Session:

Challenges of Scientific Research in Egypt and the Role of Egyptian Scholars Abroad

This is the first time for an ESANA GA meeting history to have a main theme. The key issues discussed were as follows:

- (1) The need of scientific research planning or mapping that connects our community needs with the fundamental research requirements.
- (2) Scientific needs as affected by GATT application.
- (3) Practical policies, procedures, mechanisms or programs that can be implemented to encourage U.S. and Canadian-trained researchers and scholars to involve in the scientific research process in Egypt.
- (4) Realistic ways by which Egyptian researchers and scholars abroad can help in the scientific research and development process in Egypt.
- (5) Future of scientific research in Egypt.

The following guest keynote speakers contributed to this session:

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- Dr. Mansour Mohamed (Professor Emeritus of Textile Engineering, North Carolina State University, NC, USA; Founder and Chief Scientific Officer 3TEX, Inc., Cary, NC 27511, USA)
- Dr. Othman Sheneshen (NSF Reviewer for grants directed towards the Middle East).
- Conference call with Dr. Sherif Eissa (former Chairman of The National Center of Scientific Research in Egypt).

Dr. Mohamed started this session by thanking the audience specially Dr. Bazaraa, Dr. Gomaa and Dr. Sheneshen. Dr. Mohamed started his presentation by talking about the role and benefit of scientific research which is to help in prospering communities, nations and mankind. He emphasized that the proper environment must be provided to encourage scientific research. He outlined the details of this environment; it is necessary to have proper and well-trained research administration, facilities and equipment. Trained technical support personnel and proper programs for maintenance of equipment should be available. More money must be spent to accomplish all that and to allow scientists to attend research conferences worldwide. Publishing is very important, Dr. Mohamed said, and having those publications available for worldwide peer review. An adequate reward system as well as intellectual property protection programs must be established.

Dr. Mohamed then outlined the reforms needed for research and graduate education in Egypt. He proposed to have directed long term research plans and to establish collaborations with industry and government research centers. He underscored that quality rather than quantity should be the basis for recognition. He also proposed to revise faculty appointment, promotion and reward systems.

Intellectual property was Dr. Mansour's next point. Research centers should encourage inventors and secure their inventions. To do so he proposed the following:

- Establish a register for patents.
- Streamline the patent application system.
- Establish special education for patent attorneys.
- Establish the legal system for patent litigation.
- Create new Positions for licensing of inventions at research centers and Universities.



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The role of Egyptian scholars abroad is crucial to the development of Egypt. Dr. Mohamed outlined his vision of how they can contribute to that. The scholars abroad should:

- Participate in joint research projects with their Egyptian counterparts.
- Jointly direct graduate students' research.
- Provide Post Doc fellowships to recent graduates.
- Help establish industry specialized exchange groups to share knowledge and experience.
- Help establish scientific journals for publication of research results.
- Offer of consulting services to government and industry as needed.

Dr. Mansour ended his talk by making the following recommendations as guidelines:

- In order to enhance progress, scientific research should be at the top of the national priorities.
- Overhaul the rules governing research communities.
- Improve the quality of life for researchers.
- Create a core competency in the administration of research departments.
- Create a new system for evaluating and rewarding research and development.
- Establish a plan to take advantage of Egyptian experts overseas.
- Establish a national board to foster the commercialization of new technology to drive progress.

Dr. Othman Sheneshen, was the next speaker. He started his talk by acknowledging ESANA for inviting him. Dr. Sheneshen began speaking about the NSF programs for Egypt and the Middle East being in charge of NSF programs that are directed towards this region. "There is nothing called free lunch" he said, aiming at how the NSF approves the grant money for proposals that they receive. He reads a lot of proposals in various fields of Science and Technology and sends them out to reviewers to judge whether it's worth funding or not.

Dr. Sheneshen spoke a little about himself mentioning when he came to the States with a government scholarship. He chose not to continue benefiting from government money that could be otherwise spent on the needy Egyptian citizens.

He started talking about that Egypt has a special program with NSF called "Gore-Mubarak" agreement where funds are set aside for projects and proposals that are sent



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from Egypt. Sadly but truly, he said that among all the proposals that he reviews from the Middle East, the ones from Egypt are far below average compared with proposals coming from other countries in the region. He thinks that this may be due to the fact that Egyptian professors lack the skills of writing a proposal and being specific about what they want to study or investigate.

Dr. Sheneshen on the other hand mentioned that the Research Institute in Helwan is the best in Egypt and may be one of the best in the Middle East. The reason for that, he said is that the Dean of this Institute in Egypt is a very dynamic person. He ended his talk afterwards to leave room for discussions and questions.

One of the most important comments that were said was by Hatem Seliem who mentioned the idea of constructing what he called “Special Research Units” in Egypt for those who have earned their PhD’s abroad. He suggested that the government have no control over these units so that they could work freely and be able to be self-funded and generate good meaningful research.

While trying to contact Dr. Faruq Elbaz for a conference call, Dr. Mohamed commented on the various questions and comments that were raised by attendees. Egyptians are very good people with very sharp minds. They excel as individuals but can’t maintain the same standards as groups, said Dr. Mohamed. He also mentioned the need for a research system or a plan; otherwise we no progress will be achieved.

In the mean time Abdel-Fattah Mady this session’s moderator took the chance to summarize the comments and questions that were received via email for this session. He covered two main points; the first is the contradiction between the portrayed image of the educational progress as it is done by the officials in Egypt and the real image as far as research and development. The second is the comparison between Egypt and other developing countries like India and Pakistan that are moving forward with quick steps not only in research and development but also politically and improving their standards of living as well.

Dr. Mohamed added a quick comment about the educational system in Egypt that it was a complete wreck not only in the early stages of education but in universities and colleges as well. He proposed taking some decisive actions to reform the whole education system.

Dr. Bazaraa then gave a short comment that was rather optimistic about what’s been done as far as research and development, especially in his area of research, Hydrology and



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Water Sciences. He pointed out that some researchers in Egypt who have the initiative can do a lot and can overcome the difficulties facing them. He mentioned the presence of Special Research Units in some departments which are compiled of university professors that are very successful and competitive in the market referring to how university faculty members can earn extra money that way. He also talked about other special interdisciplinary diplomas that can be considered again as another source of extra income for university professors. Moreover he mentioned other programs that fund research like USAID, Ministry of Irrigation, National Bank and the nations of the Common European Market.

Dr. Bazaraa ended by basically saying that with our individual initiative we could sell our expertise to many agencies or universities and research institutes to promote research and development in our fields of research in Egypt.

Dr. Gomaa then talked about the reasons why the educational system in Egypt is degrading, which can be attributed to the lack of short and long term planning.

On the bright side however, Dr. Gomaa said that for Alexandria University in which he had served for many years, there is what he called a Strategic Program that is currently going which is being funded by the Fulbright committee. He also mentioned that the Fulbright committee came to Alexandria University and gave a seminar on how to write a proposal to be able to get the funds for research.

Dr. Gomaa clearly declared that we are not going anywhere by making demands to the government to increase the budget for scientific research, the reason being is that Egypt is a country with limited resources. Our Economy will not improve, especially after the GATT agreement is in effect. Therefore the researchers should seek seriously grants from sources other than the government to be able to pursue good research and development that of course needs more than what the government is offering.

He ended his talk by suggesting that in Egypt we should pay more attention to interdisciplinary education, teamwork, and that evaluation of research should be based on quality not quantity. The current system of promotions in Egypt to faculty members is based on the number of research papers submitted not on their quality hinders teamwork because researchers working on the same project even if it was huge will receive partial credit only not full credit for their work on this particular research paper.

It was time for Dr. Sherif Eissa's conference call (Former Chairman of The National



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Center of Scientific Research in Egypt); he began his short talk by congratulating everybody on Eidul Adha and immediately started talking about the scientific research in Egypt, its problems and what we need to do about it.

He started by saying that faith is a very important factor in succeeding in what we want to do. He said that scientific research should be the number one national issue in Egypt simply because power these days is not attained by abundance of resources but by abundance of knowledge. “Our youth should return Egypt to its original status among the world’s nations in exporting technology”, he strongly emphasized.

Dr. Eissa made a very important point about the reasons of defects of scientific research. Clearly he mentioned that it is not due to lack of funding only but mainly due to the lack of planning and research strategies. Without a research plan we really wouldn’t know how to spend on research, “it’s like building a tower or a building without knowing the details or the map of what we want to build”, he said.

He pointed out that a research plan was conducted in The National Center of Scientific Research in collaboration with a lot of faculty members in Egypt in a huge gathering that was never done before. They focused on nine technological fields and at the end they produced twenty nine books including all the fields that are involved and how many points of research that are needed. Of course the interdisciplinary fields emerged and they found out that in Egypt we lack those fields. To make the plan very useful, they used international codes for each and every field of research.

In the discussion session with Dr. Eissa, Dr. Mohamed suggested to Dr. Eissa that we need to establish the coordination between the Egyptian University and the foreign University to which the missions’ student conducts his research to comply with the Technological Map which would ultimately benefit our country Egypt.

Session X: The Book Campaign Manager’s Report:

This session was presented jointly by Mohamed El Feky, the manager of the 7th Book Campaign that was sent to Helwan University and Hatem Harraz, the manager of the current 8th Book Campaign that will be sent to Minya University.

Mohamed El-Feky started his presentation by providing general information about the project. The 7th Book Campaign was hosted at Purdue University, IN. After being turned down by Ain Shams University and then Zagazig University, Helwan University officials



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expressed their interest to receive the books for the second year in a row.

The following is a list of all the contributors to this campaign:

University / Society Name	# Boxes	Area	Contact Person	
American Chemical Society	100	Chemistry	Hesham Ismail	
		47	American Chemical Society	
		12	United States Naval Academy	
		1	Aventis Pharmaceuticals Inc.	
		8	AT&T Research Labs	
		3	Roche Diagnostics Corporation	
		17	Abbott Laboratories	
		4	Air Products and Chemicals Inc.	
		1	University of Iowa	
		7	GE Research Labs	
Mississippi State University	54	Miscellaneous	Emad Elgiar	
Kansas State University	45	Miscellaneous	Mohamed Awadalla	
University of Cincinnati	40	Miscellaneous	Mohamed Hassan	
University of Florida	30	Miscellaneous	Gamal Riad	
Iowa State University	28	Miscellaneous	Hesham Ismail	
University of Pittsburgh	20	Miscellaneous	Khaled Mohamed	
University of Ottawa	19	Miscellaneous	Ahmed Nouh	
Purdue University	15	2	Physics	Gehad Sadiék
		1	Computer Science	Mohamed Elfeky
		6	Nursing	Ibrahim Aly
		5	Miscellaneous	Ibrahim Aly
		1	Chemistry	Ahmed Elawa
University of Alberta	14	Civil Engineering	Wael Elghandour	
Project HOPE	12	Miscellaneous	Hesham Ismail	
University of Minnesota	7	Miscellaneous	Mahrous Kandil	
Texas A&M University	5	Electrical Engineering	Ahmed Nader	
Individuals	4	Physics Journal	Rachel Lum	
Northeastern University	4	Miscellaneous	Aaya Nassar	
Auburn University	4	Miscellaneous	Tamer Awad	
West Virginia University	4	Miscellaneous	Mohamed Salem	
University of Michigan at Ann Arbor	3	Miscellaneous	Khaled Sallam	
University of Tulsa	3	Miscellaneous	Aly Elsemary	
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign	3	Miscellaneous	Khaled Ibrahim	
Carelton University	2	Economics	Ghada Mohamed	



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State University of New York at Buffalo	1	Miscellaneous	Mohamed Ibrahim
Claremont Graduate University	1	Miscellaneous	Abdel Fattah Mady

Hatem Harraz who is the manager of the current Book Campaign which is being hosted at Auburn University; AL. Al-Minya University was chosen to receive these books. Al-Minya University was the first to deposit the money for the expenses of the project beforehand. This facilitated the execution of the project and is probably, by far, the largest ESANA Book Campaign ever.

The following is a list of all the contributors to the 8th Book Campaign:

University / Society Name	# Boxes	Area	Contact Person	
<u>American Chemical Society</u> Most of the journals issued by American Chemical Society (more than those listed down) and some of these periodicals go to 1929 through 2000. around 12 Tons, the estimate price is not less than \$ 465,000	930	Chemistry & Science		
		720	130 Ib weight box (considered as 5 boxes) each with Miscellaneous Journals	
		210	50 Ib weight box (considered as 2 boxes) each with either Journals or the Microfilms of Journals	
<u>American Chemical Society</u> 14 Different Journals issues years 2001 - 2004 plus Chemistry in Contacts Connections, 13 huge CD's (<i>Energy, Polymers, Water, Air & Food</i>) All these Boxes (61) their weight range from 30 Ib to 50 Ib the estimate price of the Journals \$ 35,000	61	Chemistry	Hesham Ismail	
		23	Chemistry Journal [2001-2004]	
		6	Jr. of Physical Chemistry [2001-2004]	
		2	Inorganic Chemistry Jr. [2001]	
		1	Organometalic Jr. [2004]	
		1	Biochemistry Jr. [2001]	
		1	Environmental S&T Jr. [2003]	
		2	Macromolecules Jr. [2001-2003]	
		1	Jr. of Agriculture & Food Chem. [2002]	
		1	Medicinal Chemistry Jr. [2003]	
		2	Analytical Chemistry Jr. [2001]	
		1	Teaching Chemistry	
		1	Biochemistry Jr.	
3	Langmuir Jr.			



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		1	Chemistry of Materials Jr. [2003]	
		3	Chemical Materials Jr. [2003]	
		3	Jr. of Organic Chemistry [2002, 2004]	
		2	Langmuir Jr. [2003, 2004]	
		3	Jr. of American Chemical Society [2003]	
		1	Organic Proc. R&D Jr. [2002]	
		3	Miscellaneous Journals	
<u>PNAS, Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, Washington DC:</u> 25 Boxes contains weigh around 40 Ib each, the rough estimate for these journals is \$ 15,000.	25		Miscellaneous Scientific Journals	PNAS c/o AIP
University of New York, Ithaca, NY	3		Miscellaneous	Abdou A. Rahim
Santa Clara University, Dept of Chem. Santa Clara, California	14		Inorganic Chemistry Jr.& others Miscellaneous Jr.	No Info.
University of Cincinnati	150		Miscellaneous	
Georgia Tech Univer.	10		<i>Not shipped yet</i>	
Dorval, QC Canada	1		Miscellaneous	Derek Mclachlin
Cambridge, MA	1		Miscellaneous	
Cary, NC	2		Jr. of American Chem Society (1996)	John Lampe, PhD
Morris Plains, NJ	12		Jr. of Amer. Chem. Soci., Jr. of Organic Chemi & Environmental Scien. & Tech	Herbert S. Skovrunek, PhD
Auburn University	16	9	American Jr. of Physiology	Tamer Awad
		4	Industrial & Eng. Chemistry	Hatem Harraz
		3	Miscellaneous	Sherif Aboelenin
Bethesda, MD	6		Environmental Scien. & Tech	David Wagger, PhD
Jenez Spring, NM	2		Jr. C & EN 03-04, Chem Review 95,96 & JOC Vol 60	Wendy C. Bisset
Houston, TX.	1		Miscellaneous	Aaya Nassar
Manhattan, KS	2		Miscellaneous	Ayman Ahmad
Edgewood CB Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD	3		Miscellaneous Journals	No Info.



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Experiment, GA	7	Applied & Enviro. Microbiology and other Scientific Journals	No. Info
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There were suggestions by the audience to pay more attention to the quality of the journals and periodicals being sent. The quantity in tons is not significant if they are not peer-reviewed journals. The managers replied by saying that they do their best in trying to label the boxes and keep an inventory of the books, journals and periodicals they have.

The Recommendations Session:

This session was presented by Tamer Awad, who classified the recommendations into two categories. First category related to next ESANA Executive Committee (EC), while the second category related to the Egyptian officials to address ESANA members' problems.

Recommendations to the next EC members:

- The need for a professional web designer that will enhance ESANA's web page and make it more resourceful.
- Bylaws reform and amendments to move along with the new circumstances that ESANA encounters.
- Gathering membership fees annually.
- Starting scientific instruments campaign project for scientific instruments and devices that are being set to retirement in some labs not for being defective and sending those to labs in Egypt.
- Finding more sources of funding like donations and planning fundraisings, especially after the fact that ESANA is not receiving support from the Sadat's Endowment nowadays.
- Reduction of the social support a little bit due to the shortage of money.
- Following up and updating the various ESANA projects like the Book Campaign, ESA-LINK, ERS, etc.



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Recommendations from ESANA to the officials in Egypt:

- The fifth year extension to mission students either in a general sense or on a case by case basis.
- The practical training, which is mentioned in details in the session of the problems facing ESANA.
- Health insurance coverage and returning expenses for self-financed students and their families.
- The time taken to evaluate the degree achieved by the self-financed students upon returning to Egypt, takes a longer time than the time taken to evaluate the degree achieved by the mission students although both of them are under the supervision of the Cultural & Educational Bureau. The only difference is that the self-financed student saved the Egyptian government some money.
- The other problems that are mentioned in the earlier session of “Problems Facing ESANA”, by Tamer Awad.

ESANA EC Elections (2005/2006):

Results of the elections for the new executive committee:

President: Tamer Mahmoud

Vice President: Amir Eissa

Media Officer: Nader Elmarhoumi

Science Officer: Hatem Seliem

Units Officer: Mohamed Fahmy

Social Officer: Amr Saeb

Treasurer: Mohamed Yousef