



EGYPTIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION
IN NORTH AMERICA (ESANA)

إتحاد الدارسين المصريين بأمریکا الشمالية

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ESANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ANNUAL MEETING REPORT
(GA 2007), January 13th –15th, 2007

The General Assembly of *the Egyptian Student Association in North America* (ESANA-GA) held its annual meeting on January 13th to January 15th, 2007 at *the Egyptian Cultural and Educational Bureau (ECEB)* in Washington D.C., USA.

Attendees:

- *Mr. Nabil Fahmy*, the Ambassador of Egypt to USA.
- *Dr. Abdallah Bazaraa*, Cultural Counselor of Egypt in the USA.
- *Hatem Seliem*, ESANA President.
- *Ahmed El-Yazbi*, ESANA Units' Affairs and Coordination Officer
- *Nasr El-Bahnasawy*, ESANA Media Officer.
- *Amin Akhnoukh*, ESANA Social Affairs Officer.
- *Ashraf Shalaby*, ESANA Treasurer.
- ESANA Project Managers, Presidents and Representatives of the ESANA units in USA and Canada.

The Opening Ceremony:

The ESANA president, Hatem Seliem, started the opening ceremony by welcoming all attendees and appreciating the attendance of Mr. Nabil Fahmy, the Egyptian ambassador to USA. Then, he greeted the attendance for Eid El Adha and the Christian Holy Days.

Dr. Abdallah Bazaraa, the Cultural Counselor of Egypt in the USA, on behalf of Dr. Hany Helal (the Minister of Higher Education), sent his greetings to all students and wished a full success to this annual meeting. Also, Dr. Bazaraa conveyed greetings from Dr. Ali Ezzat Salama, the Cultural Counselor of Egypt in the Canada who apologized for not attending because of some health problems, to all the attendance. He said that it is a



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real chance to contact the students in North America, to activate the ESANA organization. Dr. Bazaraa introduced the members of the Cultural and Educational Bureau, Dr. Maha Kamel, Dr. Mohamed Hamza, Mr. Hesham Ahmed, Mr. Mahir Eid ,Miss Eman, and Madam Amal El Sebaay . Then, Dr. Bazaraa gave couple of minutes for the attendance to introduce themselves.

Dr. Bazaraa pointed out that the problems of the education are the main concern of Minister of Higher Education. He mentioned that there are seventeen public universities and thirteen private universities that accept about 30% of the people within the age 18 to 23 years in Egypt. The target is to reach about 50%.

The Ministry of Higher Education plans are to start new universities and its main focus is the quality of the graduate. Also, it needs to focus on the aspects of qualities, language, information technology and ethics. Also, the Ministry of Higher Education discussed the idea of Research Foundations, and the competition between the professors in the universities to obtain research funds.

The main concern of the conference for research that has been held in Egypt in the year 2005 was to make the research helpful in the different fields. For example, the Ministry of Industry has given 100 million Pounds for the industrial research.

Dr. Bazaraa talked about the role that the Cultural Bureau plays in Washington DC. Not only does it serve the students in USA, but also, solves their problems and tries to increase the number of students in USA. He mentioned that there are 850 students most of them are Ph.D. students. 150 are financed from the Egyptian Government Missions Department, 185 are either joint supervision for one year or on sabbaticals, and 450 are self financed. We can easily notice that 50% are self financed. The number of student who came to USA from Jan 2006 to Dec 2006 reached 275 students. He said that there is an increase in student number from 2001 to 2006. He added that 50% of the self financed students study Computer science and Engineering.

He said that the Ministry of Higher Education spends 8.2 million dollars annually on students in USA. Yet he said that the ranking of countries according to the number of students in USA is India, china, Korea, and the first country from the Middle East is Turkey in the 8th position.

However, there are many Egyptian Scientists in America. Many belong to an association called the American Egyptian Scientists (AES). There are trials to contact Dr.



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Amar El Ahraf. (Head of the AES) in order to connect it with the ESANA .One of the example of the benefits we can get from our scientists in American is the co-operation between the universities. For example, there are cooperation programs in Virginia Tech University with Cairo University, Ain-Shams University, Arab Academy, Alexandria University and Helwan University. The program started with the fields of Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Electronics. In addition, there is a program in Colorado State University in the field of Civil Engineering.

An important aspect for having Egyptian students is the usual social role; we play a good role in showing the real image of Egypt to America, especially the modern culture. We should try to change the bad idea about Arabs and the Middle East area.

Finally, we have to admit that the huge size of the USA makes it difficult to keep track of every Egyptian student. So the ESANA should play a role in communicating with students in USA and Canada. Feed us back for any scientific or social problems. There will be 850 hands that help us.

Then, Mr. Nabil Fahmy, Ambassador of Egypt to the United States began his speech by emphasizing his strong desire to attend this meeting to confirm the message that all Egyptian institutions working abroad are aiming to serve Egyptians wherever they are, and to achieve the general Egyptian goals. He mentioned that he is not going to talk about the educational problem. He said that he will try to discuss the relations between Egypt and USA.

First, regarding the relation between Egyptian and USA, he noticed through the seven years he spent in USA the difference between the Egyptian and the American societies. The Egyptian society loves to maintain stability. The American society likes to change. He said that he faced a challenge as representative how to explain a long time commitment to a society that believes in short goals. This was the main problem.

Second, Iraq's problem, the Americans didn't think what will happen after the war and the proof of this that the president of USA said that he himself thought that after entering Iraq , the election will be done in no time. Egypt was not on Sadam Hussein's side, but in the same time we did not agree to enter Iraq without a decision from UN Security Council.



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Mr. Nabil Fahmy talked about the American idea about Egypt. He added that we need to change the Americans view; we need to use our Egyptian scientists and students abroad to convey the ideas of all the Egyptians to the American society representing all the directions in Egypt as long as the Egyptians show themselves as civilized people who can discuss different issues rationally. Then, he emphasized the importance of cooperation between ESANA and EAS.

Afterwards, *Mr. Nabil Fahmy* opened the floor for questions. One of the students asked *Mr. Nabil Fahmy* the Egyptian efforts to convey the Middle Eastern opinion to the US and whether the Egyptian role in the area shrunk. *Mr. Nabil Fahmy* responded that Egypt is the oldest country in the area with all the establishments of a proper country. There are newer and more recent countries in the area, so Egypt is no longer the only player. So the pioneer role should now stem from advances in the way of thinking. In addition Egypt suffered very bad economic problems that severely affected the foreign policy. However, there is an improvement in the current time. Meanwhile, there is no other country in the region that plays a role in the many diverse issues that Egypt is involved in. He added that all the students must participate in any chance to attend gatherings with other parties and show his own opinion.

Another question was about the UN and whether this organization is no longer representing the interests of Egyptians and Arabs, and whether there could be a change in this situation. *Mr. Nabil Fahmy* replied that the developing countries have not yet changed their policies from the bipolar world situation. He emphasized that withdrawal from these organizations is not a solution. However, a positive effort in balancing the benefits is very important and rejection of the ideas of the other will not help however will lead to exclusion from the international society. He added that the UN failed only politically but there are other fields like economy and health in which the UN efforts are significant.

A question about the consular services offered and how there are disparities between the different consulates and embassies. In addition, there is also a question about the machine readable passport requirement during traveling and there was a question about accelerating this process and giving the priority to Egyptians in North America. *Mr. Nabil Fahmy* replied that now all the fees for the services have been unified. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign affairs now is working to unify all the formats for instructions all over the world on the websites of the embassies. Machine readable



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passports are currently being considered for production and the priority will be given for Egyptians living outside Egypt, however, in the short term period, it will be financially not feasible to have machine-readable passports produced outside Egypt.

The ambassador was asked if there was a governmental plan to make a good use of the Egyptian Researchers outside Egypt and how Egypt is going to receive the benefits from the investment it made in those people. The ambassador replied that Egypt is in a transition state and that there has been certain circumstances leading to an economic problem. Egypt is trying to do the best that can be achieved, if we cannot make use of people educated abroad, that does not mean that we should stop send people to be educated. In the mean time, we should try to improve the conditions in Egypt to make the true use of the skills we have. He also added that there should be more contribution from private sector investments in research. He added that compared to five years before, the conditions are now better for researchers in Egypt.

In a question about the Palestinian issue, the ambassador was asked whether there is an Egyptian bias towards a certain party and whether that Arab countries must relinquish democracy since it brought an Islamic current in Palestine. The ambassador replied that the Palestinians are required to accomplish an impossible situation since they are required to establish a totally transparent democracy under occupation. However, they succeeded in moving in very good steps towards that. He added that the Egyptian government respects the choice of the Palestinians and the outcome of the elections but that does not mean that the Egyptian government has to agree with all the decisions of the Palestinian government. The Palestinian-Palestinian struggle is a very sad situation that should not occur especially under the occupation.

Finally, there was a question about the other strata of the Egyptian society especially the poorer people and whether there were measures to protect their interests. *Mr. Nabil Fahmy* replied that social and political reform in Egypt has two main problems. First, the society in Egypt is used to centralization of decision on all levels. The improvement should not come from the government but rather from the citizens. Second, we always assume that we should agree on everything. However, in Egypt there is a state of political reform. None of the parties in Egypt is guaranteed to be right in all aspects. Disagreement is allowed. Every citizen is invited to show his own opinion and his ideas. The transfer from absolute centralization to absolute democracy cannot take place instantly.



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The ambassador concluded saying that the embassy is trying to improve the availability of news and material about Egypt to help promote the view about Egypt in the USA. The embassy webpage has been improved to include flyers and newsletters about Egypt. The Egyptian embassy strives to provide material for social and promotional activities.

Finally, Hatem Seliem thanked the ambassador and the audience and hoped the ambassador will be able to attend the meeting next year.

I. GA MainTheme Session:

➤ ***The keynote speakers of this session are:***

- ***Dr. Maged Othman, Chairman of the Cabinet Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC)(phone conference).***
- ***Dr. Hany Helal, Minister of High Education and Scientific Research (phone conference).***

➤ ***The main issues discussed in this session are:***

- Are there any plans to make use of the Egyptian scientists returning to Egypt?
- What is the new vision for the universities in Egypt?
- Is there any chance that we can approve the courses taken in US and Canada to be equivalent to those required for promotion in Egypt?

Hatem Seliem organized this session by asking the members to hear *Dr. Maged Othman*, and then they will be allowed to ask any question they want. He also asked the members to ask specific questions so that we can make the best use of time.

Hatem Seliem started the call by asking if there is a method to make use from the returning students who finished their PhD or Master from North America.

Dr. Maged Othman started his talk by mentioning that one of the main interests of the IDSC is to maintain contact with the students, not only when they return to Egypt, but also while they are doing their studies and that their opinions are important for Egypt. He



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talked about the website of the Cabinet Information and Decision Support Center "<http://www.idsc.gov.eg/>" and he asked everyone who wish to participate to enter this website and write their opinion. This will help the Cabinet Information and Decision Support Center to know the opinion of the students and scientists in North America. The IDSC works on a project to form a view for Egypt in the future and that the input of the Egyptian students is required to help formulate this view. He added that Egypt did not make the best benefit from the Egyptian communities abroad and from the students educated abroad. There is a huge challenge in certain fields where there is a big lag between Egypt and North America.

Dr. Maged was asked if there is a statistical study for number of students in USA and Canada. Also, if there is an accurate number of how many students return to Egypt and the fraction of financial support to research in Egypt. He replied that there are accurate numbers for students who are studying in North America in the Ministry of Higher Education. He added that the government should set priorities for spending on research and select the fields in which Egypt has a comparative advantage. He added that the research should be looked at as a commodity and that the society should agree that spending on research is not luxurious. Finally, spending on research should project results on the economy to prove that it has a return on the society and reality in Egypt.

Dr. Maged was asked if there was a plan to improve the selection of the fields of study especially for the students funded by the Missions Department in order to make the best use of the educated individuals that have received governmental funding. He replied that this can be covered in Government funded missions but not the self-funded students. Another question was about filing of the fields of study abroad and why the educated students are not in a database to help finding them when needed. He replied that there is a Database of names of every Assistant Professor returning to Egypt in addition to all the professors in Egypt. This database will help them collect more information about the scientists and will allow easier contact. He said he was willing to send the available information and the link to this database so that ESANA members can register themselves in it.

Finally, Hatem Seliem expressed gratitude for Dr. Maged for participation in ESANA's session.

Then, *Ahmed El-Yazbi*, ESANA Units' Affairs and Coordination Officer 2006 and *Amin Akhnoukh*, ESANA Social Affairs Officer 2006 mentioned the problems they faced



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in the last year trying to establish a student database. There has always been a reluctance of the Egyptian students to participate in the ESANA activities. Egyptian students can contribute very little positive efforts that can boost ESANA activities. The participation cannot be forced because ESANA activities are all voluntary. *Mohamed Ibrahim* pointed out that social relationships between Egyptians are not very good and that is a main contributing factor to the negativity of the Egyptians. Also, the Egyptian mindset is mainly to look for the benefits with little or no efforts. *Ahmed El-Yazbi* pointed out that the main problem is not in the Egyptian character but rather that there is no general system to bring the people together and make the best use of the human resources that we have.

Then *Hatem Selim* contacted *Dr. Hany Helal* and asked him to provide his comments about the new law for universities in Egypt and if there were measures to make good use of students returning to Egypt. *Dr. Hany Helal* started his talk by greeting the Muslims and Christians for their holy Days. *Dr. Hany Helal* talked about the new law for universities in Egypt. He said that it is just a vision not a law to improve the quality of the graduate. He pointed out that it is high time to bring the issues and problems of higher education in Egypt into discussion. The educational system in Egypt has to be improved in order to be able to participate in the international system and compete. There are a number of disadvantages that emerged under the current laws. The present laws are old and were not formulated to fit the future. The economic operation of the universities is necessary to provide a high quality of education while keeping the low cost of education. The other part is to reorganize the different roles in the university between regulators, providers and auditors. He added that there are plans in the Ministry of higher education to select fields of study for Missions students that serve the needs of the country and allows good use of the returning student.

Afterwards the floor was opened for questions. A question about the establishment of a research funding agency was asked. The Minister replied that this project was advertised and is in process. Another question was about the salaries of university staff and whether they will be increased or whether the staff members should try to supplement their income by doing consultation jobs. The Minister said that there is a website collecting opinions about this issue. He added that there are no measures for reward or punishment. There is no incentive for productivity and all are treated similarly. He said that the proposed strategy is to increase the income of those who concentrate in



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doing there university-related tasks and show increased and sustained research and teaching productivity.

A following question was about the proposed increase in the salary schedule and that there were previous suggestions of four fold increases and the proposed strategy for appointment and whether promotions will be through new appointments. The minister replied that now there is no such thing as a salary schedule but rather an incentive to the productivity and the amount of increase is up for discussion according to the duties. He added that continuous follow up of productivity is required for promotion to guarantee continuous productivity and keep promotion based on competition and skills. He emphasized that this is the only way to maintain competitiveness of the Egyptian universities.

A question about courses to develop grant writing skills and developing a time frame for a scientific project was asked. The Minister said that there are similar courses given in Egypt in collaboration with the European Union. He added that there is another complete program ready for all the universities and research centers to make plans and assess success. A question about current rules that delay supplying the required material for research was asked. The Minister replied that this is a researcher planning problem and reflects a lack of awareness of laws. He said that the current laws allows for establishing a tender within five weeks. He added that the Ministry is trying to improve the current laws but there will always be governing rules.

Hatem Seliem wanted to convey five points to the Minister which are:

- Regarding the book campaign, ESANA's problem is to find a recipient for the book campaign. ESANA would like to transfer this project under the supervision of the Ministry that will choose the recipient. The Minister mentioned that it is the responsibility of the cultural bureau to arrange with the Ministry that will cover the shipping costs and assign the recipient university.
- Regarding practical training after completion of PhD, this training is considered as an important part of the study. The offered position requires the direct appointment after the PhD. If the student moved back to Egypt the transition abroad again will be very difficult. ESANA asked if the universities could allow the leave with no need for the student to go back to Egypt. The Minister answered that the law allows that but the candidates tend to extend this leave and the university in Egypt cannot



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benefit from him. He said that he supports the universities decision to allow or prevent this leave according to their needs because there are a lot of ill-intentions.

- Regarding the degree equivalency, the procedure takes a long time and requires a lot of documents and notarization. Also, the system is not fair and people coming back from the same university take significantly variable times for the equivalency. The Minister replied that the missions student degrees are equalized right away. He added that the procedure needs to protect against fraud. The procedure will be changed to an electronic procedure and the documents will be supplied directly from the university abroad.
- Regarding the teaching skills courses necessary for appointment as a lecturer in Egypt, some of the students in North America receive similar courses. ESANA would like to exempt the students receiving these courses from similar courses in Egypt. The Minister said that courses of similar contents can be waived.
- Regarding the ESANA, we would like to have more promotion of the ESANA especially in the missions department. We would like an official procedure of notifying the student about ESANA through the missions department before they come. The Minister said that this is the responsibility of the cultural bureau to notify the Missions Department officially and that the students sent are all sent through the cultural bureau. He also added that missions students have to go through preparatory courses before they leave.

Finally, *Hatem Seliem* thanked the Minister for his time and participation. He said that the conclusive report will have all the recommendations of the ESANA and hoped that the recommendations will be taken and considered by the Ministry as has been seen in the past.

II. Forming the GA Sub-committee:

* Open session, moderator: Tamer Awad;

In this session, the following committees were formed:



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- **ESANA Election Committee:**
 - 1- Hatem Salem.
 - 2- Hatem Harraz.
- **ESANA Budget Review Committee:**
 - 1- Ahmed Khalefa.
 - 2- Amr Mahros.
 - 3- Emad Abou Kila
- **ESANA Social Fund Review Committee:**
 - 1- Mohamed Ibrahim.
 - 2- Ahmed Sabry.
 - 3- Mohamed Wahba.



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III. Achievements of ESANA over the Past Year:

* Open session, moderator: *Hatem Salem*;

Hatem Salem, ESANA president, presented in this session an overview of the achievements of the ESANA during 2006 as will be detailed in the officers and project manager reports following. *Hatem Seliem* also highlighted the following topics:

A. ESANA's Mission and Duties:

- Represents ESANA.
- Oversees the implementation of the GA decisions.
- Attends to members' problems.
- Presides over ESANA EC meetings.
- Consults with other EC members.
- Informs members of all decisions.

Hatem also outlined ESANA projects; what they are, objectives, and projects:

- Book Campaign
- ESA-LINK
- SINA (Study In North America)
- ERS
- VESA
- Egypt Day

B. The GA and SAM Recommendations during the Last Year:

1- Regarding members:

- 5th year extension to mission students.
- Travel Allowance for Mission Students.
- Practical training.
- Financial support to self-funded students.
- Airline Ticket Discounts for members.
- Degree Equalization Process Made Easy.

2- Regarding ESANA itself:



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- Fundraising.
- Instrument Campaign.
- Update members' Databases.
- Promote ESANA membership to all students.
- Canada Book Campaign.

IV. Overview of ESANA EC and Project Managers' Duties:

* Session moderator: Tamer Awad;

Ahmed El-Yazbi presented this session to let all members aware of the responsibilities of the EC which will help a lot before making a decision to recruit for the EC.

1. ESANA President:

- Presents the ESANA, to the world;
- Oversees the implementation of the GA and decisions;
- Presides over ESANA EC meetings;
- Consults with other EC members;
- Informs members of all decision

2. ESANA Vice President:

- Substituting the EC president in case he is not able to carry out his duties;
- Assisting the president in carrying out his duties;
- Run the projects of the ESANA and create new projects;
- Presenting a quarter-annual report to the ESANA-EC about all the ESANA projects;
- Improving the resources of the ESANA.

3. Media Affairs Officer:

- Preparing the ESA Media Plan which includes propagating both Egypt and the ESA;
- Implements the ESA Media Plan after its approval by the EC, and becomes authorized to contact and correspond with all national and international media related agencies;
- Manages and promotes all Media assets and activities of the ESANA such



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as Newspapers, mobile exhibitions, media campaigns about the ESANA,
etc;

- Chief Editor of the VESA (Voice of the Egyptian Student Association) magazine. He becomes responsible for its production and distribution.





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4. Units Affairs and Coordination Officer:

- Data filing and registration of all ESANA chapters information (number, location, president, EC members, mailing addresses and phone numbers and emails, members A, B and C names and counts, and other remarks);
- Implementation of ESANA Constitution by both national ESA and the Local Chapters;
- Formation of New ESANA Local Chapters;
- Notifying ESANA Local Chapters with decisions.

5. Science Affairs Officer:

- Manages and promotes all scientific activities of the ESANA, especially those related to the internet and computer-based, such as ESANET, ESA-Link, ESA Web (home Page) and the ESANET;
- 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.

6. Social Affairs Officer:

- Gathers problems facing Egyptian students and objectively seeks to solve them with all necessary official and non-official agencies whether in USA and Canada or in Egypt;
- Cooperates with the Local Chapters and EC to promote unity and social cohesion among members;
- Issues social funds checks according to regulations of the ESANA Bylaws.

7. ESANA Treasurer:

- Preparation of Quarterly Budget and Annual Budget;
- Consultation on the financial situation of the ESANA with the EC;
- Consultation on the financial allocation portion to the ESANA local chapters;
- The authority to sign checks within limits determined by the EC.



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Ahmed also outlined that all EC members must participate and vote on all issues that come before ESANA.





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VI. ESANA Executive Committee Reports:

* Session moderator: *Hatem Seliem*;

Hatem Seliem, ESANA President, presented this sub-session as the following:

A. Media Officer Report:
Nasr Elbahasawy: Media Officer

The Egyptian Day Event (brand new!):

- All units are highly encouraged to perform an “Egyptian Day” event during the month of **October** every year. Every unit will freely choose the exact day of October, which fits the unit’s schedule and circumstances, to perform this event.
- The goal of this event is to inform the community about the Egyptian culture, image, history, etc... The purpose of organizing this event in a unified month is to encourage each other to be much more active. The big advantage of this unified activity is to directly contact the American and Canadian community more effectively to improve the Egyptian image, to explain a specific case, or to address a particular current issue. It’s also possible to check with the ECEB to choose a definite forum each year in which all units will concentrate on. This unified activity will augment the Egyptian political status and enhance the view of American and Canadian community about Egypt, and will also inform the community about ESANA. It could be an effective policy tool in the future.
- There will be a prize and an appreciation certificate for the best unit in this regard, judged by the EC.
- It’s highly recommended to perform the event during **October** month (different units can choose different days in the month) to achieve our goals. However, the final decision of the exact day and month will be left to each unit's discretion according to its own circumstances and conditions.
- Some downloadable materials can be posted on ESANA website for the sake of serving this event, especially multimedia items. We can also share our experience and possible applicable ideas for this event.



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Achievements:

- The idea of the unified event and the choice of the exact month had been inclusively discussed by the EC members and the project managers. It was approved and finalized in August 2006. All members were informed about the “Egyptian Day” event in September. Some downloadable multimedia materials were added to the Media assets as a starting point to serve this event (see “C” below).

Challenges and Suggestions:

- This year was the nascence and onset of this event and there were a lot of discussions to get this event finalized which is a cornerstone for successful application later. It also takes time to add different multimedia items to serve the event and also for the units to adjust themselves to the unified event. It will be improved over the next few years.
- I do suggest adding an article to ESANA Bylaws (if necessary) that allows the EC to nominate an ESANA member as “activities coordinator” who manages and tries to improve the application of the event. This member will work in cooperation with the Media Officer and Units Officer. A link to this event and sharing units’ different ideas and experience could be added to ESANA website.

B. The Egypt Presentation’s Contest:

- It’s a contest for the best power point presentation about Egypt. The presentation should represent Egypt from the modern, Islamic, historic, touristic... etc point of view, with more focus on the modern aspects of Egypt. The ultimate goal is to enhance the image of Egypt in the American and Canadian community (see the announcement in this folder).
- The winning presentations will be uploaded on ESANA’s website, including the winners’ names, for the purpose of ESANA’s activities.



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- *It was the first time to allow our colleagues (all graduate students) in Egypt to participate in this contest.* The announcement was sent to the ECEB-USA to be sent to all universities in Egypt. It was also a good way to propagate ESANA in Egypt.





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Challenges and Suggestions:

The participation rate was zero as before! However, the follow up of the announcement in Egypt was not efficient enough due to the weak and indirect connection with universities and the required procedures.

➤ I suggest publishing the announcement in a daily newspaper in Egypt, such as *Al-Ahram*, next year which is an effective way to propagate ESANA in Egypt. The announcement sent to Egyptian universities could also be followed up more efficiently.

C. Updating the Mobile Exhibition:

Some downloadable multimedia items were added to the Media Assets as the following:

- ✓ A CD introduces Egypt and its ancient and modern civilization, narrated in English. The CD is from the Egyptian Tourist Authority which was hard to get!
- ✓ A CD presents Egypt and its attractions, including modern attractions and recent establishments, sponsored by the “Travel 2 Egypt” - Egypt Travel Guide. This CD is also a travel guide.
- ✓ 12 original color slides about the Egyptian Musuem.
- ✓ 12 original color slides about Aswan, Esna, Edfu, and Komombo.
- ✓ “Al-Nasser Salah El-Din” movie, with English caption, on 2 CDs.
- ✓ Many different publications about Egypt and some different cities, from the ministry of tourism and tourist authority in some different cities (Matrouh, Siwa, Luxor...).

Challenges and Suggestions:

- The media Exhibition was received from the former Media Officer too late (in August 2006). It includes some papyrus, Egyptian flag, broken statutes, “Al-Tareek Ela Elaah” movie (VCR), etc. It took time to add the updated materials listed above to the Exhibition since we should wait till someone goes back to Egypt to bring the materials (it has been brought in July 2006). After having the exhibition and updating it as above, only



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one unit (East Lansing, Michigan) requested some materials in November which had been sent to them.

Due to the following:

- The cost of sending physical items to units;
- The higher chance for these physical items to be broken during shipping process;
- The chance that the units will send the items back so late, and this will also add to the cost;
- I suggest continue updating and adding downloadable multimedia items to the exhibition which are easy to send to units and much cheaper.

III. The Preparation of the GA 2006 Report:

The General Assembly meeting report (GA 2006) that was held in January 2006 at The Egyptian Cultural & Educational Bureau (ECEB) in Washington D.C. was prepared. The GA report contains 32 pages and includes the GA theme about “The Political Reform in Egypt”, as well as all other annual meeting sessions and discussions.

IV. Responding to the National and International Events:

Drafting and formulating ESANA stances on the national and international events is a major duty of the Media Officer. A statement had been formulated as the following (see all statements throughout the year in this folder):

- The letter of condolences for the catastrophe of the Egyptian ferry sink (Al-Salam 98) in the Red Sea last February, which had been published and sent to officials in Egypt by ESANA President.
- The letter of Condemnation of the terrorist attacks in Dahab on April 25, 2006. The letter has been sent by the president to the members and Egyptian officials.



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- ESANA's stance on the Israeli attacks on Lebanon and Qana's Carnage in August 2006. The letter has also been translated to English and was sent to the White House.
- ESANA's statement and condolences on the Qalyoub's trains crash in August 2006. The letter had been published and sent by the president to officials in Egypt, including the minister of transportation and the prime minister.

vi. VESA Magazine:

- There was a fund raising committee for the VESA Magazine, but the outcome was zero because every member in the committee is so busy by all work in his office, including my self.

Suggestions:

Due to the funding problems, time constraint, etc, VESA Magazine didn't come into exist yet!

- Nasr suggest that the EC nominate an ESANA member for the VESA Magazine beginning of the year, who works in cooperation with the Media Officer in this regard. This person could be same one mentioned before; the "activity coordinator", and should be responsible for the Egyptian day event and VESA Magazine together.
- The EC should formulate the Fund Raising Committee from the far beginning of the year and the committee should meet or contact periodically.

B. Social Affairs Officer Report
Amin Akhnoukh: Social Officer

1-Social Officer Duties

- Gathers problems facing Egyptian students and objectively seeks to solve them with all official and non-official agencies whether in USA, Canada or Egypt.



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- Cooperate with the local chapters and EC to promote unity and social cohesion among members.
- Issue social fund checks according to regulations of the ESANA Bylaws.

2-SOCIAL OFFICE ACCOUNT

➤ Opening balance (from year 2005)	: 631.26 USD.
➤ ECEB – USA deposit	: 2000 USD.
➤ Membership fees	: 788.8 USD.
➤ Total Inflow	: 3420.06 USD.
➤ Total outflow	: 2848.62 USD.
➤ Closing balance	: 571.44 USD.

The social fund benefits were distributed as follows:

➤ Total benefited members	= 27 member.
➤ Benefited members in USA	= 15 member.
➤ Benefited members in Canada	= 12 members.
➤ Social fund for members in USA	= 1715.45 USD.
➤ Social fund for members in Canada	= 1053.17 USD.
➤ Refund for Alabama unit donation for Asia earthquake	= 50 USD.
➤ Refund for Ohio unit donation for Asia earthquake	= 30 USD.
➤ Maximum check value	= 200 USD.
➤ Minimum check value	= 25.5 USD.

3-ACKNOWLEDGEMENT CERTIFICATES FOR BOOK CAMPAIGN DONORS:

Acknowledgement certificates were issued for book donors who supported the US and Canada book campaign launched by the ESANA during the year of 2006. A total number of 15 certificates of appreciation were issued and sent to remarkable donors in USA and Canada.

4-HEALTH INSURANCE QUOTES

Five health insurance companies were contacted by the social affairs officer to get a quotation for health insurance plans that covers the student and his family. Two quotations were collected. These will be introduced to the GA attendees for discussion. Further actions will be left for the 2007 EC members.



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5-EXTRA ACTIVITIES CARRIED BY SOCIAL OFFICER

- Update the ESANA database with membership fees payees. This updated database was introduced to the ESANA vice president and ESANA treasurer to decide ESANA member's eligibility for Airlines offers through Egypt air and Fly Daddy companies.
- Participate in preparation of report introduced to the IRS to maintain the ESANA status as a non-profit organization.
- Promoting ESANA activities by contacting Egyptian professors in USA and Canada. This lead to adding two assistantship chances to pursue master and Ph.D. degrees through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Iowa State University.



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C. ESANA Units Office Report
Ahmed El-Yazbi: Units Officer

Within the following report, ESANA Units Officer will attempt to briefly describe the goals he set when he started his current position as ESANA Units Officer and the progress achieved.

The goals planned to be achieved during the period of office are:

- To increase the communication with the units and Egyptian students in cities with no units.
- To encourage students in cities with no units to start units in their universities.
- To help maintain the open units active and maintain an up-to-date status of their members' information.

The tools planned to be used to achieve these goals included:

- Forwarding ideas and topics for debate to units to get them involved in the ESANA. The units officer originally thought that we might try publicizing the activities and achievements done in one unit and get the other units to follow. Another idea was to entice the members to interact through the mailing list and take the debate to the forum.
- Contact the members personally by e-mail and encourage them to start units in their cities. The e-mails of these students may be hard to get because presumably they are not on our database but there a few possible sources:
 - Friends and personal connections of current members, and so far that was the main source relied on.
 - Members on the news or members list that do not belong to any of our active units. And that can be arranged with the Webmaster and the science officer.
 - The database of the ECEBs.
- Contact the Units executives at the time of elections and make sure that they will continue updating the database after the elections.

Tasks accomplished in the Units office:

- Starting new units in UCLA, Lafayette LO, Cornell NY, Toronto ON, and Carbondale IL.
- Re-opening Urbana Champaign unit.



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- Up dating of the data of Iowa City, Cleveland and Norfolk and including them as active units
- Contacting members in the University of British Columbia, Rutgers University, University of Quebec Chicoutimi, University of Minnesota St Paul, University of Oklahoma, and University of Northern Florida.
- Contacting the local units' presidents by e-mail asking for ideas about the activities done locally in their chapter.
- E-mailing the members on the news list and starting a topic on the forum asking how we could use our units for a better purpose of serving our country. I received two responses for my e-mail and no replies to the topic on the forum.
- Contacting the units' presidents and reminding them with the time frame of the election.
- Receiving the updated information sent after the elections and updating the data base.



Project Managers Reports

SINA (Study In North America)'s Report

Project manager: Tamer Mahmoud

Introduction

This project aims at helping Egyptian researchers join accredited universities and research institutes in Canada and USA and advising them on different financial support resources in their field of study. This help is provided by:

- Providing relevant information about graduate schools and their programs;
- Helping our colleagues to have competent applications when applying to a university;
- Maintaining a database about professors, departments, and schools that are recommended by ESANA members.

Achievements

- Number of requests handled: 38
- The requests were either:
 - Inquiries about top graduate schools.
 - Inquiries about the application process.
 - Assistance with writing the statement of purpose for admission to the graduate school.
- I followed up with the applicants until I received confirmation of their acceptance.
- Tools used:
 - ESANA subscribed to the US News and World Report ranking services for top graduate schools for the year 2007. This significantly assisted us in placing applicants in outstanding schools.
 - ESANA members and alumni contributed by forwarding information about available research opportunities and scholarships.
 - Useful links from the US Department of State and the Citizenship and Immigration in Canada (CIC) bureau were collected about studying in North America.



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- A Questionnaire was written to be completed by ESANA members to collect information about studying different research disciplines in North America. The questionnaire is posted on-line for ESANA members to submit the information at their convenience. The on-line form was designed by a volunteer. Some logistics are being worked out and the questionnaire will be announced soon to the members.
 - All these tools are made available online for our members.
 - Dr. Nariman Abdel-Baky, an Egyptian American professor contacted me expressing her interest and other professors' interest in recruiting Egyptian students for training opportunities in the US. We are planning to meet soon in Egypt to work out the details.

Future Directions

- Tools are needed to rank graduate schools in Canada.
- The questionnaire needs to be shorter and more convenient to the members. I suggest that we conduct a survey to be completed by ESANA members to make the questionnaire more useful and resourceful.
- Guidelines on how to write supporting documents (CV, statement of purpose, etc.) for the application process is needed.
- More networking with Egyptian professors, ESANA members and alumni is needed.
- Although the ECEB has promoted our services, we need to reach out more by contacting officials at the Missions Department.



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ESA-Link's Report

Project manager: Ziad Aly

Main Goal:

This project aims at providing links between the Egyptian scientific and academic community in North America (students and faculty members) and their fellow researcher in Egypt.

Strategies:

This link helps provide some services to prospective researchers in Egypt such as:

- Information about Egyptian professors in different universities in Canada and USA;
- Assessment of different research areas in North American universities;
- Evaluation of the performance and student-professor relationships of professors and researchers in different research areas in North America;
- Estimation of living expenses in several cities in Canada and USA;
- Helping new Egyptian students find suitable accommodation prior to their arrival to North America;
- Pickup service to newly arrived Egyptian students at several Airports in USA and Canada;

Plan and milestones for 2006:

Since there is interference between SINA project and this one, Link Manager suggested separating similar objectives to one of the two projects. To do so, Link Manager proposed to divide this main issue to individual small goals, which can be easy to realize in parallel to save time and effort. So the proposed strategy started by:

1. Sending 2 urgent mails to cultural counselors in Washington and Montreal asking for their Dbase about Egyptian professors in NA universities. Hence the security



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issue was mentioned in the last semi annual meeting when this subject is revealed, these mails will ask only for names, university, specialty (general and specific) and emails, something which can be done on the web but will take huge time to finalize.

2. Renewing the idea to have some small and brief info about cities, this already had an ESANA unit. A mass email will be send to EC of each unit to encourage them to have this info will be collected in a pre-determined range of time, 2-3 weeks maximum. This info includes essential information about the city and the university including facilities and contact reference person, which can be the EC of these units. Also the estimation of the living coast in these cities.
3. The plan was that if in this range of time we evaluate if there is enough info, we can added to the web site, if not we can sent a mails to EC units telling them that any asking for this unit is suspended tell we receive the requested info, something could aid also to obtain the complete member dbase requested since 2 years ago.
4. Last sub-goal in this year is the Canadian booklet. It consists of gathering info about the main items of the booklet in a Canadian frame. This Canadian booklet once it is approved by the EC of the ESANA it will be displayed on the website. The idea to print the booklet (US or Canadian one) can be done if it will not coast the ESANA budget, if so, it can be printed and distributed to the cultural bureau in Washington and Montreal to be available to any student and to be send also to different units to be available as a reference document for coming student.

Collaboration with other projects:

Collected data can be shared with other project managers as well as available dbases

Schedule of execute main goals:

- Once this proposal is approved step one and 2 can be executed immediately, so the results of this 2 first steps can be obtains within the first month of work,



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depending of the response of the counselors and available dbases, also by the responding of the units offices.

- The Canadian booklet can be ready to be revised within 2-3 months from the date of approval of this proposal. So it can be presented by next by the end of May.

The result for the mandatory period: (19/03/06 to 31/12/06)

1- Received requests:

- a- From Egyptian students to come to Canada:
4 requests, answering 4, failure 0 (**0 request since the SAM**)
- b- From Egyptian students to come to the states:
28 requests, answering 27, failure 1 (**9 new requests since the SAM**)

2- City-Info:

- A- Updating the sheet of requested info: (with the collaboration with the V.P.: Mohamed Youssef)
- B- Sending to 26/35 active units in Canada and the States (twice)
Available Data

Canada	3 exist	4 new	total=7/7 active units
States	6 exist	11 new	total=17/28 active units

3 city info sheets has been added since the SAM-06 to the list for Toronto, Montreal and Salt Lake city. By this **Canada exciting chapters are complete.**

3- Egyptian professors Data Bases:

- A- Canada:
A list was received from the ECBE (Montreal), then revised, adjusted and updated: existing 89 names, added 4 new names, total 93 and updated 10
- B- States:
No list is received from the ECBE (Washington).



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Existing list was revised, adjusted and updated: Existing 63, added 18 new names, total 81 updated 8

4- Filling SINA questionnaire:

Questionnaire was about studying remote sensing domain in NA.

5-Canadian Booklet:

The guide for study in Canada (Canadian booklet) is done and published for the coming students in the year 2007, and has been added as a link on the webpage of the project.

6- Other Issues:

- Sharing received info with other project managers and the president, the V. president, unit officer and science officer.
- Make contact between the Montreal ESA-unit and the unit officer through personal link.



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ESANA Canadian Book Campaign Project Report

Project manager: Sami Abdulsalam

This is a brief progress report of the First Canadian Book Campaign Project in Edmonton, hosted by the ESA106 unit in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The report starts with defining our main goals for the last period starting July-2005 and ending December-2006.

The Canadian Book Campaign Committee was formed as a group of the following members;

Sami Abdulsalam,	(Campaign Coordinator).
Amir Eissa,	(Committee Member)
Mohamed Nour,	(Committee Member)
Wael Elghandour,	(Committee Member)

1. The Committee goals for the first book campaign held in Canada were;

- Establishing an efficient way for storing and managing the donated books collected from all over Canada.
- Establish more communication links with organizations and educational institutions in Canada making them aware of the campaign goals and encouraging them to donate of books.
- Find reasonable and economical way for shipping the donated books after collection to the recipient university in Egypt.

2. What was accomplished for the current period;

A. Storage Facility:

- We have searched for the best rates for a self-serve storage area in Edmonton where the donated books could be stored after receiving them from donors.



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- The place is a facility with a self serve Fork-lift and accessible 24hrs a day/ 7 days a week, which gave us a lot of flexibility. Our rate was \$90.0 CAD on a month by month basis.
- The agreement was signed under the names of Amir Eissa and Sami Abdulsalam with the monthly payments automatically withdrawn from Amir Eissa's Credit Card.
- The lease was extended for a new year on July, 27th 2006 until Aug, 5th 2007. A payment of 1029.42 was made by Amir Eissa to cover the cost of the one year lease.
- Amendment to the lease agreement was done Aug 14th 2006 which increased the rent to \$100.0 CAD from the original \$90.0 CAD / Month.

B. Collected Donations:

The Canadian book Campaign successfully collected the following books donations from universities all over Canada:

3. Period from June-2005 until June-2006 (6th October University):

- The Canada Book Campaign received donations in the following form;
 - University of Alberta, (Various Members), **95 Boxes**.
 - University of British Columbia, (Nada Sallam) 13 Boxes.
 - University of Sherbrooke, 2 Boxes.
 - University of Toronto, (Hesham Osman), 6 Boxes.
- The total amount of the shipped boxes were 116 boxes, made a total of 5.5 cubic meters and slightly more than 3000kg of weight.
- Through the coordination with Tamer Mahmoud who managed all communications with the recipient university in Egypt (6th of October University), we have managed to get a quote of \$275.0 USD / Cu Meter as a sea freight with an estimated total of \$2075.0 USD from Edmonton to Alexandria port including pick-up.



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- The actual shipping cost came to a total of 3440.0CAD due to the increase in the in-land trucking cost from Edmonton to Toronto and the increased size of the shipment to 8 Cu Meters due to wrapping and skidding.

4. Period from July-2006 until Dec-2007 (Mansoura University):

- The Canadian Book Campaign received donations mainly from the University of Alberta with other contributions from the University of Toronto 'Hesham Osman' (9 Boxes) and University of British Columbia 'Nada Sallam' (1 Box).
- Our focus at the ESA unit in UofA was directed towards collecting recent text books and complete Journal issues. A short list of the collected material is as follows;

Electrical Engineering:

- IEEE Proceedings: (University of Alberta)
Volumes: 75-93 (1987-2005)
- IEEE Internet Computing: (University of Alberta)
Volumes: 3-8 (1999-2004)
- IEEE Communications Letters: (University of Alberta)
Volumes: 4-8 (2000-2004)
- IEE Electronic Communication Engineering Journal: (University of Alberta)
Volumes: 13-14 (2001-2002)
- Journal of Optical Society of America (Optical Physics): (University of Alberta)
Volumes: 8-9 (1991-1992)
- Text Books (Unsorted material - 9 Boxes) (University of Toronto)
- Journals and Text Books (Unsorted material – 8 Boxes) (University of Alberta)

Medicine:

- Journal of Cancer Research: (University of Alberta)



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Volumes: 14 – 62 (1954-2002)

- Journal of Clinical Cancer Research: (University of Alberta)
Volumes: 1-7 (1995 - 2001)
- Text Books (Unsorted material - 1 Box) (University of Alberta)

Agriculture:

- Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics: (University of Alberta)
Volumes: 16 – 50 (1968-2004)
 - American Journal of Agricultural Economics: (University of Alberta)
Volumes: 50-85 (1968 - 2003)
 - Journal of Farm Economics (Early title of the above journal): (U of Alberta)
Volumes: 46-49 (1964 - 1967)
 - Text Books (Unsorted material - 4 Boxes) (University of Alberta)
- The total count of boxes available at our storage facility in Edmonton is currently 60 boxes, which makes a total of 3.4 cubic Meters and slightly more than 3000kg of weight. More donations are expected from the university of Alberta Libraries and Faculties as well as from outer institutions. Please refer to the collaboration and communication section of this report for more information.
 - The Canada Book Campaign team noticed a drop in participation from Egyptian ESA members from outside Edmonton for this current period.
 - Only contributions from University of Toronto and British Columbia (10 Boxes) were received.
 - Accordingly, and as discussed in the 2006 SAM in Montreal, I prepared a One-Page invitation guide. The guide was directed towards Egyptian students who play the major role in running the campaign as a significant book donation and collection source.
 - The guide 'Invitation Letter' was circulated over all ESANA EC and PMs, and several revisions have been made to it. However, the guide didn't find



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its way to the ESA units in Canada until now to the best of the Canada BC manager's knowledge.

- The ESANA mailing list 'although helpful' is not the suitable channel to reach all Egyptian students, professor and professionals who reside in Canada. This is due to the fact that most of the people are not registered to the ESANA mailing list.

C. Mailing and Shipping Arrangements:

- An Account was set-up with Canada Post that will provide the Canadian Book Campaign a special rate that is less than by roughly 20% the regular price when shipping the book boxes through Canada post. Although due to the limited number of what we were looking to receive this year from outside Edmonton, I didn't activate (use) the account. The offer was given based on an estimate of 500 boxes that we are planning to receive and I was afraid that the company will decline offering us the same rate for the coming years.
- What this plan will provide, beside the savings in shipping costs, the flexibility in the shipping process and also the better financial arrangement. The book senders will not need to pay for the postage fee when they send us the boxes to Edmonton as they will be charged directly to the campaign account at the post office. Moreover, the ESANA treasurer when reimbursing the postage amount will only need to deal with the account summary and the campaign manager/coordinator.
- The campaign has gained a huge experience with the shipping arrangements, procedures and rates.

D. Communication and Collaboration:

- We have also started contacting international organizations seeking their participation in the book campaign. The prestigious Institute of Electrical



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and Electronics Engineers has been contacted by Sami Abdulsalam to seek their contribution to the campaign. It is a promising to be successful.

- In November 2006, I have received a confirmation from the IEEE Power Engineering and Industry Applications Society that they will provide a personal donation of excess Un-Distributed and recent journals of both Journal issues in 2007. Those will cover 5 different journals of the top-ranked publications in the field.
- The University of Alberta is currently reducing the printed copies of their Journals as soon as issues and electronic subscriptions are made available. Accordingly, we had an agreement with the University of Alberta Libraries Associate Director of Libraries to provide us with all the journals as soon as they become available. The donations will cover the Fields of Engineering, Medicine, Pharmacy, Agriculture and Natural Science. We anticipate those contributions to be available in early 2007.
- The campaign has also established contacts with independent faculty and research centers within UofA. This includes the Telecommunications Research Laboratories TR-Labs 'through the help of Ahmed Allam' and the Agricultural Department internal library. This effort was reflected in the huge amount of donations received in the Electrical and Agricultural areas.

I. Challenges and Difficulties;

A. Shortage of Outside Collaboration:

- The Canada Book Campaign team noticed a drop in participation from Egyptian ESA members from outside Edmonton for this current period.
- Only contributions from University of Toronto and British Columbia (10 Boxes) were received.



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- Accordingly, and as was discussed in the SAM, the project manager prepared a One-Page invitation guide. The guide was directed towards Egyptian students who play the major role in running the campaign as a significant book donors and collection source.
- The guide 'Invitation Letter' was circulated over all ESANA EC and PMs, and several revisions have been made to it. However, the guide didn't find its way to the ESA units in Canada until now to the best of the Canada BC manager's knowledge.
- The ESANA mailing list 'although helpful' is not the suitable channel to reach all Egyptian students, professor and professionals who reside in Canada. This is due to the fact that most of the people are not registered to the ESANA mailing list.

B. Competition from other Organizations:

- We have also been facing difficulties in collecting more donations from the University of Alberta due to the competition with other organizations in the universities.
- In fact, the success of our campaign at the UofA resulted in more student organizations want to take share in the donated material from the University of Alberta Libraries and faculty members.

C. Shipping Contract and Arrangements:

- The Campaign faced some difficulties when dealing with the shipping company which resulted in increasing the in-land transportation fee.
- Alternative arrangements have been carried out to insure a moderate inland transportation fee for future shipments. Arrangements will insure exporting the shipped book boxes from a closer port 'Vancouver' instead of 'Toronto'.



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- The lesson learned is that, in all conditions, the official quote which the campaign gets for shipping should include clearly the inland transportation cost which is normally based on weight.

II. Recommendations;

- The Canadian Book Campaign project is a new project that needs a lot of effort, time and experience to manage. Without the help of other officers in the EC and the PM, the project will have limited success.
- The Canadian Book Campaign Manager should have access to the mailing-list of ESA units in Canada. The Book Campaign manager should work closely with the US Book Campaign manager, ESANA president and the ESANA Units officer to ensure sufficient and effective communication is promoted towards the campaign.
- The invitation/guide letter prepared earlier 'attached' to help attract volunteers to the Canada Book Campaign project should reach every Egyptian student, professor and professional in Canada. This is to the furthest extent of the available database we have.
- The ESA unit in Edmonton is strongly against moving the book campaign project from Edmonton. This issue have already been discussed and talked about in 2006 SAM in Montreal. The ESA-Edmonton/Book Campaign team based their opinion on the following assessment;
 - Edmonton unit man power: As is well known, the Edmonton unit is by far the most active unit in Canada. We also have the highest number of active members who are ready to participate in all ESA/ESANA voluntary efforts. This is a corner stone for the campaign success, which will contribute to the publicizing, collecting and managing the campaign.
 - Financially: the cost of shipping the books to the nearest port by inland transportation is much cheaper than sending the books by MAIL. This means that as long as ESA-Edmonton stays at its standards of collecting the major contribution to the book campaign, EDMONTON is the most money-efficient location. In



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addition taxes in Alberta is 6% only (will be 5% soon) compared to 14% in other cities.

- Experience: ESA members in Edmonton have a huge experience with this project and they are actively participating in it. Amir Eissa, Wael El-Ghandour, Mohamed Nour and Sami are all Edmonton unit members and all participated actively in this effort.
 - Connections: Because ESA-Edmonton has been running the book campaign for a while, even before establishing a Canadian one, we have established excellent communication channels. people started to recognize the persons involved in the campaign and we have built trust. Routing the campaign location from Edmonton will dump all these efforts which will be really a waste.
- The current Canadian Book Campaign Manager is stepping down to allow a smooth experience transfer to the following manager. All necessary information will be transferred to the new manager on the appropriate time together with all official documents.
 - I would personally and behalf of the Canada BC team thank everyone who participated positively in the success of the campaign.

ERS Project's Report

Project manager: Tamer Awad

Main Goal:

This project aims at providing help to research community in Egypt through providing useful links to free access online journals, accredited associations, conferences



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and search engines in different research fields. This would allow any Egyptian researcher to have, whenever possible, in touch with recent updates in his/her field.

Strategies:

- This link helps provide some services to prospective researchers in Egypt such as:
- Provide advice on useful research materials, such as state of the art reports, theses, etc...
 - Issuing quarter annual newsletter for scientific achievements of Egyptian scientists in North America.
 - Advice on useful online resources for different research area.
 - Scientific discussions between ESANA members and/or Egyptian scientists in North America and their fellows back in Egypt.
 - Providing classified scientific links, search engines and electronic sources over the internet, within the copyright allowances.

Identified problems regarding former progress of ERS Project

- **Poor Design of the webpage**
 - Poor design of application forms.
 - Limited areas of specialization covered and due to sole effort of project managers only that led to un-systemic coverage of fields.
- **open usage of service (Overload to project manger)**
 - Not limited to Egyptian students
 - Unlimited requests
- **Very poor ESANA Members' participation**
 - Lack of assistant managers (Project manager cannot fill all majors by himself due lack of his experience in fields other than his major so losing time trying to verify other majors' links
 - **Very Poor Response** in help providing useful links in their major of study
- **Poor Project advertisement**
 - **ESANA rule** (Brochures can not be distributed unless the website is complete to guarantee credibility)
 - **ECEB rule** (Should Address Egyptian Universities, through Ministry of Higher Education, about project existence)
 - **Egyptian universities rule** (Should take ESANA Projects Seriously and make sure that all academic departments and faculty members aware of it)



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Plan and milestones for 2006:

- 1- New Designs of the webpage and introduction of new services
- 2- Update the free access online journal for as many majors as we can till receiving volunteers form ESANA members to help updating the website within their major area of research
- 3- Addressing Members asking to volunteer and provide useful links
- 4- Preparing brochures and make it ready to post as soon as majors has been field
- 5- Documenting project members' information through Access data file.

Achievements: (19/03/06 to 31/12/06)

1- Received Applications:

12 Active ERS members from research community in Egypt including Professors, Associate professors and instructors in the fields of engineering medicine, chemistry and pharmacy). **Each member is assigned ERS ID number for future correspondence with ERS manger, ID number is designed to contain, Egyptian university name, major code and member number (13 digit codes)**

2- Website Updates:

- A- Reconstructing the website (with the collaboration with the ENANA V.P.: *Mohamed Youssef*) to include
- i- Professional application form to be sent directly upon submission to the project manger and converted to access form to maintain the DATA base
 - ii- Service request form that would allow the member to submit 3 requests / week. And service forms use ERS-ID number for ease of service tracking.
 - iii- Update majors into main majors and sub majors in 2005 there was 5 sub majors only in 2006 number of sub majors became 22



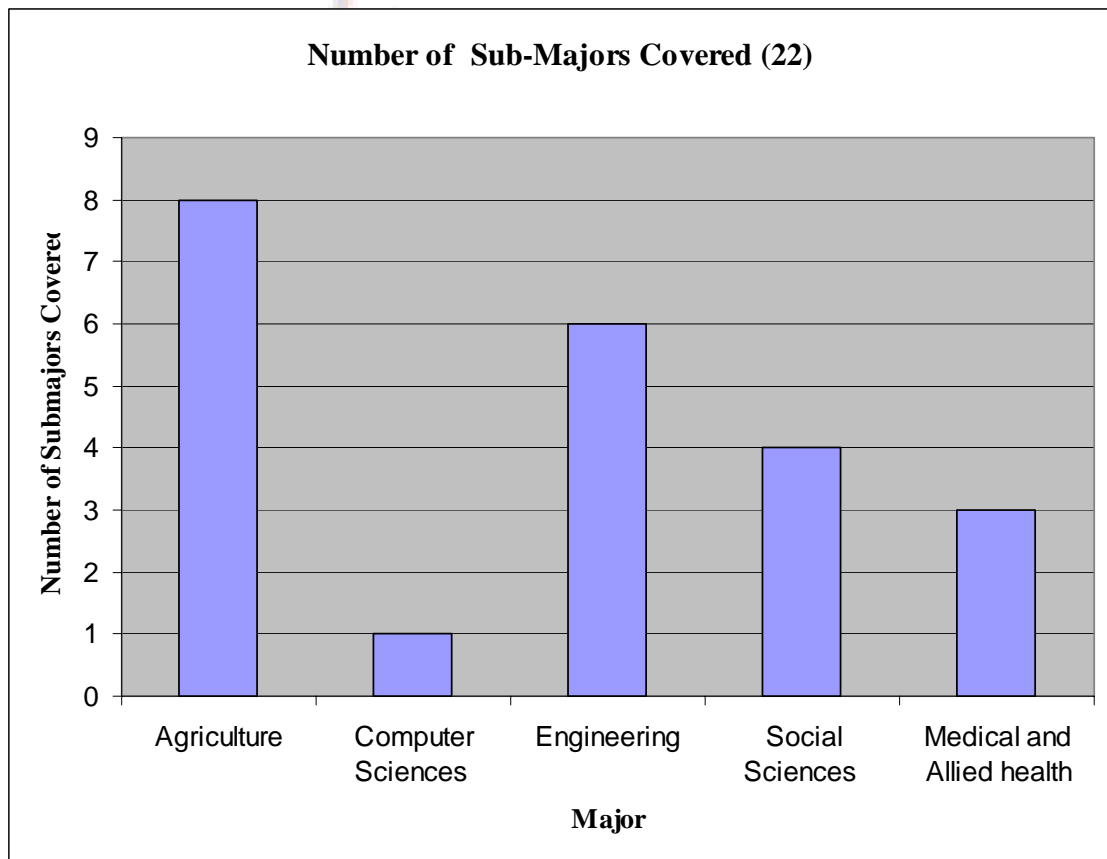
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The distribution of sub-majors covered are:

- Agriculture (8)
- Computer sciences (1)
- Engineering (6)
- Social Sciences (4)
- Medical and Allied health (3)



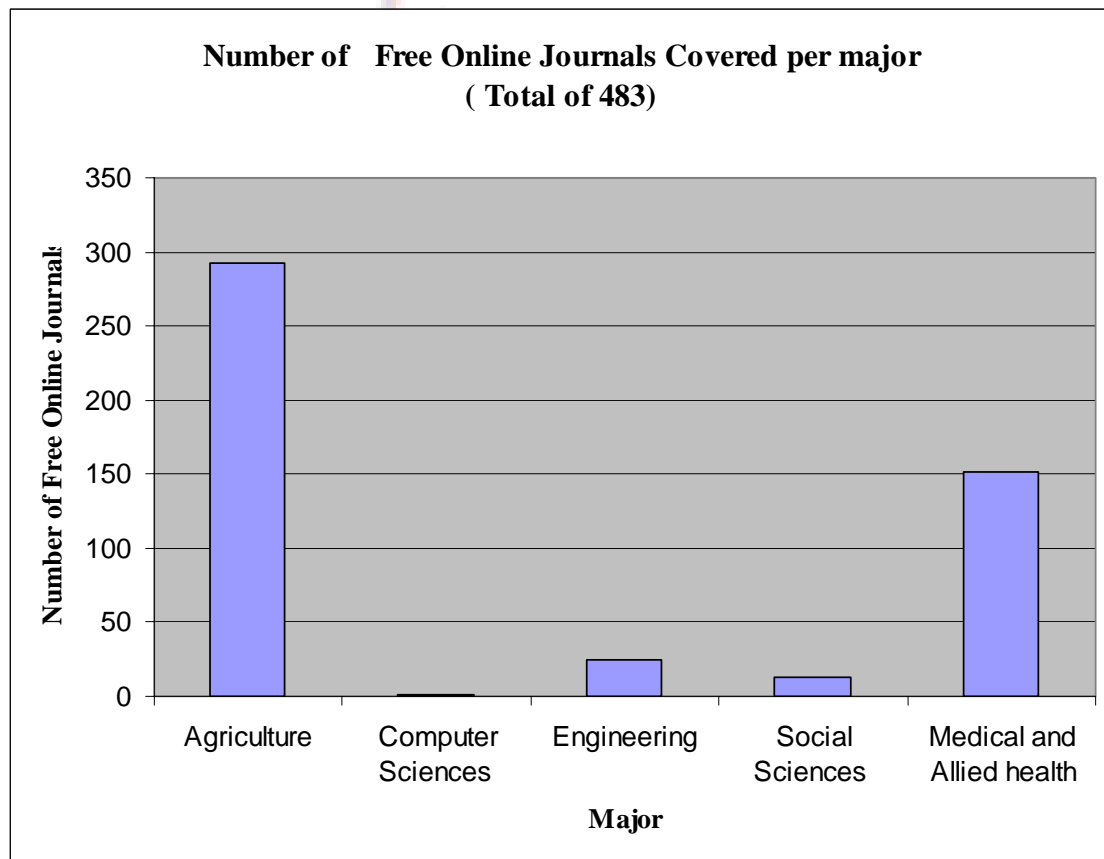


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Total number of free online journals covered in the sub major area is 483 in 2006 compared to almost 50 in 2005 distribution is Agricultural Sciences (292), computer Sciences (1), Engineering (25) Social Sciences (13) and Medical and Allied health (152)..





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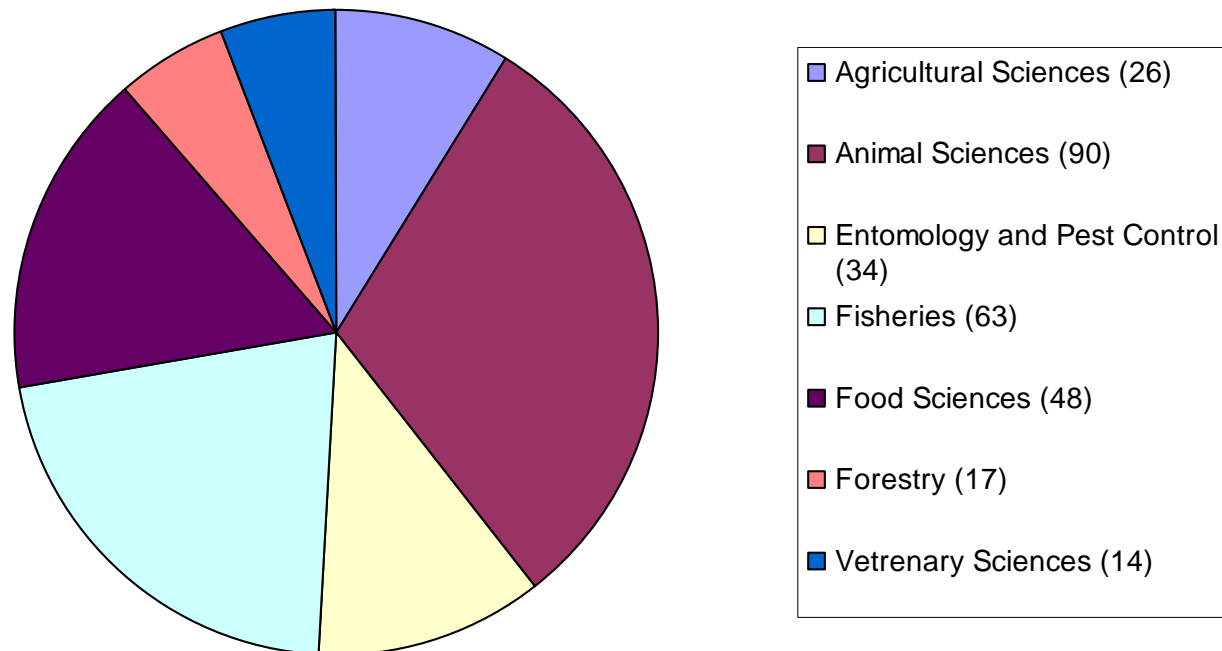
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The distribution of free online journals differs within the major is presented as follows:

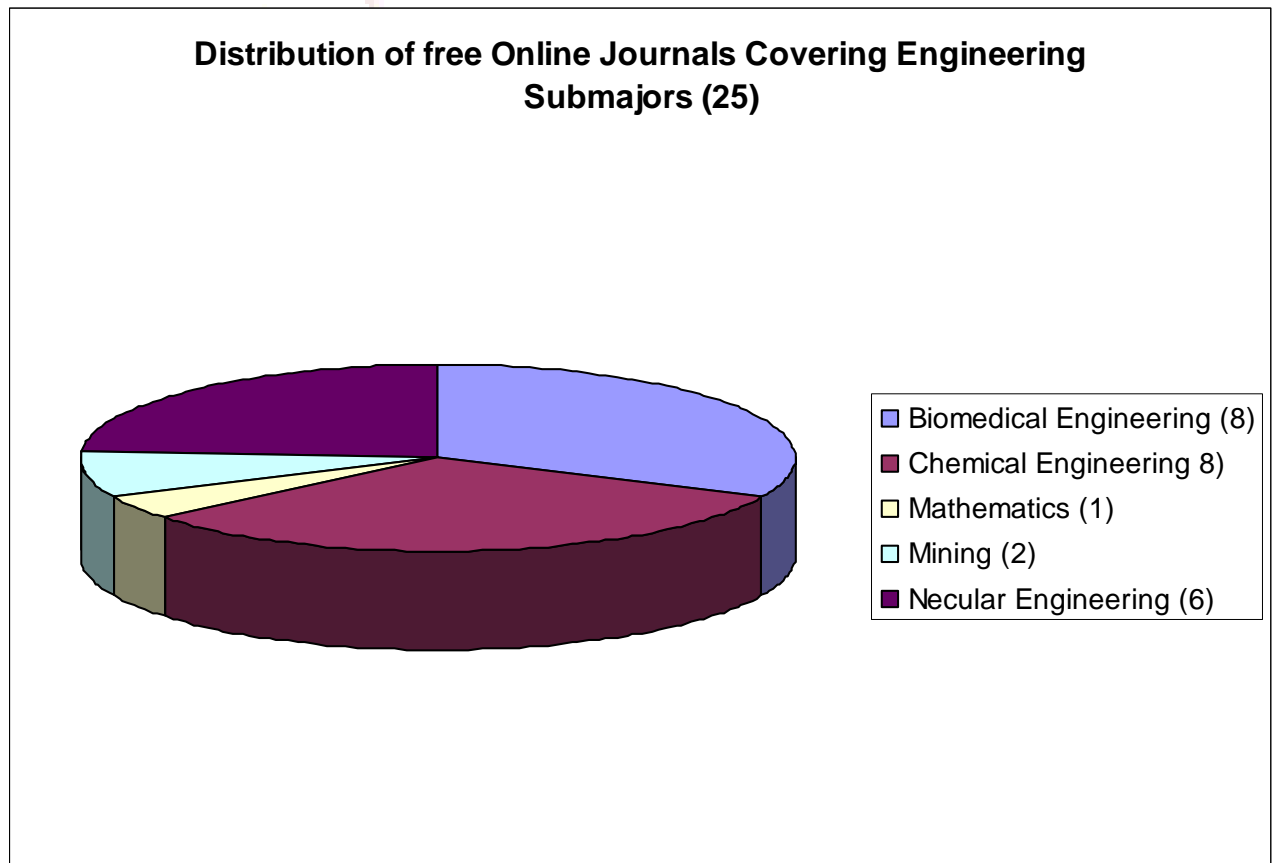
In Agriculture, the number of free online sub major journals can be expressed in the following slide

**Distribution of Free Online Journals covered in the Agriculture Sub Majors
(292)**





In Engineering, the number of free online sub major journals can be expressed in the following slide





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In Medical and Allied health sub majors, the number of free online sub major journals can be expressed in the following slide

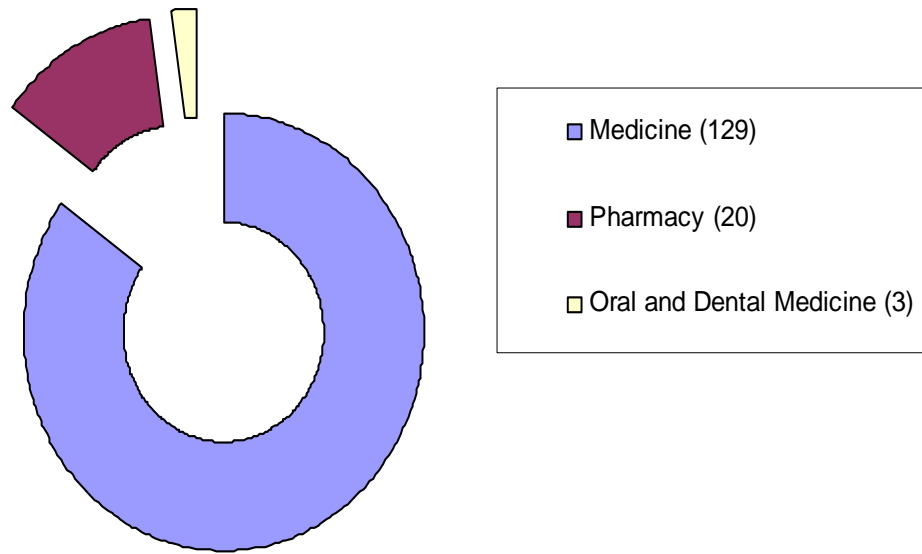


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Distribution of Free Online Journals Covering Medical and Allied Health Majors (Total of 152)



In Social Sciences sub majors, the number of free online sub major journals can be expressed in the following slide

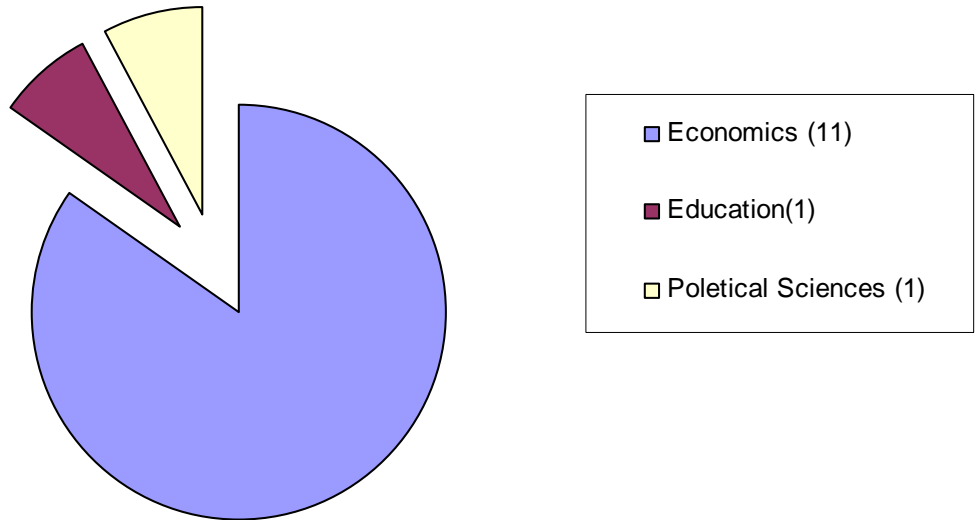


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**Distribution of Free Online Journal Covering Social Sciences Submajors
(Total of 13)**



- Addition of 5 Useful Links to Provide:
 - Free Online Research and Dissertation Access
<http://www.lib.umi.com/dissertations/search>
 - Free access to journals covering more than 17 Major
<http://discovercircuits.tradepub.com>
<http://livre.cnen.gov.br/Inicial.asp>
<http://www.doaj.org/>
<http://www.library.unr.edu/ejournals/free.aspx>
 - Journals Covered through Useful Links Over 2800 Journals

Suggestions and Recommendation for the Future:

- **Regarding Webpage**
 - Continue to add free links to remaining majors



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- Continue to add collective links to the useful link
- Update the conferences and associations lists for all majors

- **Regarding application and request forms**

- Automated conversion of online application form to access file needs adjustment

- **Advertisement**

Recommended after website completion, however early advertisement
Address mission department, Egyptian universities and research institutions

- **Members Participation**

We need to recruit Assistant project managers to fill the remaining sub majors.



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VIII. ESANA President Conclusive Report and Recommendations:

* Session Moderator: *Hatem Seliem*;

Hatem Seliem summarized the recommendations drawn by the GA meeting as follows:

Recommendations of ESANA:

- The Egyptian universities have different opinions regarding the practical training, where some universities allow it while others do not. It is required to regulate the rules of the training after the degree completion due to its valuable benefits for the student as well as Egypt.
- ESANA asks for the consular endorsement of the different items that students use during their study as used items upon their return in order to maximize the benefit from customs exemption.
- ESANA asks for the waiver of the teaching and instructional skills courses required to apply for a lecturer position in Egyptian universities for those students who have gone through similar courses during their studies for PhD in North America.
- Equalization of the Ph.D. degree for self-financed (SF) and study leave (SL), through fair and fast criteria is urgently needed.
- Encourage and support self-financed (SF) and study leave (SL) students. This can be done by adding half period tickets for the SF or SL students.
- It will be the responsibility of the Egyptian Cultural & Educational Bureau (ECEB) in Washington D.C. to arrange the details of Book Campaign Project (selection of the recipient university in Egypt and providing the necessary funding).
- ESANA asks the Egyptian Cultural and Educational Bureau to promote our projects and activities to the Missions Department in Egypt, in order to allow students in Egypt to know the benefits of joining ESANA.

IX. Suggested Modification of ESANA Bylaws:

* Closed Session, moderator: *Tamer Awad*;



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This closed session was presented by Nassr El-Bahnasawy to discuss and get the approval of the GA on some suggested modifications to ESANA's Constitution. The modifications that were approved by the GA attendees eligible for voting are published in details on the website.

X. Election of ESANA Executive Committee 2007:

The election committee, mentioned in section II, had administered the election process. The election results were as the following:

A. ESANA 2007 Executive Committee (EC):

Name	Position	University	Department	Degree Sought	Country	Email
Ahmed El-Yazbi	President	University of Alberta	Pharmacology	Ph.D.	Canada	president@esana.org
Mohamed Ibrahim	Vice President	SUNY university at Buffalo	Biomedical Science School	Ph.D.	USA	vicepresident@esana.org
Mohamed Medhat Wahba	Units Officer	University of Toronto	Department of Civil Engineering	Ph.D.	Canada	units@esana.org
Mohamed M. Zakaria Moustafa	Science Officer	University of Manitoba	Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering	Ph.D.	Canada	science@esana.org
Samy El-Tawab	Media Officer	Old Dominion University	Computer Science	Ph.D.	USA	media@esana.org



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Amr Mahros Elaryan	Treasurer	North Carolina State University	Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering	Ph.D.	USA	treasurer@esana.org
Ahmed Hosni	Social Officer	University of Cincinnati	Civil and Environmental Engineering Dept.	Ph.D.	USA	social@esana.org

B. Substitutes for ESANA 2006 EC:

The following members have been chosen by the GA as substitutes in case any EC member will not be able to carry out his responsibilities within the year of 2007:

- 1- Vice President Substitute: Amin Akhnoukh.
- 2- Units Officer Substitute: Hazem Elmeligy
- 3- Science Officer Substitute: Diab Gamal El-Din
- 4- Media Officer Substitute: Emad Abou Kila
- 5- Treasurer Substitute: Mohamed Rauof
- 6- Social Officer Substitute: Yasser Sherif

C. Appeals Committee:

The following members have been chosen by the GA to carry out the duties of the appeal committee according to ESANA bylaws

- 1- Hatem Seliem.
- 2- Tamer Awad.
- 3- Ziad Ali.
- 4- Nasr Elbahasawy.
- 5- Ahmed Khalifa.

XI. ESANA Executive committees 2006 and 2007:

A closed session had been held between the EC-2006 and the EC-2007 to handle office's responsibilities.