

Letter of Thanks Addressed to Dr. Mohamed Farghaly from the General Assembly Of the Arab Academy

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League of Arab States

Date: 23 October 2011
Reference No. 264/1

In the Name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

Attention: Dr. Mohamed Farghaly, Chairman of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport.

Dear Dr. Mohamed Farghaly,

The Extraordinary General Assembly of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport, held on 23 October 2011 at the premises of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States (the resumed session), expresses its thanks, acknowledgement and deepest appreciation for your accomplishments in managing and chairing the Academy, in light of the achievements realized by the Academy during the period in which you have been in charge. You have been trustworthy and competent in carrying the responsibility which resulted in scientific and practical enrichment. Furthermore, it has given the Academy unprecedented status on a national, Arab and international scale, represented in its achievements and balance sheets, praised by the Arab ministers of transport in the report of the Secretary General of the United Nations and the members of the Organizational Committee in charge of coordination and follow up at the time of presenting the fiscal accounts and achievements of the Academy.

It is also noteworthy that we refer to your local and scientific status and your unblemished honesty.

The Chairman and members of the General Assembly wish you a prosperous future in your endeavors in the local and international fraternities based on you distinguished expertise.

With fullest respect and appreciation

Dr. Fatima Salem El Amery
Chairperson of the General Assembly

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Representative of United Arab Emirates



Letter from the World Bank

Insuring the Strong Partnership Between The Arab Academy and the World Bank



The World Bank

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

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August 23, 2010

Dr. Mohamed Farghaly
President of the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and
Maritime Transport
Alexandria, Arab Republic of Egypt
(Transmission by fax: +202 226 833 44)

Subject: Disaster Risk Reduction and Management in the Arab Region

I would like to thank the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASMT), and its team for its leadership in advancing the disaster risk reduction and management agenda in the Arab region. Since 2008, our collaboration has enabled several joint risk reduction related activities. These are summarized below along with proposed next steps for additional areas of collaboration amongst us:

(1) Study on Climate Change Adaptation and Natural Disaster Preparedness in the Coastal Cities of North Africa:

Since 2008, the Bank has supported an ongoing regional study for Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia entitled *Climate Change Adaptation and Natural Disaster Preparedness in the Coastal Cities of North Africa*. Recently, the World Bank and the AASMT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), for the development of an additional study, *Climate Change Adaptation and Natural Disaster Preparedness in Greater Alexandria*. The Arab Academy has contributed the equivalent of \$200,000 towards the implementation of the Alexandria study. The overall study should be completed by December 2010 and will be disseminated in the region.

(2) Damage and Loss Assessment (DALA) Training:

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) delivered a post-disaster Damage and Loss Assessment (DALA) Workshop on 26-29 April 2010 as well as a workshop on Risk Assessment on May 2, 2010, both in Cairo. The main objective of the DALA workshop was to establish a core group of AASMT affiliated Arabic speaking experts from the region to undertake future damage, loss and needs assessment in affected countries. Later this year, GFDRR will support a Train the Trainers session in Alexandria.

(3) South-South Cooperation Program:

The AASMT and the Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED), in partnership with the Ministries of Environment of Egypt, Tunisia, and with the University of Djibouti, will implement the South-South Cooperation Program (US\$ 300,000) that was approved by GFDRR to undertake risk assessment, and design mechanisms to increase the resilience of communities to risks from disaster and climate change.

The South-South Partners will meet with the World Bank South-South Cooperation team¹ in Cairo, Egypt in September 2010 to validate the proposal, and agree on project implementation arrangements after which the project is expected to launch.

(4) Disaster Risk Management Curriculum Development:

A World Bank mission visited the Alexandria branch of the AASTMT as well as the Regional Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cairo in March 2010, to (i) review and assess current courses at the Academy which could lend themselves to having DRM component integrated; (ii) assess the feasibility of instituting a DRM module; and (iii) to better understand the expectations of the Academy.

The mission recommended designing and implementing an introductory course and a certificate program in DRM for mid-career professionals. The course is expected to provide graduates with a working knowledge and basic capacity to manage disaster risks (see Annex 1).

We would welcome a discussion between the Consultant (Mr. Charles Scawthorn) and the Academy staff to discuss the next steps in the inclusion of DRM modules in the AASTMT curriculum.

(5) Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation E-Learning training:

From 22 March to 17 April, 2010, the World Bank Institute provided DRM training which included a "Training the Trainers" component. This was designed to transfer knowledge and capacity to AASTMT experts in the domain of specialized risk management and climate change adaptation. By equipping AASTMT experts with this knowledge, they will be able to independently conduct e-learning seminars on these issues in the future to MNA country stakeholders. This training represented the first step toward the transfer of the World Bank e-learning knowledge to the AASTMT.

As a next step, the AASTMT and the MNA DRM team will be offering an online course on comprehensive DRM to regional stakeholders from September 20 to October 24, 2010. To date, 25 participants have enrolled in this AASTMT E-learning course.

(6) Establishment of an AASTMT Branch in Aden (Yemen):

Following the floods that occurred in Yemen in the Hadramout and Al-Mahara Governorates in 2008, the World Bank led a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). As a result of the PDNA, the World Bank is assisting the Government of Yemen to strengthen its national DRM institutions. This includes the development of probabilistic risk studies and risk management strategies at the national, governorate (Hadramout and Al-Mahara) and city (Sana'a) levels. These will enable long-term disaster risk reduction planning and mitigation measures.

Within this context, the MNA DRM Team and AASTMT have been discussing the possibility of establishing a regional branch of the AASTMT in Aden, in order to more effectively support DRM activities in Yemen. A joint mission of the AASTMT and the World Bank is planned for the fall of 2010 to meet the Deputy-Prime Minister for Economic Affairs and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation to discuss and identify future collaboration between the AASTMT and the Government of Yemen.

¹ The South-South Cooperation team is comprised of Mr. Osama Hamad, Senior DRM Specialist and Project Leader & Mr. Andrea Zanon, DRM Specialist.

(7) Establishment of an Arab Disaster Reserve Fund (ADRF):

Disaster risk financing instruments help governments increase their financial response capacities in the aftermath of natural disasters while protecting their long term fiscal balance. An Arab Disaster Reserve Fund (ADRF) would provide Middle East and North African countries with financial coverage against major natural disasters. The Fund would work as a regional reserve fund owned and controlled by the participating countries. Each participating country would pay an annual contribution related to its own risk exposure and would receive a payout in case of a major natural disaster.

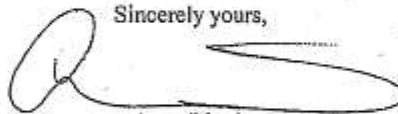
In assessing the feasibility of setting up such a Fund, the consultant (Mr. Scawthorn) looks forward to interacting with technical specialists from the Academy and seeking their feedback on the proposed methodology and the hazard and exposure data collection. He is expected to visit AASTMT in Alexandria at least twice: at the beginning of his assignment to present and discuss the scope and methodology and at the end of his assignment to present his findings. Ms. Aditi Banerjee, DRM Analyst, will be leading this engagement on behalf of the World Bank.

(8) Memorandum of Understanding between the AASTMT and the MNA DRM Team:

The MNA DRM team, in partnership with the AASTMT, is completing a MoU formalizing the initiatives on 'capacity building'. The teams envision completing this task by the next GFDRR Result Management Council (RMC) that is taking place in Alexandria, Egypt during the period September 19-20, 2010.

The World Bank is committed to continue building a strong partnership between our two institutions, and we look forward to working very closely with you and your team during the upcoming October 5-7, 2010 GFDRR Consultative Group Meetings in Washington D.C. to further deepen our collaboration on this important agenda in the MNA region.

Sincerely yours,



Anna Bjerde
Sector Manager
Sustainable Development Department
Middle East and North Africa Region

Letter of Recognition from H.R.H Prince Turki Bin Nasser Bin Abdulaziz Al- Saud

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Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Ministry of Defense and Aviation
Presidency of Meteorology and Environment

Date: 2 Shaaban 1431 of the Hijry Calendar, corresponding to 14 July 2010
Reference No. 8/1/18940
Attachments: {Left blank}

His Excellency, Amr Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, *May God Protect Him*

May Peace, Mercy and Blessings be upon You

I would like express my gratitude and appreciation to Your Excellency. I appreciate your blessed efforts, as well as your ongoing and continuous support with respect to the on going issues of environmental protection and development in the Arab nations which have led to increasing initiatives and activities on all levels in both fields, which we always consider as developing constantly. In this concern, I would like to highlight one of the specialized Arab educational institutions which has flourished in the last two years, i.e. the Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport, chaired by Dr. Mohamed Farghaly, for whom we have full respect and appreciation. We consider him as a model for the Arab candidates, whom we admire. He spares no effort in sincerely supporting Arab issues. In a very short time the Arab Academy became fully functional as he enhanced its capacity and capabilities. He created joint ventures with the United Nations and the Islamic Bank for Development with the purpose of serving the Arab countries. I would also like to thank you for what the Academy has given in continuous support to the Presidency of Meteorology and Environment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, one of which was the contribution of setting up a national operations center for managing disasters in the Kingdom. Your Excellency must be aware of excellent status that the Academy has recently gained in the international fraternity, especially during the last two years. The Academy has linked the global agenda with the Arab one and created a joint venture center with the United Nations which is concerned with one of the most important fields for the Arab countries, i.e. natural disasters whenever they occur, *God forbid*. Such disasters affect the economic and social conditions of the Arab countries due to the lost souls, as set out in the global evaluation report for minimizing the risks of catastrophes issued by the United Nations in 2009. The report of the General Secretary of the United Nations for the years 2008 and 2009 included the activities and contributions of the Arab Academy in that area. As Arabs, we are proud of having such an effective Academy.

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We thank and appreciate your interest and continuous enthusiasm in tackling the ongoing environmental and developmental problems in the Arab nations. We pray to almighty God to guide your steps and always endorse your efforts with success and accomplishment.

With fullest respect and best regards,

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Turki bin Nasser bin Abdel Aziz

Chairman of the General Administration of Meteorological Forecast
& Environment Protection

{Translator's Comment: This Document is an identical copy which bears: (i) the seal of the Secretariat General of the League of Arab States, Cairo, and the seal of Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport, the League of Arab States. Our reference is 20120109-Job 19-Letter-Mohamed Farghaly-FCC.}

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