

*Welcome Message from Ambassador Hisham Badr
Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Japan*

The Arab Republic of Egypt is honored to be represented among the 121 countries participating in the 2005 World Exposition held in Aichi, Japan. We are proud to have an independent pavilion, located in Common 5, that will serve for the duration of the Exposition as your gateway to Egypt, where you will be able to explore Egypt's magnificent and fascinating past, experience its rich and diverse present, and witness its ambitions and dreams for the future.

Egypt, as a proud nation of over 70 million people with a history spanning more than five millennia, is privileged to showcase and share its civilization, heritage, culture, tourist attractions, and investment opportunities with the estimated 15 million visitors that are expected to descend on Expo Aichi from March 25 to September 25 this year.

Located at the crossroads of Africa, Asia and Europe, Egypt has much to offer. With more than half of the world's antiquities, Egypt is a unique tourist destination where visitors will experience the warmth of its people and the diversity and splendor of its ancient civilization. With a dynamic and business oriented new Cabinet, Egypt is a lucrative trading partner and large consumer market where opportunities abound. And with an aggressive export driven policy and investment friendly climate, Egypt offers endless horizons for all those who wish to contribute to its economic growth and help realize its future potential.

And while Egypt is indeed proud of its past, it is also moving forward with energetic dynamism and firm determination. It has led the path towards peace and stability in the Middle East. It has embarked on a program of political reforms that will extend the democratic and participatory opportunities of its citizens. It is harnessing the infinite talents of its expanding population. It is restructuring and diversifying its economy and building a modern and technologically advanced infrastructure. And it is positioning itself as an export hub to Africa, Europe and the Arab World.

The Egyptian pavilion at Expo Aichi can only offer a glimpse of what awaits you in Egypt. I sincerely hope that your visit to the pavilion will inspire you to embark on a truly historic voyage and experience Egypt firsthand. With five direct EgyptAir flights departing weekly from Japan to Cairo, and a network of other international flights serving Egypt, visiting Egypt – where history meets modernity – has never been so easy.

Message from Mr. Mohamed El-Said Saleh, Commissioner-General, Egypt

Throughout the years, Egypt has been playing a very important role in its region economically, politically and socially. Egypt's regional and international positions and policies have been driven by its inherited culture, traditions and civilization. Our country is also reacting positively to the rapid changes that the international community has witnessed including those in the fields of science and technology.

The Government of Egypt has introduced a package of irreversible reforms aimed at raising the standards of living of its people, modernizing the country and ensuring sustainable development for younger and future generations, taking into account the negative ramifications that the limited natural resources accompanied by the pressures of overpopulation might have on the country's efforts in this direction.

Egypt is also placing a priority on environmental conservation, an issue which converges with the exhibition's main theme of "Nature's Wisdom" and the global trend of preserving humankind's natural habitat and environment.

The Egyptian pavilion at Expo Aichi is divided into three main sections:

1. *The Past*: where famous Pharaonic statues will be displayed, and a show detailing how ancient Egyptians dealt with their natural surroundings during their time will be presented.
2. *The Present*: where the latest developments in Egypt will be explained, reflecting on how the country is rapidly accelerating towards integrating itself into the global economy through a set of promising economic reforms, an exclusive privatization plan, and trade deregulation.
3. *The Future*: which will reflect a number of mega projects that are currently being established in Egypt with the aim of ensuring a better life for future generations.

I would like to seize this opportunity to invite you all to visit the Egyptian Pavilion in Expo 2005, where you will find an unprecedented combination of ancient and modern Egypt all in one.