Press Release

Girls’ Day in Egypt: Raising Female Interest for Technical and Managerial Jobs

11th October 2018 is the International Day of the Female Child: Girls and young women in Egypt are mostly outperforming boys in schools and universities1, but are underrepresented in the workforce, especially in technical and management careers. 24.7 per cent of all Egyptian women are unemployed in comparison to 8.3 per cent of all men2; only 7.1 per cent of all managers are female3. Although the average percentage of Egyptian women enrolled in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) university studies is 43 percent4, only 9 percent of the Egyptian engineering workforce is female5.

Marva from Cairo will spend her Girls’ Day at Siemens, where she will learn what it takes to be an engineer. Heba from Alexandria will spend her Girls’ Day at Pirelli and Sarah from Cairo at Coca Cola. The female students will learn more about different job opportunities in the field of management and STEM. This special day is organized by the company for girls only.

100 Egyptian 16-year-old school girls from ten PASCH schools in Cairo and Alexandria are taking part in Girls’ Day. This professional orientation event is put into practice with the support of twenty Egyptian private sector companies engaged in STEM and management/leadership. The day is part of the project ‘ProGirls’/Professional Orientation of Girls, implemented jointly by the GIZ program ‘EconoWin’ - commissioned by the Federal German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development- and by the Initiative “Schools: Partners for the Future Initiative (PASCH) - coordinated by Goethe-Institut Kairo and Alexandria. Female students from Cairo and Alexandria receive career guidance with a focus on STEM and managerial positions.

About the GIZ and EconoWin:

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a federal enterprise of the German Government and provides international cooperation services for sustainable development and international education work. The GIZ supports civil society actors to generate ideas for political, social and economic change.

EconoWin – Economic Integration of Women in the MENA Region – aims to improve the conditions for the economic integration of women in the MENA region. The program supports the implementation of Gender Diversity Management concepts in partnering companies and is part of a special initiative for stabilization and development in North Africa and the Middle East implemented by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Projects realized within the framework of the initiative create economic and social prospects in the MENA region. For the period 2014 to 2022 the GIZ and other organizations will execute more than 70 additional development projects focusing on youth support, promotion of employment, economic stabilization, democratization, and the stabilization of neighbouring countries in crisis situations.

Contact and more Info on the Project: Krine Stahl, krine.stahl@giz.de, 01211864478, www.econowin.org

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2 ILO, 2018 : http://www.ilo.org/ilostat/faces/oracle/webcenter/portalapp/pagehierarchy/Page3.jspx;ILOSTATCOOKIE=5Ho8Wso7f9_XH616QpeGal5gQ2Y3ukUNMdweh_BJi2YSzhQos_j1254440622?MBI_ID=2&_adf.ctrl-state=oevi88ny_92&_afr.op=682008984104327&_afrWindowMode=0&_afrWindowId=null#%40%40%3F_afrWindowId%3Dnull%26_afrLoop%3D682008984104327%26MBI_ID%3D2%26_afrWindowMode%3D0%26_adf.ctrl-state%3D7ogeb6so2_z_4
5 HR Revolution Middle East Journal,2017: http://www.hrrevolution.me/is-there-any-place-for-women-engineers-in-egypt-and-greece/
About Goethe-Institut and PASCH

The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach. We promote knowledge of the German language abroad and foster international cultural cooperation. We convey a comprehensive image of Germany by providing information about cultural, social and political life in our nation. Our cultural and educational programmes encourage intercultural dialogue and enable cultural involvement. They strengthen the development of structures in civil society and foster worldwide mobility.

PASCH stands for the "Schools: Partners for the Future" initiative. It is a global network of some 1,800 schools that place a high value on German. PASCH is an initiative of the Federal Foreign Office in cooperation with the Central Agency for Schools Abroad (ZfA), the Goethe-Institut (GI), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Educational Exchange Service of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (PAD).

For contact and further information on the project: www.goethe.de/pasch-egypt

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