PRESS RELEASE
LIBRARY BUS HANOVER

The Chargé d’affaires of the German Embassy Cairo will hand over the Library Bus of the Goethe-Institut Cairo to the Misr El Kheir Foundation. Since 2013, the Library Bus, a project funded by the Federal Foreign Office, provided more than 75,000 children outside of Cairo and in other Egyptian cities with the opportunity to experience enthusiasm for reading. The German Embassy Cairo, the Goethe-Institut Cairo and the Misr El Kheir Foundation invite you to join the handover in Cairo on 15 July 2018 at 12:30 pm.

THE EVENT
In the presence of representatives of both institutions, H.E. Mr Sönke Siemon, Chargé d’affaires of the German Embassy Cairo, will hand over the Goethe-Institut’s Library Bus to the Misr El Kheir Foundation at the premises of the Goethe-Institut Cairo (5 El Bustan Street, Downtown) on July 15th, at 12:30 pm.

THE PROJECT
Over a period of six years, the Library Bus, a project supported by the German Federal Foreign Office, drove to schools, children hospitals, orphanages and leisure clubs outside of Cairo. The bus was packed with Arabic children’s and youth books and was accompanied by the storyteller Haytham Shokry.

Aiming at addressing illiteracy in Egypt, the project was designed to promote reading as a fun activity through an innovative approach. The project aimed at engaging students in reading outside of a school context through games, reading exercises, and storytelling sessions.

Recently, the bus drove to fixed stops in the Nile Delta, Alexandria and provinces in southern Egypt on an average of once a month. Since the start of the project, the bus has been serving thousands of Egyptian children and youth on more than 800 visiting days.

“The Library Bus project is a symbol of Germany’s engagement in Egypt in the field of education and civil society,” says Mr. Sönke Simon, Chargé d’affaires of the German Embassy Cairo. “The Bus served both as an engine for young readers and as a tool to engage communities far away from Cairo. Even in a digital age, reading is the basic skill in education. Education, in turn, is the best way towards social advancement and civic awareness.”
"We want to continue with these efforts to promote reading in remote areas of Egypt. Hence, it is important for us that initially the bus is going to operate under the joint coordination of the German Embassy Cairo, the Goethe-Institut Cairo and the Misr El-Kheir Foundation, but under the full leadership of the Misr El-Kheir Foundation at the same time," says Dr. Elke Kaschl Mohni of the Goethe-Institut. "To us, the Misr El-Kheir is the perfect partner because the organisation has longstanding expertise that guarantees that many of the former stops will still be visited in the future, which allows to create continuity," the Regional Director of the Goethe-Institut in North Africa/Middle East continues.

From her side, Dina Hathout, the director of Aspects of Life scope in Misr El Kheir Foundation stated: "It brings us great joy to cooperate with such a strong cultural partner, which is keen to develop the Egyptian society. Our mission has always been “human development”, and through this project, and with the cooperation with Goethe-Institut, this year we will be able to reach more beneficiaries and spread this noble cause throughout different areas of Egypt."

THE MISR EL-KHEIR FOUNDATION

Misr El-Kheir Foundation is a non-profit development foundation established in 2007, with the objective to continue for more than 500 years. Misr El-Kheir’s vision is to become a leading sustainable development foundation highly renowned internationally. To reach this vision, Misr El-Kheir contribute to the development of the human in the fields of health, education, and scientific research and innovation, social solidarity and aspects of life with the objective of eliminating unemployment, illiteracy, poverty and disease. The foundation work on developing the human to transform the status and quality of living from the neediness level to self-sufficiency and ultimately efficiency and empowerment.

This goal is being achieved through the implementation of development programs that contribute to poverty alleviation and some values: transparency, respect, excellence, responsibility, credibility and equality. Misr El-Kheir’s geographical reach is extended across all governorates to the remotest areas and border regions reach the neediest throughout the Republic. Misr El-Kheir deploys a scientific methodology to detect the social challenges facing the community, and conducting a comprehensive survey of villages and areas in need.

In addition to building a database and information system that contributes to the prioritization of the most urgent needs in these areas, in order to ensure providing our services to the most urgent and less-privileged cases Misr El-Kheir has a great role in the development of Egyptian human culture through several projects for human development culturally and the most important project called “Tales on four wheels” is a mobile library equipped with a collection of books in all fields and for different ages. Misr El-Kheir’s mobile library travels between governorates in public and private places such as public schools, public libraries, clubs and youth centers, encouraging children and youth to know their cultural heritage through the art of storytelling, as well as educational activities, cultural games, workshops to read heritage stories, and traditional Egyptian songs. The project aims to encourage them to learn, develop thoughts, dialogue, and express their opinions and ideas freely in various forms.

THE GOETHE-INSTITUT

The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach. It promotes knowledge of the German language abroad and fosters international cultural cooperation. The Goethe-Institut conveys a comprehensive image of Germany by providing information about cultural, social and political life in Germany. In Cairo, the Goethe-Institut is active for 60 years. Together with
partners, its cultural and educational programmes encourage intercultural dialogue and enable cultural involvement.

The Library bus was a project of the Goethe-Institut and supported by the German Federal Foreign Office.