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Press release

Exhibition
Discovering science in Africa
Nanotechnology in Egypt
From April 22 to June 30
at the French Institute of Egypt

A million times smaller than a millimeter, this is the size of the nanomaterials that Egyptian researchers work on. Graphene nanotubes, medical nanosensors, nanoparticles and nanowires are some examples of the many structures used in the composition of the latest generation products, from ultra-light tennis rackets to high efficiency photovoltaic panels, as well as cancer treatments.

Far from the stereotypes that reduce Africa to poverty, disease and war, researchers are leading cutting-edge work here, particularly in nanophotonics, the study of the interaction between light and matter on a nanometric scale. This exhibition aims to introduce you to nanotechnologies, and more specifically nanophotonics, through the words of Egyptian researchers and paints a picture of research here in Egypt.

A few facts

- Egypt ranks 30th worldwide in terms of publications of scientific articles (ISI web of knowledge) with 16031 articles in 2018
- In particular, for Nanotechnology papers, Egypt ranks 20th in the world.
- With more than 20% of the scientific publications in Africa, Egyptians are, with South Africans (30%), leaders of scientific research on the continent
- In 2018, Egypt has experienced, after Pakistan, the second largest increase in terms of publications of scientific research articles worldwide, with a 15.9% increase compared to 2017 according to the scientific journal Nature
- 16 new universities have emerged in Egypt since 2009
- The constitution adopted in 2014 mandates investment of 1% of GDP for research and development.

This exhibition was created as part of the project Voyage-partage initiated by Taïna Cluzeau and is supported by the French association Fais ta science! with the aim of raising public awareness of scientific work in Africa. It was made possible thanks to the support of the French embassy in Cairo, the French Institute Egypt and the Center for Photonics and Smart Materials in Zewail city. www.voyage-partage.fr

The exhibition is presented in French and Arabic, English translation available at the reception

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In the heart of Egyptian research, a participative realization

The exhibition's nanophotonics content is based on direct input from researchers of the Photonics and Smart Materials Center in Zewail city. For three months, they collaborated with the curator of the exhibition to select the information they wanted to share with the public and worked to help make it accessible.

Opening and debate

The Opening of the exhibition will take place on April 22 at 18:30 and will be followed by a debate moderated by science journalist Dalia Abdel Salam, editor-in-chief of the magazine For Science. The debate will focus on the importance for Egypt to develop her own scientific research and how this may impact on, among other goals for Egypt, becoming competitive in the global market for innovation and being able to find solutions to national issues such as sustainable energy management, heritage protection, and water treatment.

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