

HELMY ABOULEISH

Born in Graz, Austria on 28th of July, 1961
Country of Citizenship: Egypt / Austria

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Helmy Abouleish is Managing Director of the SEKEM Group in Egypt. Under his stewardship, SEKEM received the 'Right Livelihood Award 2003' and became a member of the Schwab Foundation. He is a recognized leader of sustainable change in Egypt and the Arab world, driving manifold initiatives for sustainable development mainly in the field of Organic Agriculture, Social Entrepreneurship and Responsible Competitiveness.

PERSONAL MISSION:

To develop the national and global market for organic products and other sustainable business models contributing to overcome the global challenges of the 21st century, and secure a leadership position for the SEKEM Group of Companies as a model for economic excellence through sustainable development.

To raise awareness for the urgency of a more sustainable development path in Egypt and globally, advocate for related policy changes, and drive and support initiatives for sustainable development both in the public and private sector.

HIGHER EDUCATION:

- Salesmanship and Marketing Diploma, American University in Cairo, 1998.
- B.Sc. in Financial and Commercial Studies, Faculty of Commerce, Cairo University, 1995
Major: Business Administration, Minor: Marketing

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Vice Chairman of the Board & Managing Director, SEKEM GROUP

- 1984 until present

The SEKEM Group of companies employs more than 1,500 people and cultivates desert areas into fertile land through bio-dynamic agriculture, processing the harvest into foodstuffs, textiles and phyto-pharmaceuticals. It is part of the holistic SEKEM initiative founded 1977 in the Egyptian desert, striving for sustainable development in the fields of economy, culture and social/political life, in harmony with nature. Under the stewardship of Helmy Abouleish of its commercial arm, the SEKEM Initiative received the 'Right Livelihood Award 2003' for sustainable development, and became a member of the Schwab Foundation for Outstanding Social Entrepreneurs.

Board Member, SEKEM DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

- 1984 until present

The SEKEM Development Foundation was established to contribute to the developmental goals of the Egyptian people. It works to improve the quality of people's lives by creating awareness and raise their state of consciousness as well as improving living conditions. Over the last decades, the Foundation has expanded its activities from basic educational initiatives into a comprehensive portfolio of institutions and programs in the fields of research and education, health care, and social development.

Founder and Chairman, ECOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGIES Holding (ECOTEC)

- 2007 until present

In 2007, Helmy Abouleish founded, and since has chaired, Ecological Technologies as Holding company providing funds, support and mentorship to start-ups in Renewable Resources, IT and Industrial/Real Estate Development. It encompasses seven international Joint Ventures in the fields of: Clean Development Mechanism Consulting, Carbon Footprinting and Offsetting; Production and Sale of Renewable Energy Equipment; Supply of Energy from Renewable Sources; Water Treatment Solutions; IT solutions; Real Estate Development of Ecological Lodges; Mining. Quarrying and Glass processing in an integrated local value chain.

Founder and President, EGYPTIAN NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL (ENCC)

- 2007 until present

Founder and Chairman, 2004-2007

The Egyptian National Competitiveness Council (ENCC) was set up in 2004 to shed light on the issue of national competitiveness, enhance Egypt's performance and provide an international benchmarking mechanism. Its influential annual Competitiveness Reports are highlighting emerging competitiveness and sustainable development issues of national importance, such as the challenges of global warming and scarcity of water and non-renewable energy (ECR 2008) or the concept of responsible competitiveness (ECR 2009). In 2009 the ENCC promoted a National Sustainable Development Strategy which was launched by the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency. In 2010, the ENCC is now developing a comprehensive strategy for Egyptian competitiveness, placing Green Transformation of the Economy as a main component in the nation's action plans for growth and development.

Executive Director, INDUSTRIAL MODERNIZATION CENTRE (IMC)

- June 2005 until December 2006

The Industrial Modernization Centre (IMC) was created in the year 2000 to implement the Industrial Modernization Program of the Egyptian Government, which is co-funded by the European Commission. It represents the largest development fund in Egypt, dedicated to job creation and economic development. It pursues a threefold developmental strategy for industrial competitiveness based on short-term improvements in Exports and FDI, also via compliance to global sustainability standards; moving on to medium-term increases of efficiency and productivity through investment in Human Resources; and further investing into innovation, technological advancement, and sustainable development as solid foundation for long-term success.

President, EGYPTIAN JUNIOR BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (EJB)

- June 2004 until June 2006

The Egyptian Junior Business Association aims to provide a forum for business people committed to a excellence while actively engaging for the overall development of Egypt. The Vision of the EJB is to be the leading Business Association enhancing business environment and positively impacting the Egyptian Society towards sustainable development. It is facilitating private sector initiatives for sustainable change such as the Egyptian Chapter of the Arab Sustainability Leadership Group.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Helmy Abouleish is a member of the World Future Council, the World Economic Forum and the Egyptian Delegation to the UNFCCC negotiations on Climate Change. He is a renowned leader of sustainable change in the Arab world, founder of e.g. the Egyptian National Competitiveness Council, the Egyptian Chapter of the Arab Sustainability Leadership Group, and is driving manifold initiatives for organic agriculture, corporate sustainability, national and global sustainable development.

Founder / Cofounder (Selection):

- Arab Sustainability Leadership Group, Egyptian Chapter 2010
- Arab Sustainability Leadership Group, 2008
- Egyptian National Competitiveness Council (ENCC), 2006
- International Association of Partnership in Ecology and Trade (IAP), 1996
- Egyptian Biodynamic Association (EBDA), 1995
- Center for Organic Agriculture in Egypt (COAE), 1990
- SEKEM Development Foundation (SDF), 1984
- Society for Cultural Development (SCD), 1984

Chairman (Selection):

- Industrial Law Committee of the Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI) since 2008
- Management Council of the Industrial Modernization Center (IMC) since 2006
- Egyptian National Competitiveness Council (ENCC) since 2006
- Egyptian Junior Business Association 2004 - 2006

Board Membership:

- Egyptian Business Association (EBA) since January 2010
- Egyptian German High Joint Committee for Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection since 2009
- National Quality Institute since 2009
- Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) since September 2009
- Agricultural Technology and Research Fund since 2008
- Science and Technological Development (STDF) Fund since 2008

- Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI) since 2007
- Renewable & Energy Saving fund since 2007
- Agriculture Modernization Council (AMC) since 2006
- National Organization for Drug Control and Research since 2006
- New Urban Communities Authority since 2006
- Industrial Training Council (ITC) since 2006
- Egyptian Exports Promotion Centre (EEPC) since 2006
- General Industrial Development Authority (GIDA) since 2005
- Export Council of Medicaments (ECM) since 2005
- Agriculture Export Council (AEC) since 2005
- Egyptian Coalition for Transparency and Anti-Corruption since 2004
- Industrial Modernization Centre (IMC) since 2004
- General Authority for Investment and Free-Zones (GAFI) since 2004
- Chamber of Food Industries - Egyptian Industries Federation (EIF) 2004-2007
- Educational Committee of the National Democratic Party (NDP) since 2003
- Egyptian Junior Business Association (EJB) since 2002
- German-Arab Chamber of Industry and Commerce (GACIC), Cairo since 2002
- Institute of Cultural Affairs Middle East & North Africa (ICA) since 2002
- Egyptian Agribusiness Association (EAGA) since 2000
- International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM), African Group, Uganda, 1999-2003
- International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements (IFOAM), Mediterranean Group, Italy, 1997-2004
- International Demeter Organization, The Netherlands, 1996-2002

Membership:

- World Future Council (WFC) – Climate and Energy Commission since June 2009
- Steering Committee of the Agricultural Exports' Traceability Project since 2005
- Arab Business Council (ABC) since 2005
- Young President Organization (YPO) since 2005
- Egyptian Education and Employment Alliance (EEEA)
- Ashoka Foundation Selecting Panel in Egypt since 2004
- Egypt's International and Economic Forum (EIEF) since 2004
- Social Entrepreneur Council of the Schwab Foundation since 2003
- Business Council and Education Committee since 2002
- Confederation of Egyptian European Business Associations (CEEBA)

Board of Trustees Membership:

- Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development (under establishment)
- Egyptian Junior Business Association (EJB) since 2007
- General Authority for Investment and Free-Zones (GAFI) 2007 - 2009

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**Speaking Engagements (Selection):**

- Royal Summit on Sustainable Food and Agriculture, Highgrove House, UK on Invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Charles, May 2010
- Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship in Washington D.C., USA on invitation of His Excellency President Barack Obama, April 2010
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Bonn Climate Change Talks, Germany, April 2010
- United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) – Caring for Climate, Geneva, CH, April 2010
- FiBL Workshop on Organic Agriculture and Climate Certification, Frick, CH, April 2010
- High –Level Conference on Development of Agribusiness and Agro-Industries, Abuja, Nigeria, March 2010
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP16, Copenhagen, Denmark, December 2009
- United States Competitiveness Council, Washington D.C., USA, September 2009
- United Nations Leadership Forum on Climate Change, New York, USA, September 2009
- Arab-German Family Business Summit, Manama, Bahrain, October/November 2009
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Climate Talks in Copenhagen, Denmark, May 2009
- World Economic Forum (WEF) – Launch Event for the fourth Jordanian Competitiveness Report, Jordan, 2009
- UNDP - National Initiative for Corporate Social Responsibility, Egypt, March 2008
- 29th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, Egypt, March 2008
- International Conference on Organic Agriculture and Finance, Spain, December 2007
- Science & Technology in Society Forum (STS), Japan, October 2007
- International Conference on Organic Agriculture and Food Security, Italy, May 2007
- Symposium on Corporate Social Responsibility, Jordan, on invitation of Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan, February 2007
- Arab Business Council, Bahrain, May 2005
- Exhibition, International Forum for Developing Entrepreneurship, Dubai, UAE, May 2005
- Arab Business Council, Qatar El Doha, 2005
- UBS Philanthropy Forum, Zurich, Switzerland, April 2005
- Forum Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain, June-July 2004
- World Economic Forum (WEF), Amman, Jordan, May 2004
- International Finance Corporation (IFC) in Washington D.C., USA, April 2004
- World Economic Forum (WEF) in Marseille, France, March 2003
- Social Entrepreneurs' Summit in Geneva, Switzerland, September 2003

Awards (Selection):

- *Award of Acknowledgement for outstanding contribution to the business community and modernization of Egyptian industry* – presented by the German-Arab Chamber of Industry and Commerce (GACIC)
- *Certificate of Merit* – presented by Al Gomhouria Newspaper / Fourth Exporters Festival
- *Award of Honor* – presented by the Ashoka Foundation in the Arab World
- *Certificate of Merit* – presented by the Faculty of Commerce, Alexandria University.
- *Special Award* – presented by the Young President Organization (YPO)
- *Award of Honor* – presented by the Egyptan Junior Business Organization (EJB)

REFERENCES:

Reference profiles on the SEKEM Group of companies and other professional affiliations and activities are available upon request.