



The Egyptian Cabinet  
Information and Decision Support Center

# IDSC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 8  
SEPTEMBER, 2009

## IDSC IN BRIEF

Acting as the Egyptian Cabinet Think Tank...Our mission is to impartially support the government decisions through proposing best policy scenario mix and preparing analytical research to improve the socio-economic well-being of the Egyptian society.

Since Egypt has embarked on an ambitious reform process, the climate surrounding such process has increasingly become more complex and interconnected. It has become evident that public policy design demands a variety of professional policy options.

IDSC derives its success from being a multidisciplinary institution which is capable of meeting these outstanding demands. Moreover, operating at the heart of the decision-making process in Egypt, IDSC encourages public debate on its research findings, which are openly available to all members of the society.

Being a progressive organization, IDSC works to establish cooperation linkages with international counterparts. The main purpose is to share knowledge and integrate best practices into its operations. We appreciate our existing partnerships and we look forward to developing new ones hoping that through cooperation in mutual areas of interest, we will have a significant impact on developing the decision-making process in Egypt.

This newsletter gives a brief idea about the recent and future activities of the Center.

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

NAAYEM SAAD ZAGHLOUL

### SENIOR EDITOR & DESIGNER

HODA SALAH EL-DIN EL-ADL

### EDITOR

FATMA FAROUK

### EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

DR. AMEL M. M. EL-GEBALI

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Fraunhofer Gesellschaft Institute and possible areas of cooperation*

A meeting was held at (IDSC) with representatives from *Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research (ISI)*, to discuss the future cooperation between the two institutions. Fraunhofer ISI is an institution under the umbrella of *Fraunhofer Society*. The latter is a well known application-oriented research society that contributes to strengthening European competitiveness. Among their key successful contributions in the field of technology is the invention of the MP3 and it was ranked among the Top Patent Applicants and Trade Mark Offices in 2006. Fraunhofer ISI works on analyzing the economic and technical developments in the activities of industry, state and society to support decision-makers in industry, science and politics in setting the points for future strategic decisions.

The meeting was attended by head of staff members of both institutions; Chairman of IDSC, Dr. Magued Osman; and Deputy Head of Competence Center Emerging Technologies, Dr. Bernd Beckert; Fraunhofer Institute Systems and Innovation Research.

The meeting started with a presentation from IDSC staff presenting the centers' main objectives, activities and scope of operations, and an introduction about the Future Studies Center and its objectives and operations, then followed by an outline for the specific areas for potential cooperation between IDSC and Fraunhofer ISI in areas of capacity building, conducting joint research and disseminating information in the field of Future Studies. Dr. Beckert also gave a brief presentation about Fraunhofer ISI and outlined the ISI's cooperation with the Egyptian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology in the areas of broadcasting.

Finally, a series of follow up activities are taking place for further cooperation between both parties.

# Reports

THE INFORMATION AND DECISION SUPPORT CENTER RELEASES A SERIES OF INFORMATION REPORTS ABOUT DIVERSE ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE PUBLIC AND DECISION-MAKERS.

THE FOLLOWING INTRODUCES ONE OF THESE REPORTS.

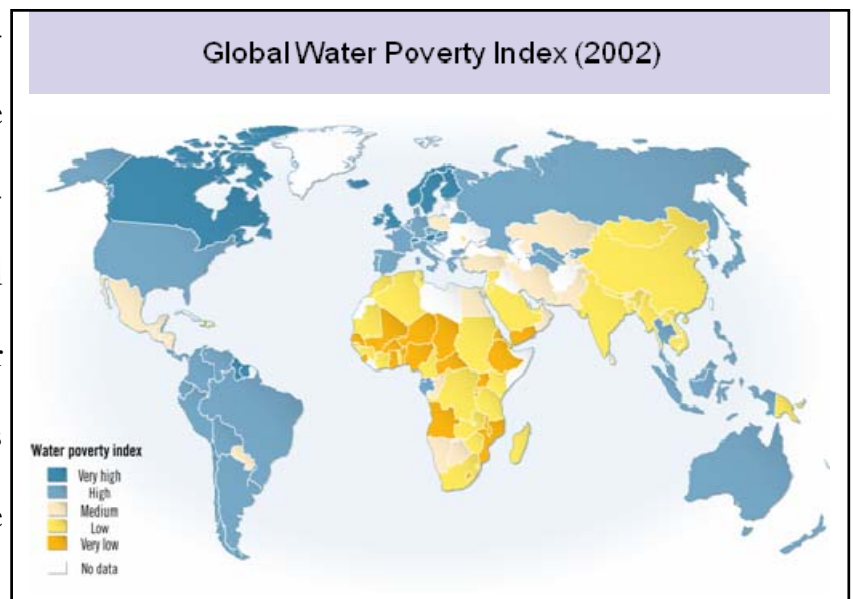


## *Has Egypt Entered the Era of Water Scarcity ?*

**S**DSC has recently published a report titled, **“Has Egypt Entered the Era of Water Scarcity?”**. The report consists of three main sections; the first focuses on the global and regional situation regarding water scarcity. The second gives an overview of Egypt's water resources; and the third outlines the Egyptian efforts to manage the water crisis.

### *Global and Regional Trends*

The report shows that the Arab region is one of the regions where the water crisis is manifested in its harshest forms.



Source: World Resources Institute, Water Resources and Freshwater Ecosystem Database

## Reports

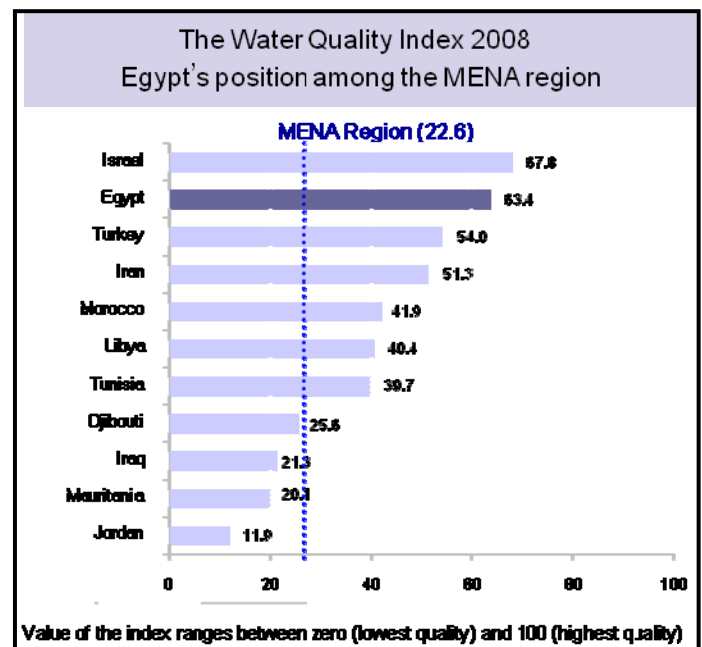
### *Has Egypt Entered the Era of Water Scarcity ?*

30 countries out of 178, according to international standards, are below the water poverty line; 15 of which are Arab countries. The report states that a billion persons living in developing countries suffer from scarcity of drinking water.

The quality of water, according to the report, is one of the most important elements in measuring a country's water scarcity level; the abundance of water is not enough, as the water should be of a quality high enough to be used. Therefore, the Water Quality Index has been established to measure the quality of water.

The index considers the physical and chemical composition of water, it ranges between zero to 100 (zero being the lowest water quality and 100 being the highest).

The report states that Egypt ranked number 59 in the Water Quality Index among the 231 countries where water was subject to the measurement.



### *An Overview of Egypt's Water Resources*

The report mentions that the River Nile is the main resource of water in Egypt representing 86.7% of Egypt's total water resources in 2006.

# Reports

## *Has Egypt Entered the Era of Water Scarcity ?*

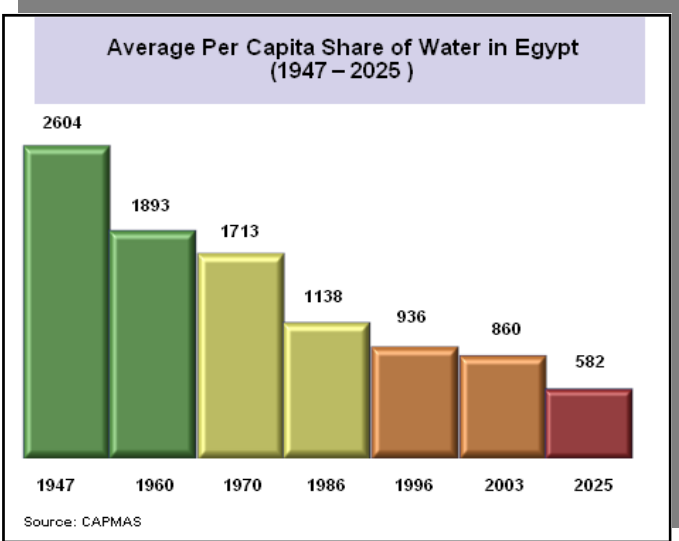
The per capita share of water has decreased from around 2604 cubic meters in 1947 to 860 cubic meters in 2003 shrinking by 67% during this period. The report also states that the per capita share of water will decrease to reach 582 cubic meters by the year 2025.

comes next representing 11.8% of Egypt’s total water consumption. The industrial sector consumes 1.7%.

Egypt utilized 700 water purifying stations in 2006/2007 compared to 457 stations in 2003/2004. The increase in the production of water in the same period was 12.9% reaching 7.25 billion cubic meters. The amount of water consumed in 2006/2007 represented 78.6% of water produced in the same year.

Expenditure on drinking water and sanitation increased by 286.2% from 2003/2004 to 2007/2008; reaching L.E. 11.2 billion.

The Egyptian population is increasing, necessitating more agricultural activities. Consequently, the report forecasts the need for water to increase by the year 2017 to reach 86.2 billion cubic meters.



Agriculture, according to the report, is the sector which consumes most of the Egypt’s water resources; as it consumed around 83.3% of total water utilization in the year 2007/2008. Household water consumption

## Reports

### *Has Egypt Entered the Era of Water Scarcity ?*

The Government of Egypt, according to the report, has embarked on a national plan to manage Egypt's water resources. The plan, which covers the duration up to the year 2017, aims at ensuring the availability of drinking water and every citizen's access to their basic right of healthy drinking water. The plan also aims at providing the necessary amount of water to the industrial sector. The plan's third pillar is to protect the available water from pollution and deter polluters by inflicting fines if proven guilty.

The plan intends to develop available water resources which include the River Nile, the ground water; in addition to establishing small enterprises to benefit from rainfall.

A crucial element, according to the report, in preserving or developing water resources is to enhance agricultural utilization of water; as the agricultural sector is the main water consumer in Egypt.

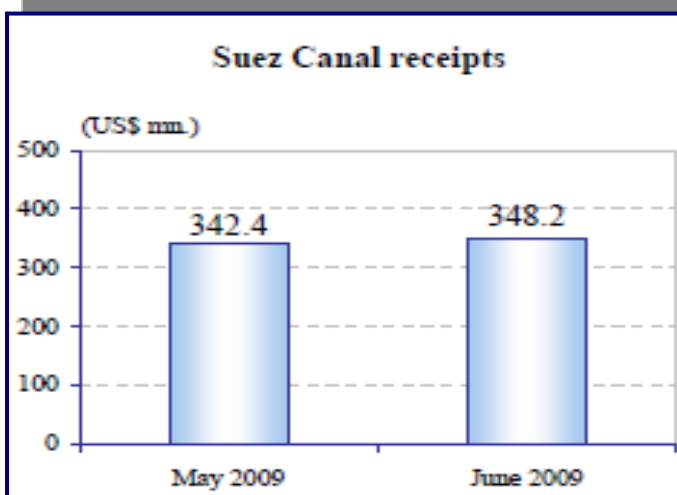
Finally, the report asserts that the Egyptian mentality acts on the basis of water abundance; Egyptians use water as if water is not a scarce resource that needs to be preserved or dealt with using caution.



## Figures To Remember

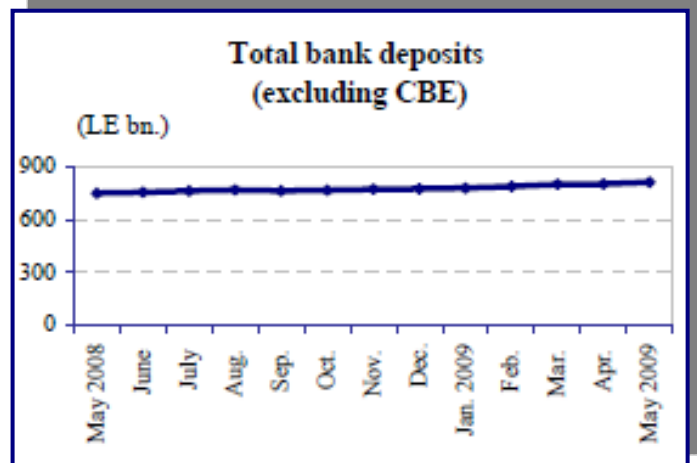
The Economic and Social Indicators Bulletin is a detailed record of the performance of the Egyptian economy over the past year. The bulletin provides important facts about various sectors of the Egyptian economy acting as a mirror that clearly reflects the state of the economy.

Receipts of Suez Canal recorded US\$ 348.2 million during June 2009, representing an increase by about 1.7% compared to May 2009.

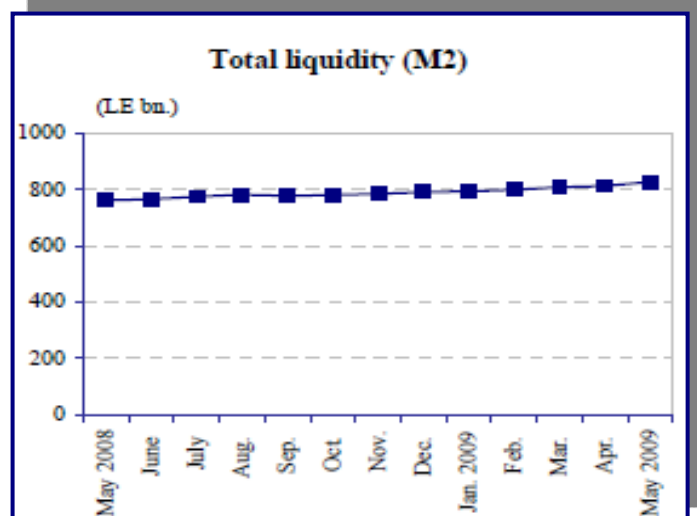


Egypt's inflation rate - on yearly basis - decreased reaching 9.9% in June 2009.

Total deposits in the banks excluding the Central Bank of Egypt reached LE 813.7 billion in May 2009 increasing by about 8.3% compared to their level during the same month of the previous year.



In May 2009, there was a total domestic liquidity of LE 826.8 billion, attaining 8.5% raise compared to its level during the same month of the previous year.



## Figures To Remember

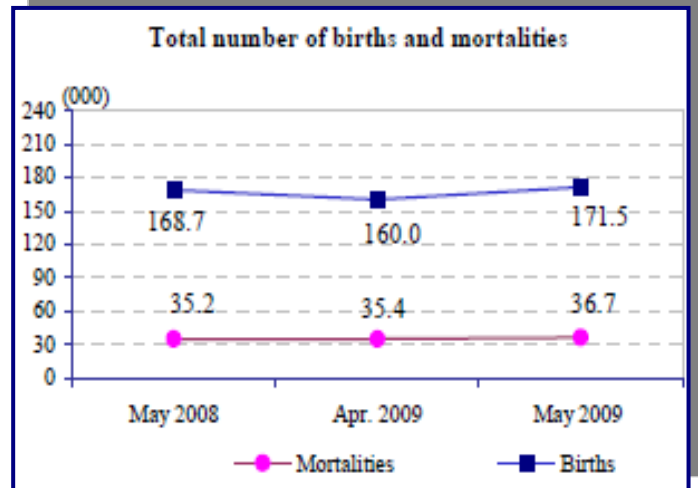
Exports increased in April 2009 reaching US\$ 1861.5 million compared to US\$ 1791.7 million in March 2009.

On the other hand, imports recorded a total value of US\$ 3393.6 million in April 2009. A month earlier, Egypt's total imports amounted to US\$ 3422.0 million.

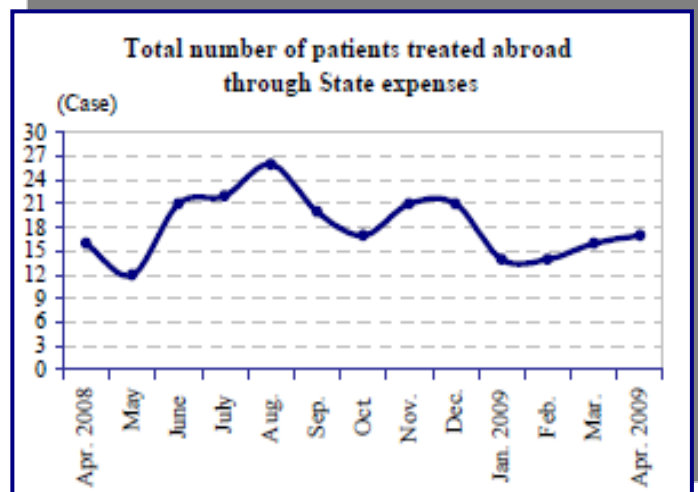
Dealings in Egypt's Stock Market decreased as the capital market general index declined from 1645.70 points in May 2009 reaching 1558.10 points in April 2009.

Regarding population in Egypt, the number of births rose to 171.5 thousand born child in May 2009 compared to 160.0 thousand born child in April of the same year. Mortalities also increased reaching 36.7 thou-

sand deaths in May 2009 compared to 35.4 thousand deaths in the previous month.



Number of patients who received medical treatment abroad through state expenses increased reaching 17 cases in April 2009 compared to 16 cases in the previous month.



## Forthcoming Events

### *Conference to Focus on Opinion Polls*



## *THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC OPINION POLLS*

### *"PUBLIC OPINION IN A CHANGING SOCIETY"*

NOVEMBER 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 2009

CAIRO, EGYPT - MARRIOTT HOTEL

*The preliminary program will be announced on the conference website soon.*



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**For further information, please contact :**

**The Cabinet's Information and Decision Support Center**

**Address: 1 Magless El Shaab St., Kasr Al Ainy, Cairo, Egypt.**

**Phone: 202-27929292 ext. (668)**

**Fax: 202-23668679**

**E-mail: [hsalah@idsc.net.eg](mailto:hsalah@idsc.net.eg)**