

Citizens Electoral Council of Australia conference
“The World Land-Bridge: Peace on Earth, Good Will towards All Men”,
28-29 March 2015, Melbourne, Australia

From Panel 4 The World Land-Bridge: It’s Being Built! (continuation)

Developing Egypt through the BRICS

Hussein Askary, Arabic Language Editor, *Executive Intelligence Review*;
 Chairman, European Labor Party, Sweden

Hello, this is Hussein Askary. I'm talking to you from Stockholm in Sweden. I'm honoured to be able to address you, this CEC international conference in Australia. I would like to thank the organisers of the conference for providing me this opportunity. I have provided them with the special *Executive Intelligence Review* pamphlet, or edition, which includes all the articles we have written in the recent months, until recently, about the economic development potential for Egypt, our own proposals and what has been achieved. That you can get from the organisers of the conference, so I'm not going to go through much detail about the economic development projects. This week I have in *Executive Intelligence Review*, the feature article is about my report on the [Egypt] Economic Development Conference and the International Water Technology Conference in Egypt, which I attended in Sharm el-Sheikh in early March. And I was in Egypt for one week from the 9th to the 16th of March. I spent three days in Cairo and then five days in Sharm el-Sheikh where the conferences took place.

If we go to the first slide of the World Land-Bridge, just to give you an idea of the position of Egypt in the context of the LaRouche movement's idea, which has now been adopted by China and many BRICS countries for the construction of the development corridors between the continents, you can see also in the next slide, which will zoom in, the number 12 position of Egypt, which you can see clearly, it's in a very, very interesting strategic position, both on the Land-Bridge and what the President of China called the Maritime Silk Road. Egypt's position between three continents and several seas, makes it a key element, both politically, economically, and even culturally, for the future of this international project.

When I was in Cairo, I saw first-hand by seeing the city itself and talking to the people there: Cairo with the Nile, everything looks beautiful. The problem is that Cairo with 20 million people population is an exhausted city. You can see the scars of 30 and more years of destructive economic policy, which was followed by the Egyptian governments under the control of such international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, who were collaborating with the United States and the EU governments for free trade deconstruction of the economy and no investment at all in the infrastructure, education or the health care of the population. You can see very clearly, how tired this nation is of these policies.

When you go to the Nile in the central part of the city, you are faced with a huge building, which is burned down and it's kept in that way until now, since 2011,

because it's a reminder for both the people and the politicians in the country that the nation is no longer going to tolerate the same policies again. This is the building of the former dictator, Hosni Mubarak's ruling party, the Democratic Unionist Party.

What people in Egypt hate most—there are several things they hate equally: they hate the poverty they've been subjected to, they hate the former dictator Mubarak, they hate the Muslim Brotherhood who almost destroyed the country, but they managed to save it in 2012. But also they hate equally, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Obama administration, which has wreaked havoc—also the Bush administration, but most recently the Obama administration—which has wreaked havoc all around Egypt: in Libya, in Syria, now in Yemen with the allies of the Obama administration and the British and Saudi Arabia. So the people in Egypt have lost complete faith in all these international institutions and this has given actually the leadership, the new leadership of President El-Sisi, the possibility to seek new avenues for economic development, political and strategic relations.

It was obvious during the visit by President of Russia Vladimir Putin last February to Cairo, and the agreements that were signed, it was very clear that Egypt is now entering what we can call the BRICS dynamic, that the government of Egypt has realised that all the previous policies are actually destructive policies and that the new path towards the future has to be charted.

In the Sharm el-Sheikh conference, and the Egypt Economic Development Conference, it became very clear that the policies, which we have proposed for Egypt—actually since the 1980s, by Mr Lyndon LaRouche and Mrs Helga Zepp-LaRouche and their associates—all the way until now, with their ups and downs, that these policies for the reconstruction of the economy of Egypt now will be pursued and will be built.

There are certain pitfalls that the government of Egypt have to deal with regarding the credit policy and foreign investment, which I outlined in my recent feature article, but it's very clear, [what] you see in this picture of President El-Sisi in the final session of the Economic Development Conference. He asked all the youth, the Egyptian youth in the room, to join him at the podium, and he spoke specifically about the future (the conference title was “Egypt the Future”), to outline both for the people and for the international community that Egypt is now having its potential and its emotional and economic resources and human resources directed towards the future.

At that conference, a number of very significant agreements were signed that are related to, first of all, infrastructure, energy production and agricultural development. I have outlined these projects, but you can see in this map the development projects. The rectangular area around the Suez Canal will be one of the most active industrial zones in the whole Middle East and in Africa. Already the government has decided to build a new extension of the Suez Canal to facilitate the shipping activities in the canal between Asia and Europe. There will be along the more than 150 kilometres of both the new and the old canal, there will be industrial projects of all sorts; there will be new ports; there will be railways; there will be factories for building trains in collaboration with China. There will also be a new port

south of the Suez Canal at the El-Sokhna port, which is outlined as number 4 [on the map], to build a new port, and power stations, and a railway extension to south of Cairo, where there is an industrial area in Helwan. This industrial area was developed actually under the former president Gamal Abdel Nasser in the 1960s and '70s. It includes the steel industry, cement industry, textile industry and so on and so forth, and military industries. This whole zone will be developed and integrated, in the whole Egyptian and international economy, as a new industrial and economic development zone.

There will be also, because the lack of power in Egypt, the construction—there are deals signed with Siemens of Germany and General Electric of the United States, to increase the capacity of the Egyptian power generation by at least half the existing capacity now. But to fuel that power generation, they need to produce more conventional fuel like gas, oil and coal, to power this generation. Large deals were signed with British Petroleum, of all companies, and Italian Eni, to produce new gas and explore for new gas on the Mediterranean coast of Egypt. Now as you see in number 1, we have a zone there: that's going to be the site of the first large Egyptian nuclear power plant, which will be built by Russian company Rosatom. This agreement was signed when President Vladimir Putin was in Cairo last February.

So it's very clear that the intention of the government is to both increase the power capacity of the country, but [also to] turn the whole economy towards an industrial basis, because the previous policy was that the 90 million people of Egypt will survive on tourism, on exporting vegetables and fruits, and so on and so forth. That idea does not exist anymore. Yes, there will be agricultural development programs. Some of them will be directed towards export of food, but that will be a different policy, because Egypt's own self-sufficiency in food comes first, according to people in the government and people I've talked to.

If you go to the next slide you can see the demographic map of Egypt, which is completely unnatural. Almost 90 million people, of Egypt, live on only five per cent of the country. The United States aid organisations, USAID, the UN population program, the EU—many countries were pouring money into Egypt to reduce the population, saying that there is a population explosion in Egypt, while you have 94 per cent of the country completely abandoned, where you can actually have both agriculture and industrial development and building new cities to bring a large portion of the Egyptian people, especially the youth, into the desert areas.

That brings us to the next map, which we call, or an Egyptian scientist who have been working with American space agency NASA, Dr Farouk El-Baz, calls it the "development corridor", which is based on building new agroindustrial cities in the desert based on exploring groundwater, a technology, which he and others have developed in NASA for exploring the enormous amounts of water that exist under the desert in Egypt, Sudan, Libya—the so-called grand Nubian Sandstone Aquifer. And that will be utilised now for the building of new agricultural zones and urban industrial centres.

Actually in these areas, you have also large amounts of minerals that can be explored through mining, but it also includes building high-speed rail from the north

of Egypt all the way down to the border with Sudan. It will be connected with the existing Nile Valley infrastructure network.

The plan of the Egyptian government is to reclaim about four million acres of land from the desert and use modern technology, modern agricultural and irrigation technology, to develop these regions. Now this will be divided into national government companies. Egyptian youth will be offered land plots, and international investors who could grow food there for export reasons. Both the president himself, at the Economic Development Conference, and other officials have announced that this is going to be the official policy of Egypt. Several contracts are already signed.

In the next slide we see the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Dr Hossam Moghazy, speaking at the conference where I spoke on water issues in Africa. He, at that conference, the day before the economic conference—this conference was the International Water Technology Conference—announced here, before going to the Economic Conference, that the government has already assigned one million acres of land for both water exploration and agricultural development.

In the next slide You see the same Minister Moghazy having his picture taken with the attendees of the conference. You can see that he's holding in his hand our special *EIR* feature on Egypt economic development. I'm somewhere there in the crowd, maybe you can see that. But this was a very important announcement, that the people in this water conference, mostly young Egyptian scientists, will work on actually developing the water resources.

The next slide is a picture of myself with Dr Saffei Elden Metwaly who is a very interesting character. He's a scientist, the head of the Desert Research Institute. What is interesting with him—and I had an interview with him, which will be published next week in *EIR*—is that he was educated and trained in the United States together with NASA scientists, like Dr Farouk El-Baz, and he is of course very appreciative of the scientific culture in the United States. He is the kind of person who will be working on the desert development using the most advanced space technology for exploration of groundwater and planning the agricultural land.

This is the kind of Egyptian cadre who are now emerging through the assignment of the government to rebuild the Egyptian economy. Those people are mostly young people, actually. Of the 90 million Egyptians, more than half are under the age of 30, so you can imagine that they have the whole future ahead of them.

What I want to emphasise is that Egypt, both for strategic and political and cultural reasons, will be very important for the future development of what we call the BRICS dynamic. It's a very ancient civilisation, very young population, but a very proud people, too, and they are the most significant political and military force in the region. That is being eyed by enemies of Egypt and the BRICS as a problem, but also that's one of the pitfalls, which I have been warning against: that the Gulf countries Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, who actually donated enormous amounts of money to Egypt in this economic conference, about \$12 billion, they want Egypt to stay in the Anglo-American/Saudi camp, which is now spreading wars all over the place. We saw this in Yemen yesterday or the day before, where the Saudi

aeroplanes bombed the capital of Yemen. They want to drag Egypt into that trap to continue the sectarian and religious wars, which were already started with the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

I'm very confident that the Egyptian people, the intellectuals and the political elites, are not really interested in this, but the pressure is enormous. But I think that their idea [is] reaching into the future and working with the BRICS nations, and whoever else. Even if the United States changes its policy or Europe changes its policy, they will be ready to work with all those actors in order to be able to rebuild their nation, but also help stabilise the whole region and develop Africa.

That's something, which we are working actively to make sure that happens, and I'm sure people on the other side in Egypt are both listening, but also taking note of these very important developments. So I hope this gives you a sense of the developments in Egypt. To get a first-hand idea of all the details of this, I ask you to get a copy of the *EIR* and the special pamphlet, which I mentioned earlier. Thank you very much.