

Egypt–Shanghai Business Forum

Thursday the 21st of May 2026

The Egypt–Shanghai Business Forum was held under the joint organization of the Egyptian Businessmen’s Association (EBA), the Egyptian Commercial Service (ECS), the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT Shanghai), and the China Chamber of International Commerce (CCOIC Shanghai). The forum brought together a high-level Chinese delegation led by Mr. Yang Dongsheng, Vice Chairman of CCPIT Shanghai and Chairman of CCOIC Shanghai, alongside it was attended by: -

- Mr. Ahmed Mounir Ezz El Din Chairman of Chinese Committee at EBA
- Mr. Moustafa Ibrahim Vice Chairman of Chinese Committee at EBA
- Minister Counselor Waleed El Zomor, Head of Investment Promotion Department - ECS
- Mrs. Cherryhan ElHawary, Head of International Business Development Department, Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA)
- Dr. Mohamed Helal President of the Egyptian Energy Efficiency and Conservation Association, CEO – Futek Egyptian Micro Electronics MFG Co.
- Mr. Mahmoud Metwally Vice Chairman of Information Technology Committee – EBA - CEO - Pharaoh Soft
- Eng. Hatem Osama Group Organization Development and Business Support Director - Venus International Free Zone and private sector companies from both Egypt and China.

The forum gathered participants from key sectors including ICT, logistics, energy, manufacturing, smart infrastructure, digital transformation, and international trade.

Opening Remarks

❖ **Mr. Ahmed Ezz El Din Chairman of the China Committee at the Egyptian Businessmen’s Association**

- Today’s gathering is not just a meeting of business leaders, it is a convergence of visions, ambitions, and a shared belief in the power of collaboration between two great nations with rich histories and promising futures.
- It is within this spirit of partnership and mutual respect that I am pleased to introduce the Egyptian Businessmen’s Association.
- The Egyptian Businessmen’s Association (EBA) is a leading non-governmental, non-profit organization established in 1979. Today, EBA brings together more than 700 prominent members representing approximately 2000 major companies operating across diverse sectors of the Egyptian economy.
- EBA has a nationwide presence, covering all governorates of Egypt and it has developed strong cooperation agreements and strategic relationships with

partners in more than 75 countries worldwide, in addition to its extensive network with government entities, embassies, and commercial offices both inside and outside Egypt.

- In recognition of the growing importance of Egypt–China economic relations, EBA established a dedicated China Committee in 2007. This committee aims to unify efforts across sectors, enhance trade, investment, and tourism cooperation, facilitate knowledge exchange, and support Egyptian businessmen in developing successful partnerships with their Chinese counterparts. It also plays an important role in addressing challenges faced by Chinese companies operating in Egypt
- EBA has been a strong believer in the Belt and Road Initiative since its launch by President Xi Jinping in 2013. In support of this visionary initiative, EBA joined several prominent Chinese economic platforms to promote cooperation and maximize mutual benefits. Among these is the Belt and Road Industrial and Commercial Alliance (BRICA), where EBA actively participated since its establishment in Beijing in 2016 and proudly hosted its first international conference in Egypt in 2017 and will host the second round by the end of this year
- The relationship between Egypt and China is not only a partnership of trade and investment—it is a comprehensive strategic partnership built on mutual respect, shared vision, and long-standing historical ties.
- Egypt serves as a strategic gateway to Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, while China stands as a global leader in innovation, industry, and development. Together, we have a unique opportunity to create integrated value chains, enhance industrial cooperation, and unlock new horizons for sustainable growth.
- Egypt is actively implementing its National AI Strategy (2025–2030), with a strong focus on governance, data, infrastructure, and ecosystem development. Digital transformation is a top national priority, aligned with Egypt’s long-term vision. Artificial intelligence will play a pivotal role in shifting Egypt’s economy from traditional assembly and manufacturing models toward smart production and export-oriented industries.
- This strategic direction reflects Egypt’s firm commitment to embracing digital transformation and positioning itself as a regional leader in artificial intelligence and innovation.
- Through our collaboration, we aspire to benefit from China’s advanced expertise in manufacturing, industrial training, and technology transfer—particularly in sectors that are critical to the growth and competitiveness of the Egyptian economy.

❖ **Mr. Yang Dongsheng Vice Chairman of CCPIT Shanghai and Chairman of CCOIC Shanghai,**

- Delivered a strategic keynote speech emphasizing Egypt–China relations.
- He highlighted Egypt as a key strategic partner for China due to its geographic location connecting Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, in addition to its rapidly developing infrastructure and industrial base.
- He also emphasized Shanghai’s role as a global hub for trade, innovation, and advanced industrial systems.
- He explained that global transformation driven by artificial intelligence, digitalization, and supply chain restructuring is reshaping international cooperation. In this context, cooperation between Egypt and China must evolve from simple trade exchange into integrated industrial ecosystems and long-term investment frameworks.
- He emphasized strong opportunities for cooperation in smart cities, logistics, manufacturing, renewable energy, and technology transfer. He also encouraged stronger private sector engagement and cross-border investment partnerships, noting that Shanghai can serve as a gateway for Egyptian companies entering China and for Chinese companies expanding into Africa through Egypt.

❖ **Mr. Walid El Zomor Minister Counselor Waleed El Zomor, Head of Investment Promotion Department - ECS**

- He presented Egypt’s investment environment and trade strategy.
- He highlighted Egypt’s strategic geographic position as a global hub linking Africa, Europe, and Asia, supported by the Suez Canal and major infrastructure developments. He emphasized Egypt’s ongoing expansion in ports, logistics zones, industrial areas, and transport corridors.
- He explained that Egypt is implementing major economic reforms to improve the investment climate, simplify procedures, and enhance digital trade services. These reforms aim to attract foreign direct investment and support export-oriented industrial growth.
- He highlighted investment opportunities in logistics, manufacturing, renewable energy, ICT, and agriculture, stressing Egypt’s access to regional and international markets through multiple trade agreements.
- He concluded by inviting Chinese investors to explore opportunities in Egypt and emphasized the government’s commitment to supporting foreign investment and international partnerships.

❖ **Mrs. Cherryhan El-Hawary, Head of International Business Development Department, Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) presented Egypt's digital economy strategy.**

She delivered a detailed presentation on Egypt's ICT sector and digital economy transformation during the Egypt–Shanghai Business Forum.

She began by expressing appreciation to the organizers and emphasized the importance of strengthening Egypt–China cooperation in the digital economy and technology sectors.

She highlighted that Egypt is one of the fastest-growing ICT and outsourcing destinations in the region, supported by a strong talent pipeline. She noted that Egypt produces hundreds of thousands of university graduates annually, including a significant number specializing in engineering, computer science, information technology, and digital sciences. She emphasized that this large talent base is one of Egypt's key competitive advantages in global technology services.

She stated that Egypt's ICT sector currently includes hundreds of thousands of professionals working across software development, outsourcing, engineering services, and digital operations, making Egypt one of the largest talent pools in the Middle East and Africa region for technology services.

She also highlighted Egypt's major expansion in digital infrastructure, particularly in submarine cable systems, noting that Egypt currently hosts over 10 international submarine cable systems that connect Europe, Africa, and Asia. This positions Egypt as a critical global digital connectivity hub and a key transit point for international data traffic.

She further mentioned that Egypt has significantly improved its digital infrastructure performance, including internet speed rankings, bandwidth capacity, and data center readiness, while maintaining a highly competitive cost structure compared to global outsourcing destinations. She emphasized that Egypt offers cost advantages in operational expenses combined with high-quality technical talent, making it attractive for global ICT companies.

The presentation also included Egypt's strong performance in the global outsourcing and offshoring sector, where Egypt is ranked among the top emerging global destinations for IT outsourcing and shared service centers, particularly in software development, customer experience services, and digital operations.

She explained that Egypt's national digital transformation strategy focuses on key pillars including cloud computing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, business process outsourcing (BPO), and knowledge process outsourcing (KPO). She highlighted that the government is actively supporting the expansion of digital services exports and innovation-driven industries.

She also outlined ITIDA's role in supporting international companies, including facilitating the establishment of global delivery centers, training programs for tens of thousands of professionals annually, and partnerships with multinational technology firms operating in Egypt.

She concluded by emphasizing that Egypt is transitioning from a consumer of technology into a regional exporter of digital services, positioning itself as a strategic hub for global technology companies expanding into the Middle East and Africa.

She reaffirmed ITIDA's commitment to strengthening partnerships with Chinese technology companies in areas such as cloud computing, artificial intelligence, digital transformation, and innovation ecosystems, supporting long-term cooperation between both countries.

MOU Signing Ceremony

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between CCPIT Shanghai, CCOIC Shanghai, and the Egyptian Businessmen's Association (EBA), aimed at strengthening institutional cooperation, facilitating business exchange, and supporting joint investment initiatives between Egypt and China.

Chinese Companies Presentations

❖ Mr. Li Huichao – Shanghai Guide Technology

Smart lighting, smart city infrastructure, and 5G systems with projects in Egypt's New Administrative Capital.

❖ Mrs. Zhou Min – Shanghai Westwell Technology

AI-based smart ports, logistics automation, and intelligent transportation systems.

❖ Mr. Ma Jinyu – UCloud

Cloud computing, AI infrastructure, hybrid cloud systems, and global data centers with expansion interest in Egypt.

❖ Mr. Xing Xiaosong – Shanghai Great Wall Electronic Information Network

E-government systems, AI platforms, and big data solutions for government institutions.

Egyptian Companies Presentations

❖ Dr. Mohamed Helal

- Dr. Mohamed Helal delivered a comprehensive speech emphasizing the transformation of global industries and the strategic importance of Egypt–China cooperation.
- He stated that the world is entering a new industrial era driven by artificial intelligence, renewable energy, smart infrastructure, and advanced manufacturing. He emphasized that Egypt and China have a unique opportunity to build integrated industrial ecosystems beyond traditional trade.
- He highlighted five strategic cooperation sectors:
- **Smart Cities & Intelligent Lighting:** lighting as part of integrated smart infrastructure using AI, sensors, and energy systems.
- **Energy Efficiency & Smart Grids:** emphasizing efficiency, smart grids, storage systems, and digital monitoring.
- **Advanced Manufacturing & Electronics:** focusing on automation, AI, industrial IoT, and technology transfer.
- **Smart Agriculture & Food Security:** combining Egypt’s resources with Chinese Agri-tech innovation.
- **Artificial Intelligence & Human Development:** emphasizing education, training, innovation centers, and human capital development.
- He concluded that Egypt is becoming a regional industrial and logistics hub, while China seeks reliable long-term partners, creating strong strategic alignment between both countries.

❖ Mr. Mahmoud Metwally Vice Chairman of Information Technology Committee – EBA - CEO - Pharaoh Soft

- He presented an overview of Pharaoh Soft, a software engineering company with over 12 years of experience and a global presence. He highlighted the company’s capabilities in delivering advanced digital solutions for government and enterprise sectors, supported by a team of specialized professionals and internationally recognized certifications. The presentation covered a range of innovative products, including smart transportation systems, citizen engagement platforms, digital learning solutions, and AI-driven applications. He also outlined the company’s comprehensive service offerings, such as digital transformation, cloud migration, data and AI engineering, and IT consultancy, emphasizing their role in enhancing operational efficiency and supporting sustainable development.

❖ **Eng. Hatem Osama Group Organization Development and Business Support Director - Venus International Free Zone**

- He has delivered a presentation outlining the Group's profile and strategic direction within the logistics and commodities sectors.
- He explained that the Group, established in 1992, has developed into a fully integrated platform covering grain trading, port operations, marine services, and inland logistics, with its main operations based at Dekheila Port in Alexandria.
- He highlighted the Group's operational structure, which includes international and local trading arms, a major free zone logistics platform, and specialized transportation and fleet management companies. These entities collectively support the Group's role in connecting global commodity markets with local and regional demand while ensuring efficient logistics and supply chain operations.
- Eng. Hatem emphasized the increasing impact of geopolitical disruptions on global supply chains, noting the shift in focus toward resilience, diversification, and supply security. He pointed out that this shift is driving demand for integrated logistics hubs capable of supporting global trade more efficiently.
- He further stated that Egypt is well-positioned to become a global logistics hub due to its strategic location and infrastructure developments, particularly around the Suez Canal. However, achieving this requires expanding beyond transit activities to include value-added services such as warehousing, distribution, manufacturing, and re-export operations.
- Eng. Hatem outlined key focus areas to support this vision, including the development of specialized logistics hubs, strengthening the role of free zones, accelerating digital transformation, and creating an integrated logistics network linking ports with inland infrastructure.
- He concluded by presenting the Group's ongoing initiatives, which focus on supply chain automation, smart transportation solutions, and the expansion of integrated logistics capabilities, all aligned with Egypt's ambition to position itself as a global logistics hub.

Open Discussion

- Participants emphasized strengthening cooperation between Egypt and China in logistics, AI, digital transformation, manufacturing, energy, and agriculture.
- Egypt's strategic geographic location and infrastructure development were highlighted as key enablers for becoming a global logistics hub.

Closing & B2B Sessions

- The forum concluded with B2B matchmaking sessions between Egyptian and Chinese companies to explore investment opportunities and partnerships.