Letter of Certification

CLE Rotary Project in Egypt

Egypt being a developing country with a long history of political occupation and unsettlements suffers from a very high rate of illiteracy (between 30-40%) and more in the urban areas.

This lack of reading and writing skills affected millions who were unable to meet the demands of every day life. Consequently this lack of knowledge, ability and life skills became an obstacle to economic, political, health and social development.

The only solution was to offer a proper functional literacy learning program.

CLE methodology (Concentrated Language Encounter) was adopted by Rotary International in 1985 through Dr. Richard Walker who started a pilot CLE approach in Thailand with Dr. Soawalak Rattanavich in primary schools. This program proved to be very successful therefore was adopted by the Ministry of Education in Thailand and hence Thailand was chosen to be used as a Lighthouse to serve as CLE training center for technical and project coordinators from different countries (through a 3H Grant from TRF).
Egypt PDG. Salem Mashhour realized that the CLE methodology is the functional tool that can eradicate illiteracy from Egypt. He organized a seminar in 1997 inviting PDG. Dr Richard Walker and PP. Dr. Soawalak Rattanavich to introduce the CLE methodology to the Rotarians in district 2450.

Eventually 2 Rotarians and 8 Non-Rotarians from Egypt benefited from the 3H Gant approved by TRF for Thailand Lighthouse and travelled to Bangkok to attend CLE training in order to introduced it back to Egypt.

Rotary started Training the Trainers and Teachers tackling illiteracy in different governorates and tried very hard to overcome all the obstacles of teaching adults or children, since the status-co was easier and more convenient to the people responsible.

The success of CLE methodology adopted in the classes, in different villages and governorates enabled Rotary in Egypt to have a breakthrough and sign a protocol and memorandum of understanding to teach CLE Literacy program to adults in the Ministry of Culture through cultural palaces in 1999.

Moreover CLE Literacy Program was taught to children in the National Council for Motherhood and Childhood in 2003 through the signature of another protocol.
The real breakthrough was the signature of a protocol with the Adult Education Authority in 2005 (with was initiated by the government in 1991 to tackle illiteracy problem in Egypt and is affiliated to the Ministry of Education). The protocol is renewed yearly and their teachers were trained by the Rotary on the CLE methodology of education which they adopted in their own classes.

This lead to another success whereby the Ministry of Education allowed the Rotary to teach school children (from 2007 till 2011) the CLE methodology as a pilot project in governmental schools (188 schools) in Giza and Cairo Educational Zones.

In the meantime (2009 -2011) another protocol was signed between Rotary and the Ministry of Interior to teach cadets of Central Security in Police Camps who are illiterate according to CLE methodology. The protocol was for 2 years, the first year (2009-2010) 8 classes including 157 students were taught and 145 succeeded (92%). The second year (2010-2011) 22 classes were opened with 343 students from which 318 succeeded (93%). This second phase emphasized on increasing the number of classes and to develop technical coordinators from the Police Force and organize communication skills in order to deal better with the public sector moreover to serve as a great Rotary image.

All this was going in parallel with more and more literacy classes opening in villages and governorates since people started realizing how important reading and writing is to enable them to have basic skills such
as reading road signs, applying for health cards, voting, signing their marriage certificate or birth certificate of their children, and just reading the daily newspaper.

Moreover the CLE provide also life skills and teach learners functional literacy, therefore Rotary Clubs also helped in promoting for literacy classes by giving incentives to learners such as revolving loans, finding jobs for them or promoting the selling of their handmade products, etc..

This made it easier for Rotary in Egypt to maintain the sustainability of CLE classes and to be able to open more classes and to have more cooperation with NGO’s in the different areas all over Egypt.

Dr. Soawalak herself who has been a passionate advocate of CLE visited Egypt twice in 2005 and 2009 in order to follow up CLE classes and give refreshment courses to the trainers of CLE.

All this lead to the largest partnership between Rotary in Egypt and Vodafone Egypt Foundation for Community Development with the cooperation of the Adult Education Authority in 2012 under the logo “Knowledge is Power” to eradicate the illiteracy of 10,000 illiterates (the targeted groups are in the following percentages: 75% females and 25% male between ages 15-35). The estimated budget of the project is 2,735,000 EGP whereby Vodafone Foundation donated 2,000,000 EGP. The project aimed for the areas of highest illiteracy numbers and poorest population. The manpower of the project was about 670 teachers, some
of which took CLE training courses and others took refreshments courses also 45 were trained to be technical coordinators.

This enabled the Rotary in Egypt to open 555 classes to teach the 10,000 illiterates in four governorates. In the meantime Rotary also implemented 11 different seminars on awareness and community service activities such as; dangers of sexual abuse, eye diseases, role models in the lives of our children and seven different medical convoys for examination and treatments in general (1760 beneficiaries).

The success rate varied from 81% to 87% until this date, but the project ends in 31-12-2014.

All this defiantly reduced the number of illiterates in Egypt and affected the lives of so many people since CLE teaches life skills and therefore changes the life of the student and their families, socially, economically, and their general life style.

These great successes lead Rotary in Egypt (District 2451) to think of introducing Egypt Lighthouse. PDG. Zakaria El-Shafei adopted the initiation of Egypt Lighthouse by starting the project in Thailand where it initially originated. A group of 12 trainees (4 of which were from the Adult Education Authority) and 3 Rotarians went to Thailand in May 2014 to learn and experience the methodology of CLE by Dr. Soawalak (RIDE). The trainees were trained to the latest methodologies applicable to youth and adult education, moreover the group went to visit a
governmental school to see the application and the success of the CLE methodology.

The trainees who are now TOTs will eventually consolidate the concept of CLE in Egypt and will be able to train other trainers, train technical coordinators, and train teachers to meet the demands of opening more and more illiteracy classes and to be able to help in continuous provision of CLE trainers to the different sectors of society to create a solid platform and solidarity to help and enable governmental sectors, private sectors or NGO’s in order to eradicate illiteracy in Egypt.

Finally the future vision of Egypt Lighthouse is to serve as a training center and beacon to train CLE methodology to teachers from Africa and the Middle East being the only Lighthouse in the region.

Understanding the problem lays ground work for effective project, this what made Rotary in Egypt introduced the CLE methodology and Egypt Lighthouse to eradicate illiteracy in Egypt and its neighboring countries.

**A Dream Come True**
محمد يذهب إلى المدرسة.