



MSI | GLOBAL BRIDGES EGYPT  
An Expatriate Destination

March 25, 2009

# WELCOME!



We will begin our Global Bridges webinar in just a moment. We would like to remind our guests of a few things while we prepare to start:

- > Please be sure you are dialed in for the audio portion of our presentation.
- > Please mute your phone once the presentation has begun.
- > *You are free to ask a question at any time via your WebEx Q&A panel on the right side of your computer screen.*
- > Should you have audio difficulty please type your concern directly in the webinar chat box on the right side of your computer screen.
- > Should you have any difficulty viewing this presentation please send an e-mail to [amy.nigrelli@msimobility.com](mailto:amy.nigrelli@msimobility.com).
- > Also, keep in mind our presenter is joining us virtually from Egypt. You can expect a small delay in sound and viewing.

**NOW APPROVED FOR ERC CRP CREDIT!**  
**More information will be available at the end of this presentation.**

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## PRESENTER

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Global Relocation Consultants ME & North Africa

MSI'S GLOBESOURCE NETWORK PARTNER

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# AGENDA

## OVERVIEW

Brief history

## EGYPT AT A GLANCE

## MAJOR CITIES

## LIVING IN EGYPT AS AN EXPAT:

Cairo

## WHAT EGYPT OFFERS

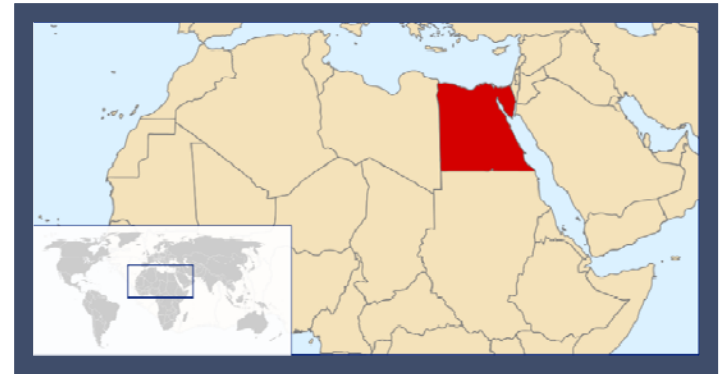
## CULTURE

Religion

## SOCIAL ETIQUETTE

## BUSINESS ETIQUETTE

## ADAPTING TO A NEW CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT



# OVERVIEW



- > Egypt is probably the world's oldest civilization having emerged from the Nile Valley around 3,100 BC, historically.
- > Egypt is probably one of the oldest vacation spots.
  - > Early Greeks, Romans and others went there just for fun, and to see the wonders of some of mankind's earliest triumphs.
- > Red Sea scuba diving, hot night spots, luxury hotels and five star restaurants.
  - > It's romantic cruises down the Nile on festive river boats, a night at the grand opera and it is a cultural experience like none you have ever experienced.
- > Egypt is a land bustling with life, sound, visual beauty and excitement.
  - > More than anything else, think of Egypt as fun.
  - > For thousands of years, it has been the playground of emperors and kings.



# BRIEF HISTORY



- > Egypt is perhaps the world's oldest continuously existing civilisation, unified around 3100 B.C.
- > In classical times it was conquered by Greeks and Romans, and the Arab conquest in the 7th century began the gradual process of making most Egyptians Arabic-speaking and Muslim (Jewish and Christian minorities have persisted).
- > In 1517 Egypt became part of the Ottoman Empire, though in the following centuries it enjoyed largely local rule.
- > Today Egypt became a Republic in 1952 after the Army deposed King Farouk.



# EGYPT AT-A-GLANCE



## OFFICIAL NAME:

- > Arab Republic of Egypt

## GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION:

- > Northern Africa
- > Bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Libya and the Gaza Strip, and the Red Sea north of Sudan.
- > Includes the Asian Sinai Peninsula

## LANGUAGE:

- > Arabic





# EGYPT AT-A-GLANCE



## DEMOGRAPHIC:

- > Area = 1,001,450 sq.km
- > Population = 71,348,000

## CLIMATE:

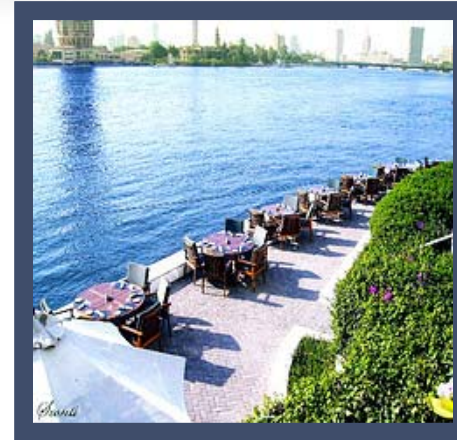
- > Summer (April - October)
  - > 30 - 40 C, 86 - 104 F
  - > Temperatures in August can reach 45 C, 113 F
- > Winter (December - February)
  - > 10 - 20 C, 50 - 68 F

## ECONOMIC:

- > Currency: Egyptian Pound (US\$/Egyptian Pound =5.6)

## GOVERNMENT:

- > Parliamentary democracy with multi-party system.
- > National Democratic Party led by President Hosny Mubarak has majority of seats.
- > Elections held every 6 years.

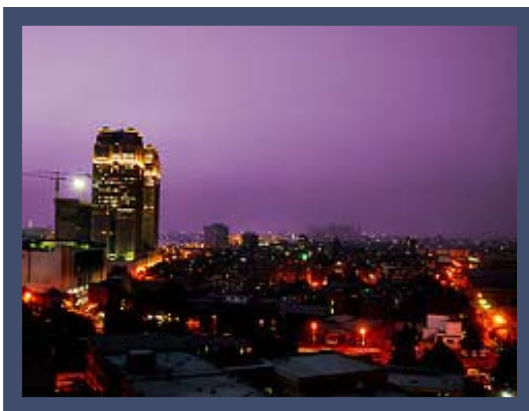




# MAJOR CITIES



MAIN CITIES	POPULATION
Cairo	14,700,000
Tanta	3,450,000
Alexandria	3,540,000
Port Said	470,000
Suez	417,000



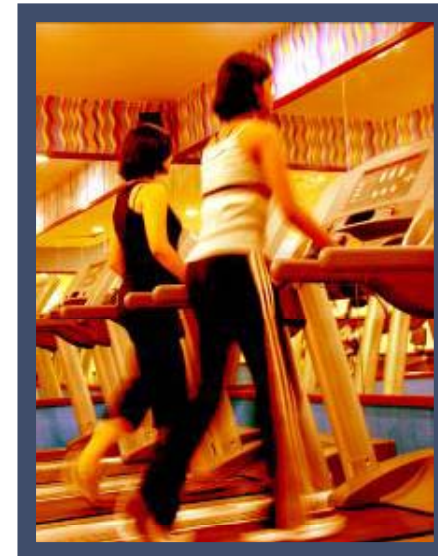
# LIVING IN EGYPT AS AN EXPAT

## EXPATRIATE ASSOCIATIONS:

- > Community Services Association
- > British Club
- > ACE club

## LEISURE AND CULTURE:

- > Sports clubs and gyms
- > Outdoor activities
  - > Golf
  - > Swimming
  - > tennis
- > Performing Arts
  - > Theatre
  - > Opera
  - > Concerts by international and local artists

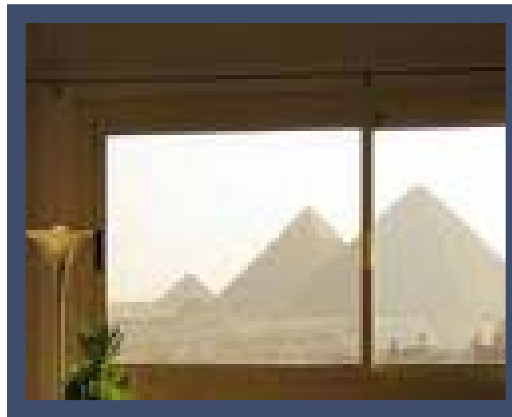


# LIVING IN EGYPT AS AN EXPAT: CAIRO



## HOUSING:

- > Choosing a neighbourhood in Cairo to call home usually depends upon the needs of the family or individual.
- > Couples and singles who will be working downtown might prefer living close to work in Zamalek or Mohandiseen.

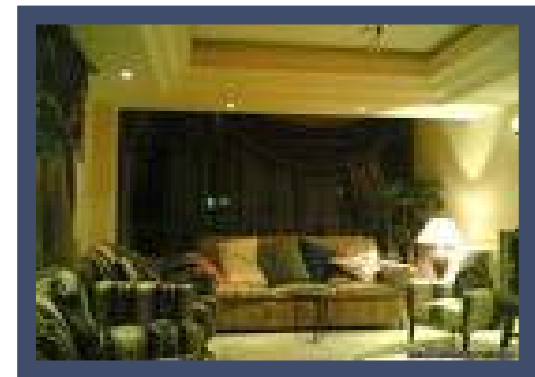
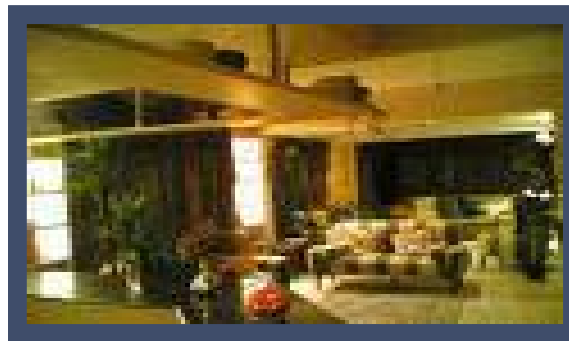
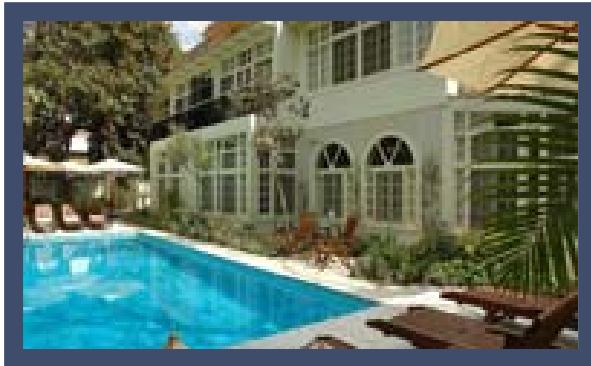


# LIVING IN EGYPT AS AN EXPAT: CAIRO



## HOUSING:

- > Those with children generally prefer to live in the El Maadi/Digla area where the American, British and German schools are located, or in Katimaya or Mirage City, gated communities.
- > In Cairo, expect to pay a minimum monthly rent of \$5,000 for a villa and \$2,500 to \$30000 for an unfurnished or furnished flat with a modern kitchen, three, or more bedrooms and two full baths.



# LIVING IN EGYPT AS AN EXPAT: CAIRO



## INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS:

- > Canadian schools
- > American schools
- > British Schools
- > European schools



# LIVING IN EGYPT AS AN EXPAT: CAIRO

## SCHOOLING:

- > American International School
- > British International School
- > Cairo American College
- > Deutsche school
- > Lycee Francais du Caire
- > Maadi British School
  - > Schooling fee (registration and tuition) may be paid Annually or Termly, in Sterling pounds or US dollars.
  - > Average cost from 5,000 – 16,000 USD per semester.



# LIVING IN EGYPT AS AN EXPAT: CAIRO



## DRIVING:

- > Some companies supply their employees with a car, or an allowance to rent one that satisfies corporate safety standards.
  - > Some provide drivers and defensive driving classes.
- > Because late model cars carry a heavy import tax that can double their value, if not provided by their company and unless they can buy one from an expat who is leaving and the tax has already been paid, most expats rent one.
  - > Depending upon make and model, the monthly cost can range from \$750.00 to \$1,500.00+.
- > *The cost of renting a 4x4 in Cairo that passes employer's standards is now between 2,400 US\$ and 3,500 US\$.*
  - > *A family sedan rental is now 1,350 US\$ per month including driver.*

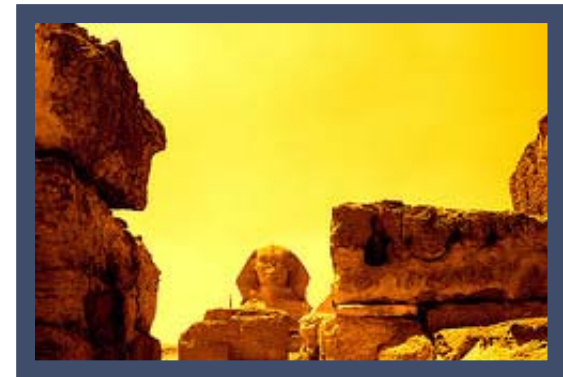
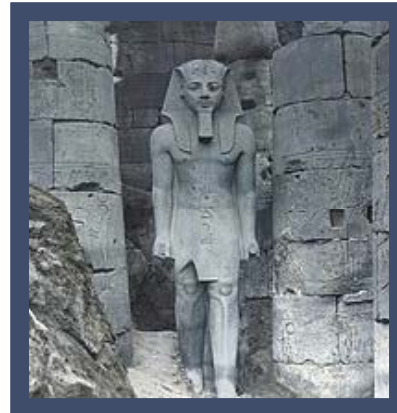


# WHAT EGYPT OFFERS



## EGYPT HAS MANY POSITIVE AMENITIES TO OFFER:

- > Beautiful beaches
- > Spectacular Mountain ranges
- > Ancient and Modern Culture
- > Art
- > History
- > Music
- > Friendly people
- > Excellent Climate





***WE SEE THINGS, NOT AS THEY ARE, BUT AS WE SEE  
THEM FROM OUR OWN POINT OF VIEW AND OUR  
OWN BACKGROUND AND PRE-CONCEPTIONS***



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# FAITH IN CULTURE



- > Culture is the result of geography, history and religion.
- > In the Middle East, Religion plays a big role since Islam addresses, not just the relationship with God, but also with oneself and with others.
- > Islam defines one's purpose in life (to live a life of virtue):
  - > How to worship (prescribed prayer, alms paying etc.).
  - > How to live (relationship with spouse, family and others).
  - > How to do business (honesty, integrity, usury, anti-monopoly etc.).

# UNDERSTANDING OTHERS CULTURE

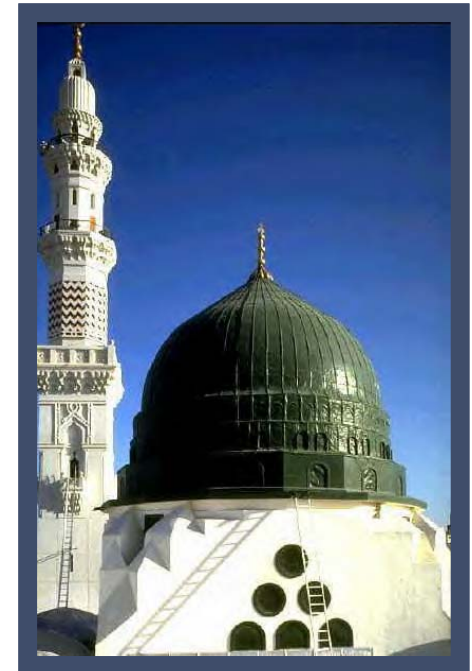


- > Need to understand other cultures and accept them - *not necessarily adopt them* - without bias.
- > Some of *our* customs may seem very alien and strange to others.
- > Many of the cultural differences are a simple reflection of complex local, regional and religious conditions over hundreds, sometimes thousands of years.



# FIVE PILLARS OF ISLAM

1. Belief in one god and that Muhammad is his prophet.
2. Prayer 5 times a day (Salat).
3. Fasting from dawn till sunset for the month of Ramadan.
4. Paying Alms to the needy (Zakat).
5. Doing a pilgrimage to Mecca once in a lifetime - if one can afford it.



# FUNDAMENTALS OF ISLAM

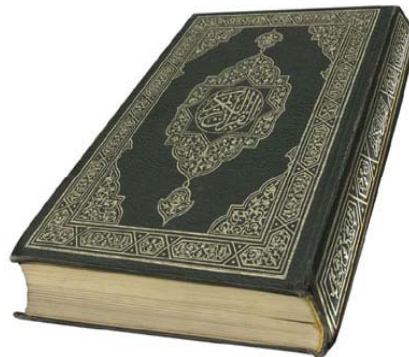


- > Muslims are required by the Koran to recognize and accept other religions (especially “people of the book” Christianity and Judaism).
- > In Islam there is no “original sin” each person is responsible only for his/her own actions, both in society and in-front of God.
- > The Koran clearly states “There is no compulsion in religion”.
- > Each person is free to choose his/her own path, to be judged only by God.
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# WOMEN IN ISLAM

- > Women in Islam are afforded equal rights with men.
  - > Political and religious leaders are, in many cases, denying them those rights in contradiction to what the religion requires.
- > In most Islamic countries, other religions may have their own family laws (marriage, divorce, inheritance) guaranteeing absolute freedom of worship.



# CULTURAL ASPECTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST



- > Middle Eastern countries have many common cultural and religious similarities.
- > But, there can be significant differences **between** the countries of the region.
- > There can also be significant differences **within** each country in the region (e.g. Urban/Rural, coastal/inland, ethnicity etc.).
- > Arabs, in general, are conservative people - both socially and religiously.
- > Religion plays an important part in everyday life.
- > Arabs and Asians value establishing friendly and trusting relations **before** business relations can begin.

**Western:** “Let us do business, maybe we can become friends”

**Middle East and Asian:** “Let us be friends, maybe we can do business”

# CULTURAL ASPECTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST



- > Arabs and Asians do not like to say no to someone (saving face), may promise things or deadlines they cannot deliver.
- > Hospitality is a matter of honor.
- > Modesty in actions and dress are very important.
- > Excesses in language, actions or dress is looked down upon.
- > Eccentricity in the form of excessive deviation from norms is not looked at as a sign of individuality, but as a sign of disrespect and alienation from the community.
- > Drawing excessive attention to oneself in any form is considered bad manners.

# CULTURAL ASPECTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST



- > Complimenting others, even on little things, is considered good manners.
- > One's family life and home is considered very private and is not discussed with others unless initiated by the Arab person.
- > Respect of elderly people is very important.
- > Rank and status must be observed and deferred to.
- > Respect of other people's beliefs, religious or otherwise, is integral to Muslim culture.

# SOCIAL ETIQUETTE: EXAMPLES OF WHAT TO AVOID



- > Do not ask a new acquaintance personal or family questions.
- > Do not refuse hospitality if offered, it can offend.
- > Public eating, smoking or drinking in Ramadan (the Muslim month of fasting).
- > Do not discuss religious beliefs unless it is with a close friend.
- > Do not embrace someone's wife when introduced nor remark about her looks.
- > Do not bring gifts of food or drink if invited to dinner at someone's home.

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- > Do not embrace someone's wife when introduced nor remark about her looks.
- > Do not bring gifts of food or drink if invited to dinner at someone's home. Strange forms of dress and make-up.
- > Piercing, weird hair coloring and other things that draw unnecessary attention.

# SOCIAL ETIQUETTE: EXAMPLES OF WHAT TO AVOID



- > Immodest and revealing clothing for **both** men and women.
- > Wearing revealing clothes both for men and Women in non-tourist areas (never in Saudi Arabia).
- > Do not discuss nor ask about someone's family unless they are close friends.
- > Kissing, holding hands and showing affection between sexes in public (considered disrespectful).
- > Discussing religious or political issues with strangers.
- > Criticizing anyone-even subordinates- in-front of other people (losing face).



# BUSINESS ETIQUETTE



SOME OF **AMERICAN/EUROPEAN** BUSINESS ACTIVITIES MAY ALSO SEEM STRANGE AND UNACCEPTABLE TO OTHERS:

- > Keeping someone waiting outside your office because you are on the phone or have someone else with you.
- > Putting your feet up on your desk when you have a visitor in your office.
- > Expecting a business transaction or decision at the first or second meeting.
- > Getting directly to business in any phone call, written communications or meeting.



# ADAPTING TO A NEW ENVIRONMENT AND CULTURE



- > Do not dwell on what is missing from your routine back home, look at what is new.
- > Do not say I am used to doing certain things for entertainment, find out what people do for entertainment in your new environment and try it.
- > Each culture has its interesting areas; look for them and seek them out.
- > Try to make new friends from your new country. It can be a very rewarding experience.
- > Try to enjoy the overall experience and try many different things during your stay.

# GLOBAL BRIDGES SCHEDULE



## APRIL 2009:

- > Malaysia as an Expatriate Destination
- > April 29<sup>th</sup>
- > 9 AM EST

## MAY 2009:

- > Intercultural Preparation: Tools for Successful Expatriate Assimilation with Dean Foster
- > May 28<sup>th</sup>
- > 10 AM EST

## ERC CRP CREDIT:

- > Please e-mail [amy.nigrelli@msimobility.com](mailto:amy.nigrelli@msimobility.com)
- > Your attendance will be verified and a credit form sent to you

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