



Event : **Dialogue Session with Mr Assem Ragab, Chairman, General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), Egypt**

Date : **15 January 2008, 10.00 am**

Venue : **Boardroom, SBF
(10 Hoe Chiang Road, Keppel Towers)**

Dress Code : **Lounge Suit**

Document : **Speech by Mr Shabbir Hassanbhai Vice-Chairman, Middle East Business Group (MEBG)**

Your Excellency Mohamed Al Zorkany (*pronounced "L Zoh Kah Nee"*), Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Singapore

Mr Assem Ragab (*pronounced "Ah Seam Rah Gap"*), Chairman of the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones, GAFI (*pronounced "Gah Fee"*), Egypt

Friends from Egypt

Our distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Welcome to the Dialogue Session with Mr Assem Ragab (*pronounced "Ah Seam Rah Gap"*), Chairman of the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones, GAFI (*pronounced "Gah Fee"*) Egypt. We are extremely glad to have Mr Ragab (*pronounced "Rah Gap"*) and his delegates fly all the way here to join us at this dialogue session.

2. Egypt is the top reformer in the Doing Business 2008 Report by the World Bank Group, which speaks volume about the increasing ease of operating in the country, and a draw for foreign investors. Hence, there is definitely every reason for our Singapore businessmen to be here today to learn more about the opportunities in Egypt.

3. Mr Ragab (*pronounced "Rah Gap"*), is the Chairman of GAFI (*pronounced "Gah Fee"*), which is the main governmental body responsible for facilitating and boosting FDIs into Egypt.

4. He has had vast experience in the corporate sector, holding key appointments with Barclays, Accenture and the National Bank of Egypt, amongst others. He is also the co- founder and senior partner of Fortune Consulting, an Egyptian boutique investment banking advisory firm. On

top of that, Mr Ragab (*pronounced “Rah Gap”*) is also the Chairman of Main Development Company, and sitting on several boards, including that of Industrial Development Authority and Egyptian Institute of Directors, just to name a few.

5. The main purpose of today’s roundtable is to provide our businessmen with a better understanding of the business opportunities in Egypt, in particular, the Special Economic Zone project in the in the Gulf of Suez- El Sokhna.

6. Without much further ado, may I now invite Mr Ragab (*pronounced “Rah Gap”*) to give his remarks, and after which we can proceed with the dialogue with our participants present here?

7. Thank you, Mr Ragab (*pronounced “Rah Gap”*), please.