



Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities Newsletter

Egypt

December 2021 - Issue 24

Egypt Wins UNWTO Video Award for Exceptional Stories of Sustainable Tourism



In December, UNWTO announced that Egypt won the award for best video for Exceptional Stories of Sustainable Tourism, in a competition launched ahead of the 24th UNWTO General Assembly, held in Madrid.

The competition was designed to recognize the best visual storytellers from every global region. The best examples of destinations harnessing the power of tourism for sustainable development have been celebrated in the 2021 UNWTO Tourism Video Competition.

The Ministry released this video to showcase Egypt's tourism potential and how the tourism sector is advancing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.



The President Follows Up on the Preparations for Hosting COP27

p
2

Integrated System for Electronic Gates Installed at the Giza Pyramids

p
3



A Presidential Decree to Form the Board of Trustees of the GEM

p
15

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

p
16



The President Follows Up on the Preparations for Hosting COP27 in 2022



On 11 December, the President held a meeting with the Prime Minister, the Minister and a number of ministers, to follow up on national preparations for the COP27 United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2022, which will be held in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. The meeting tackled the government's plans to invest in hosting the conference to achieve the maximum economic return through tourism promotion for Egypt, and the establishment of specialized exhibitions on the sidelines of the conference.

In the same context, the Minister and the Minister of Environment held meetings to discuss the preparation plans for Egypt's hosting of the conference, and mechanisms of joint cooperation to promote eco-tourism in Egypt and transforming Sharm El-Sheikh into a green city.

On 19 December, the Minister held a video conference, with the Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE), to discuss the ways to benefit from the CBE's initiatives to support the tourism sector and ecotourism and to transform Sharm El-Sheikh into a green and eco-friendly city.

The Minister also held a meeting with the tourism committee in charge of preparations to host COP27, to follow up on hotels in Sharm El-Sheikh.

Health Requirements' Permanent Committee

During this month, the Prime Minister issued a decree to form a permanent committee in charge of monitoring and inspecting hygiene safety regulations and the quality of food safety in hotels and tourist establishments.

This committee is headed by a representative of the Ministry, and the membership of representatives of a number of ministries and relevant authorities, in addition to the National Food Safety Authority, the chambers of hotel establishments, and tourist establishments and restaurants.

Dispatching Inspection Committees to Follow Up on Hygiene Safety Regulations

In December, the ministry dispatched inspection committees to follow up on 160 tourist establishments (restaurants and cafeterias) in Cairo, Giza, Ismailia, Port Said, Damietta and Luxor.

Legal measures were taken against non-complying establishments that violate the set operating regulations and hygiene safety measures.

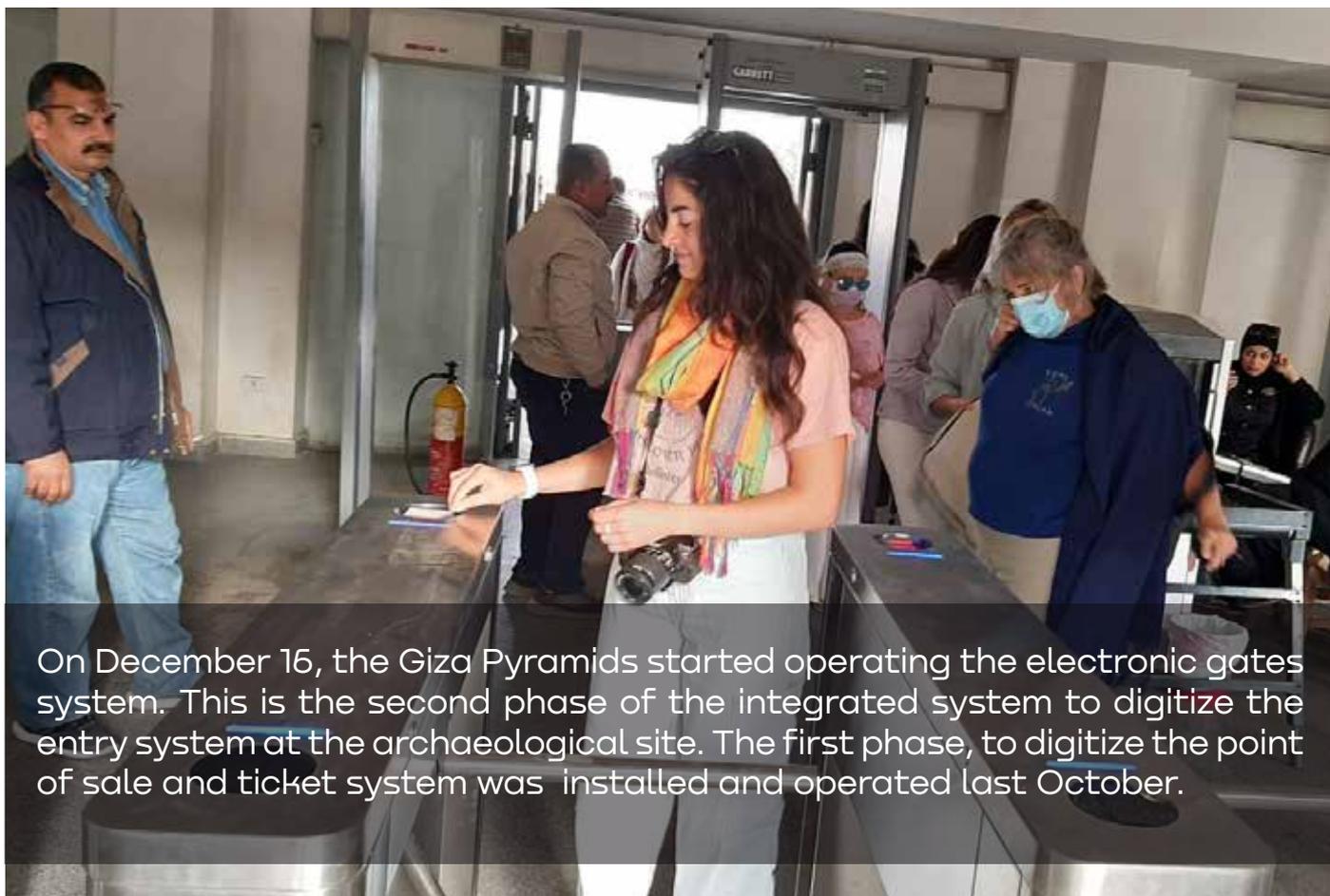
The Ministry Announces Regulations for Umrah in 2022

On 29 December, the Minister ratified regulations governing the next Umrah for Egyptians, after the Cabinet had approved requirements for the religious trips for the months of Rajab, Sha'ban and Ramadan of the Hijri year 1443.

These regulations included measures for Egyptians before and after performing Umrah, before returning to Egypt and after arriving at the Egyptian ports. They also included regulations governing the work of travel agencies operating Umrah trips.

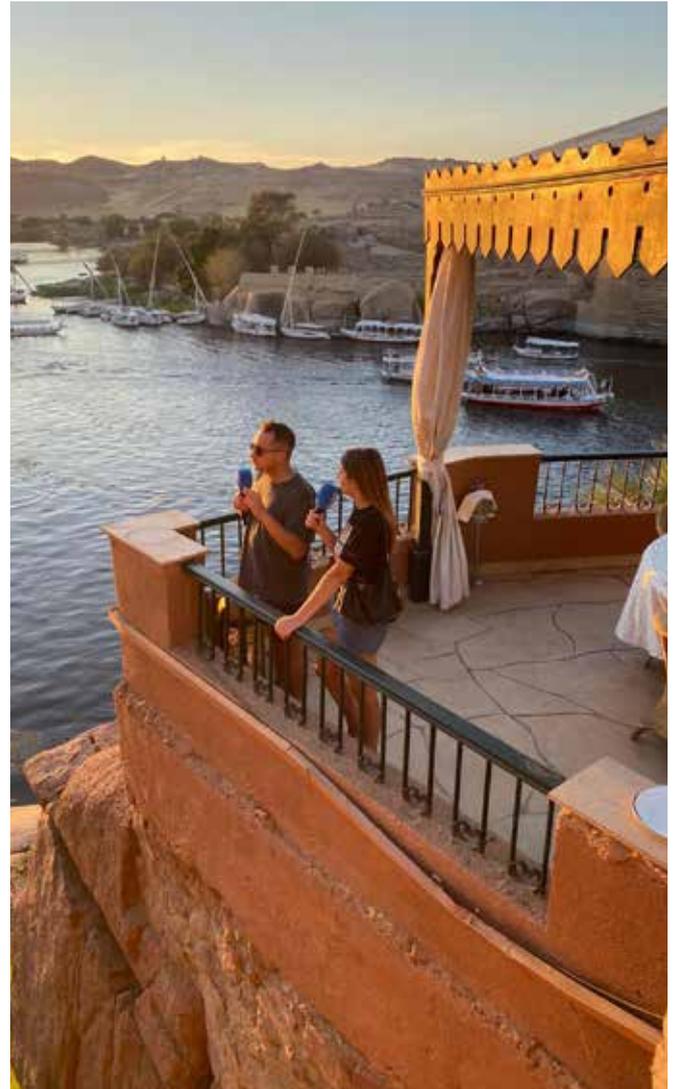
Furthermore, rules and procedures for accommodations in Makkah and Madinah, agents, private airlines, and contracts with Saudi institutions and the executive procedures for Umrah have all been set.

Integrated System for Electronic Gates Installed at the Giza Pyramids



On December 16, the Giza Pyramids started operating the electronic gates system. This is the second phase of the integrated system to digitize the entry system at the archaeological site. The first phase, to digitize the point of sale and ticket system was installed and operated last October.

Hosting Media Personnel, Influencers and Digital Content Creators From a Number of Countries



During the month of December, the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board (ETPB), hosted a television delegation from the Baltic countries (Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia) on a visit to Luxor and Aswan, in cooperation with the largest tour operators in these countries. It hosted another media delegation from Ukraine on a visit to Cairo, Aswan, Luxor and Hurghada.

In addition to that, ETPB hosted journalists, influencers and digital content creators from Finland and Russia; the Finnish delegation visited Saint Catherine and Dahab, while the Russian delegation visited Cairo, Alexandria and Sharm El-Sheikh.

Launching an Online Campaign to Promote Winter Season in Egypt

Under the title “Sunny Christmas”, the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board (ETPB) launched an online promotional campaign on various social media platforms to promote Egyptian tourist destination for the winter season 2022; in Egypt, UK, Germany, Ukraine, Italy, France, Russia and USA.

The campaign was launched on the most popular websites and social media platforms; Facebook, Youtube, Instagram, Snapchat, Tiktok and VK.

Showcasing Archaeological Discoveries in Expo 2020

On December 26, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities presented the latest archaeological discoveries, at the Egyptian pavilion in Dubai Expo 2020.

The presentation showcased restoration work in a number of archaeological sites. It highlighted ongoing archaeological projects that are due to open soon. It also presented upgrading visitor services at archaeological sites and museums.



The Giza Pyramids Host the Half Marathon for the Third Year

On December 11, under the auspices of the Ministry and the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Giza Pyramids hosted, for the third year in a row, the Pyramids Half Marathon.

4000 national and international competitors from 80 countries participated in the race, including 2,700 Egyptian youth and families.



The Egyptian Museum in Tahrir Receives Participants of the International Holy Quran Recital Competition

On December 14, the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir received a delegation of contestants from 40 countries in addition to a number of judges who participated in the twenty-eighth international Holy Qur'an recital competition organized by the Ministry of Awqaf in Egypt.

The Ministry Co-sponsors the International Show "Magic on Ice"



The Ministry co-sponsored the international show, Magic on Ice, which was held for the first time in Egypt from 16 to 25 December in the covered hall at Cairo International Stadium.

The Ministry organized visits for the performers to a number of tourist and archaeological sites, including the Giza Pyramids.

A High Turnout for the Ministry's Pavilions EDEX 2021

The Ministry's pavilions participating in Egypt's International Defense and Military Industries Exhibition "EDEX 2021" in its second edition, witnessed a great turnout from visitors to the exhibition.

The Exhibition was held from November 29 to December 2, and was inaugurated by H.E. the President.



International Cooperation

Egypt Elected Head of the Executive Office of the Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism

The Arab Ministerial Council for Tourism elected Egypt as head of its Executive Office from 2021 to 2023. Egypt hosted the activities of the 24th session of the Council on December 8 and 9 at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Arab League.

Participating in the Session of the General Assembly of the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

The Assistant Minister for Archaeological Affairs at the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) participated, in the session of the General Assembly of states parties of the Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in its third session, held at the headquarters of the UNESCO in Paris.

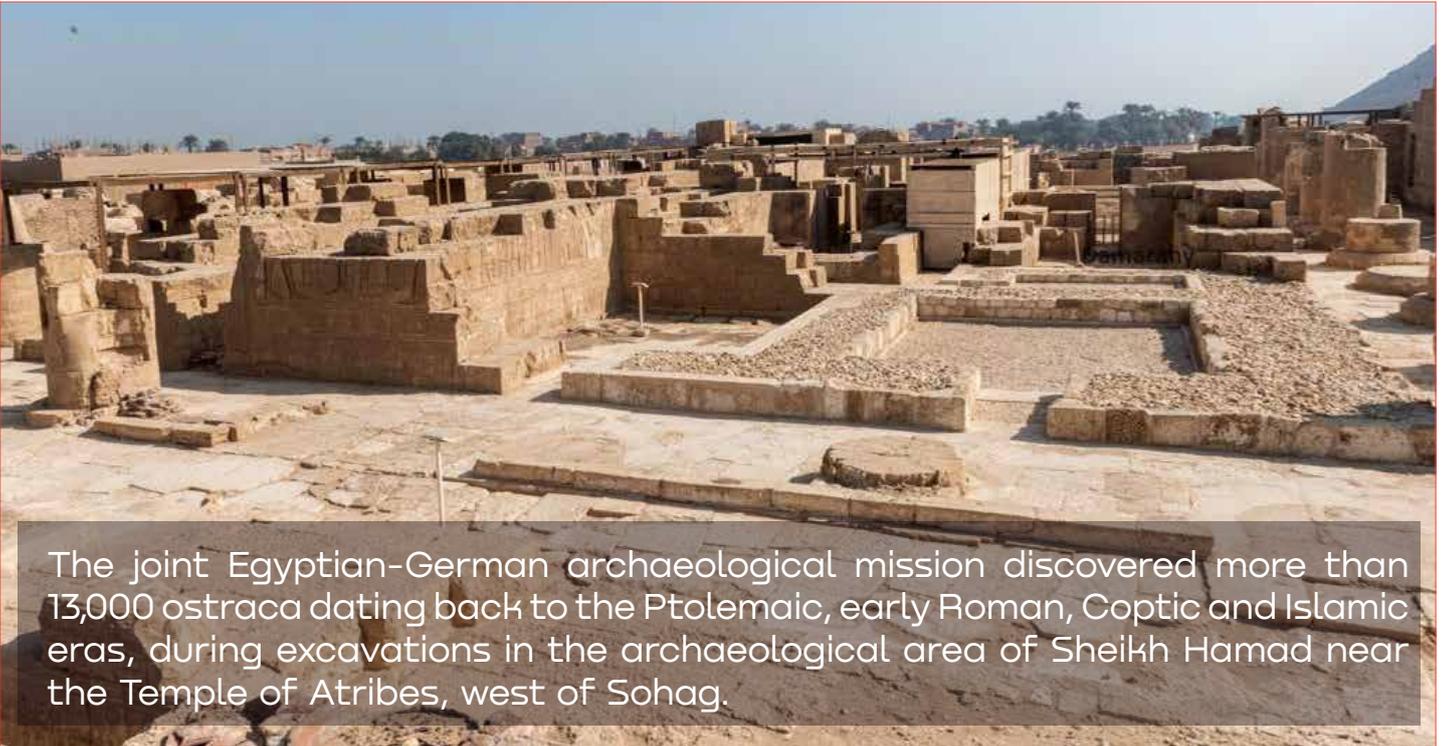
Participating in the Annual Conference of USTOA

Headed by the CEO, a delegation from the ETPB, accompanied by members of the Egyptian Tourism Federation and a number of Egyptian tour operators operating in the American market participated in the annual conference of the United States Tour Operators Association, USTOA, held from 7 to 10 December, In San Diego, California, USA.

In another context, the head of the central department of International tourism at ETPB held a virtual meeting with the president of the Association of the Hungarian Travel Agencies (MUISZ), to discuss ways to increase inbound tourism from Hungary, especially since Egypt is considered the first preferable beach destination for Hungarian tourists.



Cache of 13,000 Ostraca Unearthed in Sohag



The joint Egyptian-German archaeological mission discovered more than 13,000 ostraca dating back to the Ptolemaic, early Roman, Coptic and Islamic eras, during excavations in the archaeological area of Sheikh Hamad near the Temple of Atribes, west of Sohag.

Two Saite Tombs Unearthed in Minya

The Spanish archaeological mission, working in the Al-Bahnasa archaeological site in Minya Governorate, affiliated with the University of Barcelona, discovered two adjacent Saite tombs. At the entrance of the first tomb, the mission unearthed two human remains with golden tongues, and inside the tomb a large limestone sarcophagus has been located with woman shaped lid.

For the First Time, Secrets of King Amenhotep I is revealed by CT Scan

The secrets of the mummy of King Amenhotep I (18th dynasty) remained hidden under the scrolls and the funeral face mask until they were revealed in the scientific study published on 28 December, 2021 and published in the "Frontiers" magazine by renowned Egyptologist Dr. Zahi Hawass, and Dr. Sahar Selim, Professor of Radiology at the Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University.

The two scientists used advanced x-ray technology from tomography and CT scanning to unwrap the mummy without physically touching it. The study revealed, for the first time, the King's facial features, his age and health condition, in addition to many secrets of its mummification and reburial.



The Giza Pyramids light Up in Blue to Celebrate the 75th Anniversary of UNICEF



The Ministry, along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, participated in the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) by lighting the Giza Pyramids in blue for an hour. Blue is the official color of the United Nations and UNICEF.

Egypt illuminates Salah El Din Citadel on International Anti-Corruption Day

In celebration of the International Anti-Corruption Day (December 9), the Ministry lit the facades of Salah El Din citadel in Cairo and the citadel of Qaitbai in Alexandria, with the words “International Anti-Corruption Day” for five hours on the 8th and 9th of December.

Annual Solar Alignment on the Main Holy Shrine at Karnak Temple



On the morning of December 21, the Karnak temple witnessed the annual solar alignment on its main holy shrine, an event that coincides with the beginning of winter season on December 21 each year. The temples enjoyed a great turnout of Egyptian and foreigner visitors of different nationalities.

Installing a Canopy to Protect Murals of the Red Monastery in Sohag



Islamic Antiquities Sector of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, in cooperation with the American Research Center, has completed the installation of a canopy to protect the archaeological murals on the walls of the Red Monastery Church in Sohag and preserve their colors from various erosion factors. A lighting system has been also installed.

A temporary Exhibition at Luxor Museum on its 46th Anniversary



A temporary archaeological exhibition titled "Treasures of Amenhotep Huwi" has been organized on December 12 by Luxor Museum of Ancient Egyptian Art on its 46th anniversary.

The exhibition was organized in cooperation with the Spanish mission and will last for 12 months. It includes 155 artifacts from the finds of the Spanish mission working in the tomb of Amenhotep Huwi of the 18th Dynasty.

The Museum of Islamic Art Hosts an Exhibition on its 118th Anniversary

Under the title "Islamic Art between Authenticity and Contemporaneity", a temporary exhibition was opened at the Museum of Islamic Art on December 14, on its 118th anniversary (28 December, 1903).

The exhibition includes 29 artifacts selected from the Museum of Islamic Art, Manial Palace Museum and Gayer Anderson Museum, in addition to coins from different countries and eras.



The Coptic Museum Celebrates Christmas and New Year's Eve

The Coptic Museum in Old Cairo organized, on December 19, a temporary archaeological exhibition titled "A Song of Joy" for three weeks, to celebrate Christmas and New Year's Eve.

The exhibition includes 11 artifacts representing scenes celebrating Christmas and the Coptic New Year. The museum organized art shows for children and adults, in addition to a guided tour provided by museum curators to visitors, and a number of art workshops and lectures.

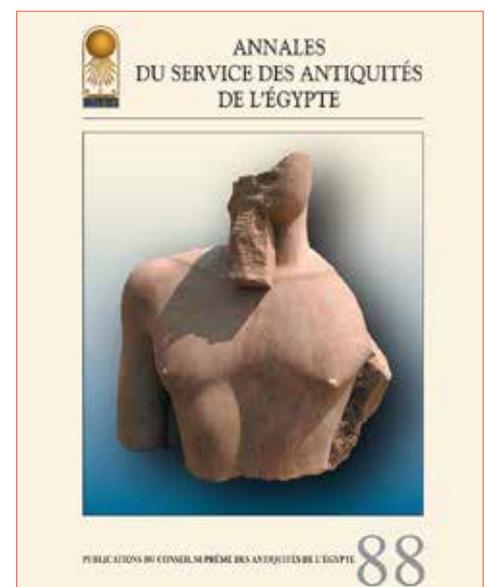
Inaugurating the Library of Islamic Archaeologist, Muhammad Abdel Aziz Marzouk

The head of the Museums Sector at the Supreme Council of Antiquities inaugurated, at Kafr El-Sheikh Museum, the library of Islamic archaeologist Dr. Mohamed Abdel Aziz Marzouk, which was donated by his family to the Supreme Council of Antiquities.

The Latest Publication of the General Administration of Scientific Publication at the Supreme Council of Antiquities

The Ministry, represented by the General Administration for Scientific Publishing, issued the 88th publication of the periodicals of the Supreme Council of Antiquities. It includes a set of articles and various scientific reports on archaeological excavations, philology, art, architecture, and other subjects, in addition to a presentation of two books in the field of archeology. This issue honors the late Mr. Attia Radwan, who devoted himself to his work at the Supreme Council of Antiquities and passed away on July 2012, 13.

The current issue is the latest scientific production of the Supreme Council of Antiquities in its periodical publications, which began in 1900 and continued until now, and has stopped as a result of the COVID pandemic.



Awareness Trips for Children to Tourist Attractions



The Ministry organized a number of awareness trips for children and school students to Salah El-Din Citadel and Sharm El-Sheikh Museum.

The Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board (ETPB) organized a number of awareness trips for school students from Sharm El-Sheikh, to the Sharm El-Sheikh Museum, as part of "Know Your Country" initiative launched last December.

A Training Program in Hygiene and food safety

Under the title "For Safe Tourism", the Ministry, in cooperation with the Egyptian Tourism Federation and the Egyptian Hotel Association, launched a training program for workers in the field of hygiene and food safety "HACCP". The training program started in the Red Sea Governorate as the first phase, and will last for 4 months.

A Training Workshop on the e- system in Luxor

The Ministry, in cooperation with I-markets company organized a training workshop for workers at ticket and collection counters in all archaeological sites and museums in Luxor Governorate. This workshop was to train employees on the advanced integrated electronic system for tickets, payment, fares collection, and entry that us currently being installed and operated in archaeological sites and museums.

Training employees at Sultan Hassan Mosque

The Ministry organized a training course for employees at Sultan Hassan Mosque in Cairo Governorate. This course is part of the "Tourism Ambassadors" program, which targets qualifying the front line personnel who deal with visitors in tourist sites, archaeological sites and museums.

Visits and Meetings

Registering the Building of the Coptic Museum Among Islamic, Coptic and Jewish Antiquities.



The Minister held two meetings of the Board of Directors of the Supreme Council of Antiquities in December. During those meetings, the board approved registering the building of the Coptic Museum among Islamic, Coptic and Jewish antiquities.

The Board also approved continuing granting a 50 %reduction on rental fees to the tenants of bazars and cafeterias in museums and archaeological sites affiliated to the Supreme Council of Antiquities and the Fund for Nuba's Antiquities. Noting that these exemptions have been continued for more than a year and a half.

Discussing the Preparation of a Promotional Campaign for 2022

On December 5, the Minister chaired the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Board where they discussed organizing the "Luxor..Shynx Avenue" event annually. There was a consensus that it should be announced early enough in advance of its due date to allow tourists to attend it. Holding this celebration annually complies with the Ministry's strategy to organize various tourism events and activities throughout the year.

The meeting also discussed preparing a promotional campaign for the year 2022, especially that this year will witness many important events, including the 100th anniversary of the discovery of King Tutankhamun's tomb, and the 200th anniversary of deciphering ancient Egyptian writing and the birth of Egyptology.

A Workshop on the National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism in Egypt

On December 5, the Minister attended a workshop organized by the Ministry and the Egyptian Tourism Federation, to review the the national strategy for sustainable tourism in Egypt, which is being updated by an Italian expert house, as it had been previously prepared in 2009 by the same expert house.

The aim of this workshop is to inform all stakeholders in the public and private tourism sectors with the latest developments and updates in work related to updating this strategy.

Receiving the Executive Director of the UN Office of Drugs and Crime

The Minister received the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime and the Director-General of the United Nations Headquarters in Vienna, to discuss strengthening aspects of cooperation in all areas of common interest.

They also discussed ways to address the illicit trafficking of cultural property and antiquities in light of international conventions, as well as its relationship with other types of crime such as money laundering, human trafficking, and financing terrorism.

Meeting Members of the 46th Session of Diplomatic Military Attaches

The Minister met with members of the 46th session of candidates for military attaches abroad and their wives, as part of the armed forces' efforts to raise awareness, increase knowledge and transfer of the various experiences to candidates that can help to qualify them as military attaches abroad.

Discussing Boosting Inbound Tourism From Japan with its Ambassador

On December 21, the Minister received the Ambassador of Japan in Cairo, to discuss ways to enhance cooperation between the two countries and mechanisms to increase tourism from Japan to Egypt.

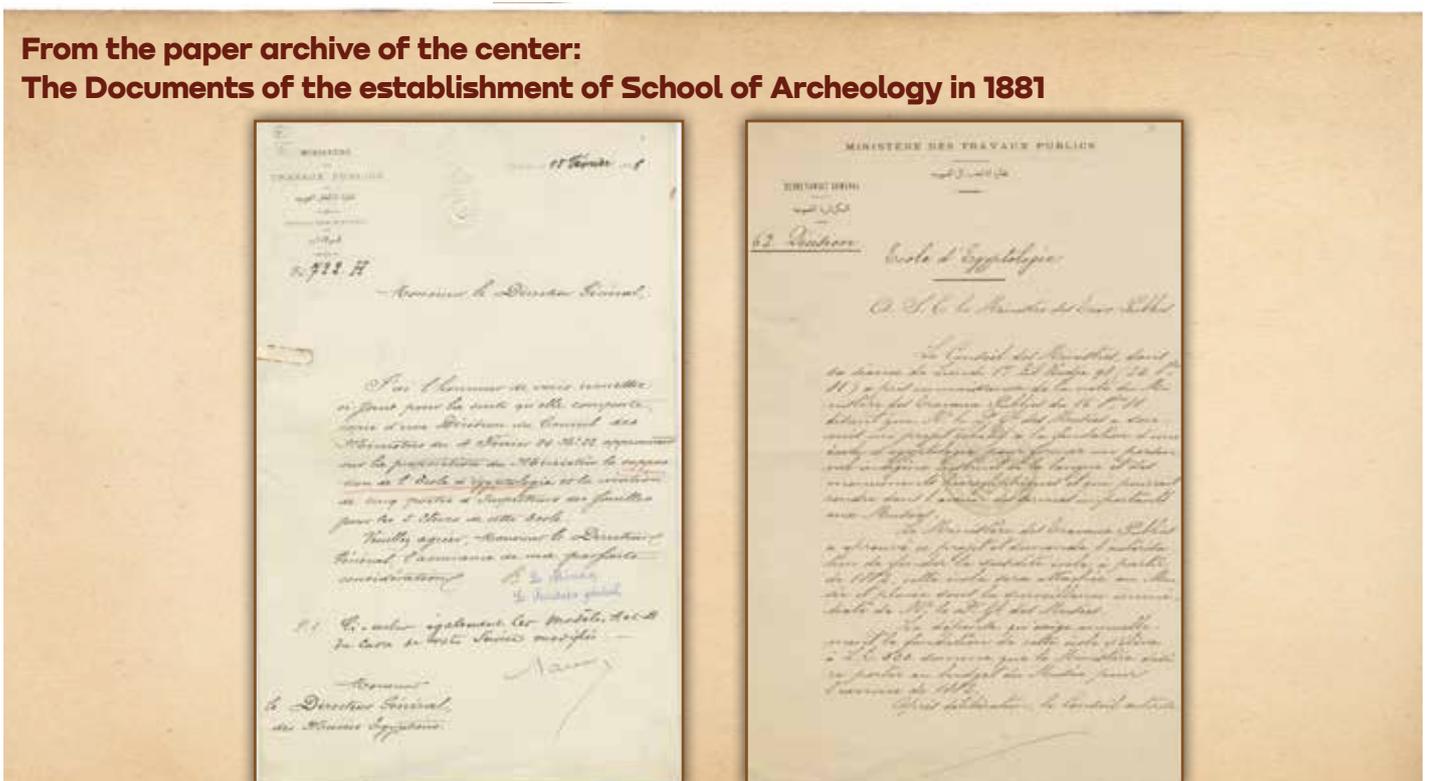
Organizing a Fam Trip for Russian Tour Operators

The CEO of the ETPB met with one of the most important tour operators in the Russian market and a number of representatives of Russian tour operators in Hurghada. The ETPB in cooperation with one of the most important tour operators in the Russia organized a fam trip for 130 Russian tour operators during the period from 1 to 8 December.

From the Center of Documentation Archive

From the paper archive of the center:

The Documents of the establishment of School of Archeology in 1881



Launching A Mobile Application for NMEC



On December 20, the Minister chaired the meeting of the board of directors of the Museum's Authority. The Museum announced the launching of its new mobile application titled "NMEC" that can be downloaded from Google play or App store.

Other topics related to the Museum's revenues and the increasing demand for visit were reviewed, as well as including the Museum in most tourist programs, and increasing the number of trips for students of different schools to it.

NMEC Receives Official Visits from Different Countries

In continuation of the influx of official visits to the museum, NMEC received delegations and official visits from countries; they included the Bahraini Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority, and the Cultural Attaché of the United Arab Emirates in Cairo.

The museum also received delegations from more than 42 countries participating in the Egypt International Defense and Military Industries Exhibition "EDEX 2021" hosted by Egypt, in addition to an African delegation participating in the the second session of the Egyptian-African Center for Training in the Field of Communications Regulatory.

The Museum Organizes Cultural, Artistic and Scientific events

NMEC organized cultural event including a lecture by the famous archaeologist, Dr. Zahi Hawass, on the most important archaeological discoveries, and an art exhibition titled "Eternal Egypt" by the Egyptian artist, Dr. Farid Fadel. the Museum also organized a musical performance by viola player Suzan Saber and a concert by the well-known Egyptian jazz singer Ahmed Harfouche, that was attended by a large number of museum visitors, intellectuals, VIPs and ambassadors.

A Presidential Decree to Form the Board of Trustees of the GEM

On 14 December 2021, H.E the President issued a decree to form the Board of Trustees of the GEM Authority for a period of 3 years. The board is chaired by H.E the President.

Foreign members of the board include Japanese politician Tarō Asō, Director of Kyoto National Museum Johei Sasaki, Chairman of the Saudi Space Agency (SSA) Prince Sultan bin Salman, director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the secretary-general of UNWTO. The Egyptian members include the ministers of tourism, culture and finance, as well as the director of Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA). It also includes Egyptian archeologist Zahi Hawwas, and public figures such as Dr Farouk Hosni, Hesham Okasha, Dr Farouq el Oqda, Mohamed Lotfi Mansour and Tv presenter Sherif Amer.

Increasing Hotel Capacity in the Area Surrounding the Museum

On December 19, the Minister received the Governor of Giza at the GEM. They held a meeting to discuss increasing the hotel capacity in Giza Governorate, especially those located in the area surrounding the GEM and 6th of October City.

The GEM receives 23 Huge Artifacts



The GEM received 23 huge artifacts, including large stone reliefs, transported from the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir and Saqqara and Ismailia archaeological sites.

Among the most notable objects is a collection of 269 pieces of a limestone wall bearing pyramid text for Queen Ankh Isen Pepi.

The heavy artifacts are now being restored and maintained at the Museum's Conservation Center in preparation for their transfer to be displayed at the main exhibition halls.



International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The world acknowledges the International Day of the persons with disabilities on the 3rd of December every year. In that respect, the Ministry organized guided tours, lectures, training programs and recreational activities for people with special needs, throughout the month of December.

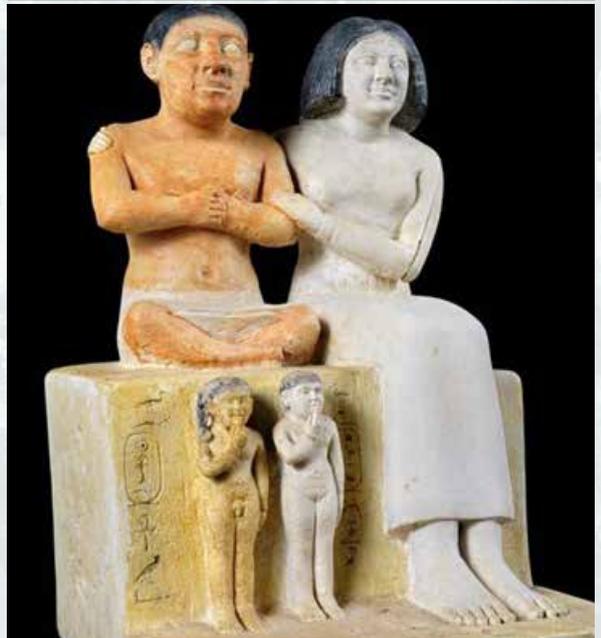
The Ministry has taken measures and implemented projects to make archeological sites and museums accessible; for example, special paths and wooden corridors were constructed; specialized bathrooms were put in place; chairs, ramps and elevators were made available. The accessibility code was activated technologically, spatially and culturally through Braille panels, signage, and videos translated into sign language. Some courses were organized to educate museum and archaeological site employees on how to deal with people with special needs.

Our Ancient Egyptian Civilization taught us about the importance of inclusion within a society. Ancient Egyptians were among the first to respect people with special needs, and empower them.

In Ancient Egyptian literature, we can see how the sage "Amenmobi" educates his son, telling him: "Do not mock a blind man, do not mock a dwarf, do not harass a lame man, do not show a surly face", on one of the papyri from the Ramesside era, and displayed in the British Museum. The Egyptian artist depicted cases of people with special needs, while they practice their normal daily-life; like the blind harpist seen in the tomb of "Entef", Middle Kingdom.

There are cases of dwarfism in people at high ranks, in ancient Egypt, such as "Senab", a high-ranking court official, who lived in the era of the two kings "Khufu" and "Djedefre", 4th dynasty. He was portrayed with his wife, the priestess "Senet-es" and his children, in a famous statue, in the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir.

Mamdouh Farouk Muhammad - Director of Imhotep Museum



Editor: Rana Gohar
Co-editor: Mohamed Saad
Assistant-editor: Ebtesam Yehya
Translation by: Randa Magdy
Designer: Marwa El Shimy
Printed by: MoTA Press

Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities
Misr Travel Tower, Abbasseya Square
Cairo, Egypt



Newsletter Issues



Contact us



www.egymonuments.gov.eg

Follow us on
Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities
<https://www.facebook.com/tourismandantiq>
https://www.instagram.com/ministry_tourism_antiquities
<https://www.twitter.com/tourismandantiq>
Experience Egypt
<https://www.facebook.com/eg.experienceegypt>
<https://www.instagram.com/experienceegypt>
<https://www.twitter.com/ExperienceEgypt>
Newsletter