

Knowledge Week in Egypt Leads to Launching a 'Higher Council of Knowledge'

Cairo, 13 February 2020 –In line with the continuous efforts to promote the Global Knowledge Index (GKI) as an advocacy tool and to widely disseminate and embed it in policy debates, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF), under the umbrella of the Knowledge Project, held the Knowledge Week for Sustainable Development in Egypt. The 4-day event (February 10-13) was held under the patronage of the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Al Alfi Foundation for Human and Social Development.



The Knowledge Week brought together around 200 participants including representatives from Egyptian ministries and government departments, journalists, media professionals, researchers, representatives of the private sector and students, as well as 72 young men and women from different regions of Egypt, who were selected to participate in a competition-like to present alternatives and recommendations concerning their vision for the future of Egypt and how to improve the rank of Egypt in the GKI. The Global Knowledge Index 2019 covers 136 countries, helping them formulate forward-thinking strategies to support knowledge and promote it as a key component to build a stronger knowledge economy while ensuring sustainable development. The 72 youth participants were selected out of more than 1,000 applicants and worked on presenting innovative ideas to solve developmental and knowledge challenges to achieve sustainable development in Egypt. They were divided in working groups covering the sectors of the Global Knowledge Index: pre-university education, technical and vocational education and training, higher education, research, development and innovation, information and communications technology, and economy. Egypt's performance on the GKI 2019 was the starting point: ranking 82 out of 136 countries, advancing 17 positions and achieving notable progress in pre-university education. It also maintained its advanced ranking on the level of enrollment in higher education, ranking 11 out of 136 countries.

The Knowledge Week encouraged Egyptian youth to design a detailed work plan to solve the challenges preventing the Egyptian society from becoming a knowledge-based society. The youth worked on a detailed analysis of their proposed ideas during the first three days of the event and presented their findings and recommendations during the last day to the decision-makers. On the last day, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar announced the launching of a 'Higher Council of Knowledge' in Egypt composed of deans of relevant universities, and from which a 'Knowledge Committee' will be formed, with the

participants of the Knowledge Week as its first members. The council and the committee will be responsible for developing a proposal for a strategy to build a knowledge society in Egypt. At the end of the competition, UNDP and MBRF announced the results of the Knowledge Week, in which the three winning teams were offered a full coverage to participate in the upcoming Knowledge Summit taking place in Dubai in 2021.