

Futures Studies and Project Egypt 2020

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I. On the nature of and need for futures studies

Futures studies, or long-range perspective studies, are an indispensable source of help for sound planning and decision making in today's chaotic, complex and rapidly changing world. The accelerating pace of change, together with a multitude of accompanying uncertainties, make it all the more important to expand our time perspectives so as to include the future, i.e. *to futurize our thinking*.

Whatever we do today will have an impact on our lives and the lives of our children tomorrow. If we want to take advantage of the fact that we shape our future by whatever we do at present, so as to increase the probability that such future will be agreeable, it becomes critically important to *take the future into account* in the decisions made today. This means that decisions should be made with *adequate foresight* of the probable consequences of current actions and events, of the likely outcomes which may emerge from significant trends and counter trends, and of anticipated changes in the technological, ecological, economic and political aspects of our world.

Incorporating the future in current planning and decision making processes is beneficial in many ways. New avenues may be opened for advancing towards our long-term goals, and early warnings may be issued of future problems which may obstruct or slow down such advance. People and leaders are also empowered to rediscover their resources and energies when they take a long-range and holistic view of the world. More importantly, taking the future into account enable people not only to prepare for the future by adapting to what might happen, but also to control their future and to make it better than it would otherwise be had they ignored the future, or just waited passively for it.

It is undoubtedly true that the theoretical apparatus and empirical research tools of futures or long-range perspective studies originated in the developed countries, and it is there where such studies are rapidly spreading. This however, does not mean that developing countries do not need long-range prospective studies. In reality, given the development challenges facing these countries, they stand to benefit a good deal from engaging in futures studies. This is so for at least two reasons:

One is *the nature of the development process* itself, namely its essentially long-term dimensions. Development does not take place overnight; it involves time-

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taking institutional and structural change, and therefore could not be tackled by short-term measures. In fact, the development march suffered greatly from the lack of long-range perspectives for development decisions. Such practice tended to compound problems and intensify development constraints. In contrast, the long view to development, thanks to futures research, tends to ease development constraints and enlarge the range of development possibilities and capabilities.

The second reason stems from the unequal power structure of the world, and *the greater means available to the big powers to influence the directions of change in the weaker developing countries*. The risks of being subjected to external pressures are greater for developing countries which occupy an outstanding political or strategic position in their region or in the world at large. Unless such countries (of which Egypt is a good example) takes the initiative to create their own future, i.e. to shape it according to the interests of their people, external powers will carry out this task for them. But the future image of the country will be determined in the latter case by the interests of the external powers in question. As is well know, the big powers compete to re-shape the future of the middle east and north Africa and they are eager to incorporate the Arab countries in Middle-Eastern or Mediterranean "cooperation" or "partnership" schemes. An indigenous futuristic study performed from the standpoint of Arab countries is necessary for envisaging their future image with and without such schemes, and for guiding their decisions as to the development path that best serves their security and economic interests and preserves their cultural identity.

One further advantage of futures research should be underlined, namely that *a futures study of a society permits it to know itself better*, enables it to profoundly understand its history and its present and to deduce lessons which may help it to articulate its future in a more meaningful way. Studying the future, which essentially involves studying the past and the present, could contribute to our understanding of the evolution of social systems, and thereby provide a solid knowledge base for theorizing about dynamics of change and development dialectics. Furthermore, a study of a nation's future is a superb intellectual exercise of enlightenment through which the nation can rediscover its capabilities and potentialities, restore self-confidence, and sharpen its sense of purpose and direction. A thorough futuristic study could also be an excellent tool for mobilizing national efforts and energies for winning the war against underdevelopment.

The mobilization force of futuristic studies will, however, be greater, the broader is the scope allowed for *people's participation* in developing such studies i.e. in imaging and designing the future. Indeed, much of the success of futuristic studies is predicated on its success in engaging intellectuals, scientists, policy makers, the media and the public at large in lively debates about future possibilities, opportunities and risks, and how best to deal with them.

It should be noted that in spite of our emphasis on the normative dimension of futures studies (viz, helping to create a better future and empowering people to control their future), *the latter should not be confused with the making of development strategies and the designing of development plans*. To be sure, neither strategy making nor planning can dispense with a certain amount of futures research. However, while strategies and plans center around specific objectives and targets which they seek ways and means of how best to achieve them, a futures study is not necessarily tied to objectives or targets of this sort.

Rather, the main task of a futures study is to explore alternative possibilities of the future, discover hidden potentialities, anticipate risks and constraints along alternative future paths, and forecast the probable consequences of present actions and events. *The future is therefore studied in terms of alternatives, i.e. alternative paths or scenarios.* This approach is necessitated by the fact that the future is far from certain, and is fraught with many ambiguities and risks. In these circumstances, we could not deal with a single future path or scenario, because *we are faced with a variety of futures, i.e. alternative futures - not a single or unique future.* By examining alternative futures (even a limited number of conceivable futures), futures studies help us to demystify the future, provide a knowledge base for making informed choices, and-consequently-enhance our capacity to influence the future.

II. A brief history of long-range futures studies in Egypt.

Though elements of future studies can be traced back to the late 1950s and the 1960s - mostly in association with planning activities, or sectoral studies - somewhat comprehensive and large scale futures studies date back to the mid 1970s. Three studies of this nature are worth mentioning.

The first study, which was carried out in the 1975-77 period, explored the consequences of alternative development strategies using a multi-sectoral macro-economic simulation model⁽¹⁾. The study paid great attention to modelling the agricultural sector and allowed for economic - demographic interactions. The future horizon was, however, rather limited, namely 10-years from 1975 to 1985, and the choice of development alternatives was rather conventional: agriculture-oriented and industry-oriented strategies were discussed, in addition to a business - as-usual strategy.

The second study was written by Prof. Ismail Sabri Abdalla in the fall of 1977, within the framework of the OECD's interfutures project. This study articulated three scenarios for Egypt, namely undoing the revolution or the Turkish scenario, freezing the revolution or the Mexican scenario, and continuing the revolution or the self-reliance-basic needs-oriented scenario.⁽²⁾

The third study was performed during the 1980-1982 period. It focused on population and development issues and interactions, and sought to highlight the positive and negative consequences of alternative development policies. It developed a simulation model for testing alternative policies. However, financial difficulties led to the substitution of the already-built model by qualitative analysis supported by partial or subjective quantitative estimates. The scope of the study was very broad, encompassing past and current trends, global and regional changes, education, housing, technology, social values, in addition, of course, to economic, labour, and demographic issues. The development alternatives or scenarios discussed were rather broad, namely open-door policy, rationalized or constrained open-door policy, and independent or self-reliant development.⁽³⁾

(1) I.H.El-Issawy and A.N. El-Shafei, **SMEE 1: A simulation Model of the Egyptian Economy with special Emphasis on Economic-Demographic Interactions**, INP memo. No. 1211 (external), Dec. 1977.

(2) Ismail-Sabri Abdalla, "Development of Egypt - Two Experiences and Three Scenarios", **L'Egypte contemporaine**, nos 435/6, Jan/April 1994.

(3) See the Project's final report;

In addition to these three studies, special reference should be made to the set of activities performed by a group led by the late Professor Ibrahim Helmi Abdel-Rahman and hosted by the Institute of National Planning - Cairo, namely the *Egypt 2000 group*. It consisted of a number of distinguished Egyptian researchers and intellectuals who were concerned about Egypt's future. They engaged in debates, prepared papers and asked others to write papers on issues with a significant bearing on the future and studied futures studies published in the west. They also sought to delineate the critical factors governing Egypt's future and to formulate, intuitively, future images for Egypt. The Egypt 2000 group was active during 1978 and 1979.⁽⁴⁾

To conclude this brief account of futuristic studies, it should also be noted that the future of Egypt was studied within the framework of a number of *regional futures research projects and activities* in the 1974/75 - 1985/86 period. These include: a study of the Arab World in the year 2000⁽⁵⁾, the activities of the Long- Range Planning for the Arab Countries group led by Prof. Ibrahim Helmi Abdel-Rahman in the early 1970s (at the Institute of National Planning - Cairo), and three outstanding large-scale futures studies, namely:

- The Arab Alternative Futures (AAF) study which was sponsored by the United Nations University and carried out by the Third World Forum - Middle East office in Cairo during the 1980 - 1985 period.⁽⁶⁾
- The project: Exploring the Future of the Arab Homeland, carried out by the Center for Arab Unity Studies in Beirut during the period 1985 - 1988.⁽⁷⁾
- The Interdependence project sponsored by EINI and OAPEC in the early 1980.⁽⁸⁾
- Though the wave of futures studies in both Egypt and the Arab world subsided since the mid or late 1980s, it should be noted that concern over futuristic issues did not disappear. Many scholars, researchers, intellectuals, and journalists contributed important writings, raising critical issues and discussing important challenges and opportunities. Such activities, however, could not substitute for large - scale, comprehensive, and integrated futures studies.

I.H. El-Issawy (Principal Investigator), **Population and Development in Alternative Egyptian Futures**, Population and Family Planning Board, Cairo, Dec., 1982. In addition to this publication, the project issued 14 working papers written by a distinguished group of researchers. The project is well known as: EDCAS 2000 (exploring the demographic consequences of alternative development strategies for Egypt up to the year 2000).

- (4) Unfortunately, most of the work of the Egypt 2000 group did not materialize in published papers, articles or books. An example of the work of this group could be consulted however, in the paper written by Ali Nassar: **A Debate on Egypt and the challenges of the 21st century**, Issues of Planning and Development series, no. 10, INP, Cairo, 1980 (in Arabic)
- (5) A. Zahlan, **The Arab World in the Year 2000**, Beirut 1975.
- (6) For a brief review of the AAF project see: Ibrahim Saadeldin Abdalla, "Arab Alternative futures: Main Features, Implicit Assumptions and Basic conclusions", **Arab Economic Journal**, Aitamn, 1993.
- (7) A brief review of this project can be found in: I.H. El-Issawy, "Exploring the future of the Arab Nation", **Arab Economic Journal**, Autumn. 1992
- (8) See the project final report: OAPEC and EINI, **The Interdependence Project - General Report**, Dec. 1985.

III. *The Egypt 2020 Futures Research Project*⁽⁹⁾

Over the past seven years the Third World Forum (TWF) Middle East Office in Cairo has been carrying out a futures research project, namely *Egypt 2020*. Officially the project, which was expected to be carried out in three years, started in January 1998. In practice, however, intensive work began informally in September 1997, following several preparatory activities which lasted for nearly two years. Due to financial difficulties, project activities were suspended by March 2000. Nevertheless, project leaders continued work on a voluntary basis with the object of finalizing a number of studies and getting them to the publication stage. As a limited amount of funding became available by mid 2003, work was resumed on two studies as well as on some building blocks for the final report of the project. However, the project is still faced with severe financial and technical problems which may hinder the completion of this report.

Objectives

Project *Egypt 2020* aims at improving national decision making capabilities and creating an intellectual climate that would be conducive to innovative solutions to Egypt's problems. These aims would be achieved by incorporating a futuristic perspective into the overall decision making process, as well as into people's perceptions of the challenges confronting Egypt in the coming two decades.

The project seeks to enhance decision makers' and people's awareness of future opportunities and risks and to enable them to participate in the making of a better future for Egypt by constructing a number of alternative scenarios. In other words, using a mixture of quantitative and qualitative techniques, alternative images of Egypt's future in the year 2020 will be specified, together with the possible time - paths which may lead to these future images. Furthermore, the project will estimate the social costs and benefits of each scenario, so that rational comparisons could be made among alternative future options.

The scenario analyses, together with the in-depth investigations of past trends and current conditions and the thorough exploration of future trends and potentialities which precede the process of scenario construction, could contribute in a significant way to the formulation of a new approach for managing Egypt's societal affairs, and for planning its future.

As indicated in section I, futures studies have become an essential prerequisite for planning social, economic and technological progress. Although Egypt pioneered such studies in the Arab world in the 1970s, genuine futures research disappeared from Egypt's agenda in the 1980s and most of 1990s. Given the dramatic changes in the regional and global scenes, and the accelerating pace of scientific and technological change during the last 20 years, it was a matter of urgency that Egypt resumes its interest in futures research. The latter will help update and strengthen the knowledge base of Egypt's planning and policy making activities, and clarify the options available for a better tomorrow, on the basis of large-scale mobilization of

(9) See the following project documents:

- a) **Egypt 2020 - A Research Project** (Nov. 1997-in Arabic)
- b) **Egypt 2020 - A Research Project** (in English)
- c) **Egypt 2020 - A Brief Presentation** (in Arabic)
- d) **Egypt 2020 - A Futures Research Project** (May 1998 - in English)
- e) **Egypt 2020 - A Brief Exposition of project studies**, (Jan 1998) – in Arabic)

Egypt's scientific community, and massive involvement of all social forces in the futuring process.

Research Networking

The TWF took the initiative for reviving interest in futures research of Egypt's problems and prospects, and for converting such interest into a well designed and carefully planned research project, namely project *Egypt 2020*. But, given the huge magnitude of the project which was dictated by the desire to be as comprehensive and as multidisciplinary as possible, proper implementation of the project was attempted through a research network of institutions, groups of research workers and - exceptionally - individual researchers. Contacts have already been established with around 20 research centers.

Scope and Methodology

Our study of the alternative Egyptian futures up till the year 2020 starts with an analytical reading of the past and the present to detect the predominant general trends that will probably prevail in the future, as well as the counter trends which may emerge and their probable impact. Research covers different aspects that will help reveal these trends, key development determinants and constraints in Egyptian society during the reference period 1970 – 1995, which was later extended to 2000 or beyond due to delays in project implementation.

Twelve subject-areas were chosen for in-depth studies, with the object of identifying the objective trends and evolution of economic social and political phenomena, highlighting the most important problems, obstacles and hazards, discovering opportunities for rapid development, and determining future options and prospects. The subject - areas selected include:

1. Environment and Population
2. Food and Agriculture
3. Industrialization and Manufactures
4. Housing and Human Settlements
5. Transport and Communications
6. Education and Scientific and Technological Research
7. Financial Sector
8. Foreign Transactions
9. Governance
10. Culture and Media
11. Society
12. Regional Integration and the Global Context.

A number of topics were identified for each subject – area, and a detailed research proposal was written and thoroughly discussed for each topic. Implementation of the research proposals were then entrusted to carefully selected specialized research teams.

Among the distinctive characteristics of the methodology of project Egypt 2020, the following are worth emphasizing:

1.	Intellectual openness and avoidance of preconceived ideas and ideological bias. This is guaranteed through enabling as many researchers as possible (who belong to different disciplines and schools of thought) to participate in the project's studies, seminars and other activities, and by refraining from advocating a certain ideology or a particular future image for Egypt. <i>In reality, the project has engaged 300 researchers in 38 research sub-projects, and enabled around 700 scholars, intellectuals and journalists to participate in several seminars, and workshops.</i>
2.	Establishing links with social action, and avoiding being a closed academic enterprise. The project seeks to interact with elites and ordinary citizens, policy makers and politicians, social and political activists, by registering their perceptions and future visions and inviting their reactions to the scenarios articulated by the project's Central Team (to be defined later). This is achieved by various means, including face to face interviews, field investigations and surveys, workshops and seminars, etc.
3.	A holistic approach is adopted which allows for encompassing social, economic, political, technological, environmental and other issues in an integrative systems-analysis framework
4.	Complexity. The project's methodology avoids simplistic abstractions, recognizes the need for considering behavioural details, interactions of non-linear, chaotic and dynamic nature, and emphasizes interdisciplinary practices.
5.	Simulation. In recognition of the inadequacy of available economic and social theories, simulation is a useful pragmatic tool for providing a better representation of social reality, and for theorizing about the behavior of economic and social systems.
6.	Combining qualitative and quantitative approaches. Quantitative techniques suffer from many shortcomings and are not suited to the analysis and forecasting of qualitative unmeasurable phenomena. Qualitative, intuitive methods, may be lacking in consistency and precision. Therefore, a mix of both methods, with the assistance of a user-interface framework (machine-man inter-action), is likely to produce superior results, than otherwise obtained by either quantitative or qualitative methods alone.

Scenairos

Initially, four scenarios were envisaged, including:

- a) a reference/trend/business-as-usual scenario,
- b) a popular/social compromise/middle-of-the road scenario,
- c) an intermediate scenario, which is simply a more consistent version of the popular scenario.
- d) a creative scenario, i.e. involving substantial changes in social structures and values, and drastic re-distribution of political

power and wealth, so as to pave the way for innovative development policies.

Following lengthy in-depth discussions in the project's Central Team, it was decided to relate scenarios to different socio-political forces or ruling elites. This led to the articulation of five scenarios, namely:

- a) a reference / trend / business-as-usual scenario,
- b) a neo-capitalists scenario,
- c) a neo-socialist scenario,
- d) an islamic state scenario,
- e) a popular/social consensus/social solidarity scenario.

The broad features of these scenarios are described in issue no. 2 of the *Egypt 2020 papers series (Starting points of alternative paths to the year 2020 - initial conditions of the principal scenarios of project Egypt 2020 - Dec. 1998)*. Further consideration of the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of the scenarios, as well as additional discussion of their key features, led to a complementary document, namely issue no. 4 of the *Egypt 2020 papers series (The theoretical and methodological foundations for Egypt 2020 scenarios)*.

Project activities include preparation of research reports, case-studies, workshops, seminars and conferences in which academics, practitioners, policy makers, politicians, social and political thinkers, media people, etc. participate. When the products of these activities meet the quality standards set by the project's leadership, they are published and widely distributed to stimulate as much public discussion as possible about Egypt's future.

Organizational Aspects

The project is led by an *executive committee* composed of:

- (a) Coordinator: *Dr. Ismail-Sabri Abdalla*, Chairman of the Third World Forum, and former Minister of Planning.
- (b) Associate Coordinator: *Dr. Ibrahim Saad El-Din Abdalla*, Director of the Third World Forum - Middle East Office, and former UN Project Director of the Arab Planning Institute.
- (c) Principal Investigator: *Dr. Ibrahim H. El-Issawy*, Professor of Economics, Institute of National Planning, and former Deputy Director of the Arab Planning Institute.

Project activities are planned, organized, and monitored by a *core group* of distinguished scholars, which is headed by the project's principal investigator. The core group (*the Central Team: CT*) consists of *Prof. Ali Nassar* (Planning Techniques Center, Institute of National Planning), *Prof. Abdel Baset Abd El Moati* (Dept. of Sociology - Girls College, Ain Shams University), *Prof. Fayez Mourad Mina* (Faculty of Education, Ain Shams University), *Prof. Mohamed Reda Moharram* (Dept. of Mining and Petroleum - Faculty of Engineering, Al-Azhar University) and *Prof. Mostafa Olwi* (Dept. of Political Science, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University).

Clearly, the core group combines a variety of expertise, and allows for multidisciplinary interaction (economics, planning, future studies, development,

education, sociology, engineering, and political science). The continuous discussions among members of the CT, and their interaction with scholars from different disciplines who carry out project studies ensure a good measure of interdisciplinarity in project activities.

The project has a *Computing and Modelling Unit* (CMU), which is responsible for constructing a suitable data base, modelling and simulation activities, scenario writing and consistency checks, and designing and maintaining the project's web site (www.egypt2020.org).

Decisions regarding project policies, work plans and financial matters are reached through the deliberations of a *Steering Committee*, composed of a number of leading scholars and practitioners, representatives of funding agencies⁽¹⁰⁾ and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in addition to the project's executive committee. The project is also assisted by a *Consultative Group* composed of 12 senior scientific consultants, with high-level expertise in the various subject - areas covered by the project.

Progress

Work progressed systematically in the project until March 2000, i.e. after 27 months of the official starting date (or 31 months of the *de facto* starting date), when the project's financial resources dried up. Activities of the CT and the CPU had to stop. As noted previously, the leading group (the executive committee) continued work on a voluntary basis, and focussed on finalizing a number of studies and preparing them for publication. By mid 2003, a limited amount of finance was secured, which permitted two important studies as well as some preparatory activities relating to the project's final report to be undertaken, and enabled the project to keep a minimal amount of its logistical services functioning. However, whether the project will be able to issue a final report (synthesizing the findings of its activities, and coordinating the partial scenarios which were drawn up in the sectoral studies into full and systematic scenarios for Egypt in 2020) remains an open question due to financial as well as technical reasons.

During the seven years which have passed since the launching of project Egypt 2020, the project managed to produce 31 publications, including 5 research papers, 4 monographs and 22 books (see Appendix for a list of publications). In addition, a number of technical papers were produced by the CPU and are available on the project's website.

The project contributed to raising awareness of the need for future studies in Egypt. It also helped to acquaint many Egyptian scholars, researchers, intellectuals and journalists with the basic objectives and approaches of futures research. As mentioned earlier, around 300 researchers had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the futures field and to practice scenario writing. In addition, the project's seminars and workshops enabled some 700 scholars, young researchers, intellectuals, political activists and mass-media people to engage in discussions about Egypt's future.

(10) The project was funded by four donors: the Egyptian government (through the National Investment Bank), UNDP, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and Prince Talal Ibn Abdel-Aziz.

The project was covered in several press articles by renowned Egyptian writers, and a number of project leaders and senior researchers were interviewed in Egyptian and foreign television programs. Such activities, as well as the project's publications, are bound to generate more interest in futures research in the years to come, in Egypt as well as in other Arab countries. In fact, the project has already caught the attention of two Arab countries, namely Jordan and Syria. Jordan has already completed a set of studies leading to a volume titled "Jordan's Scenarios". As for Syria, serious steps have already been taken to launch a "Syria 2020" project.

IV. Concluding remarks

Our experience with futures studies in Egypt shows that such studies are not easy to design and carry out. They involve painstaking efforts and require a lot of time, and generous budgets. Successful futures studies need to be participatory, in the sense that they should be performed through *team work*, and that sufficient room is allowed for *popular participation* i.e. for engaging intellectuals, social and political activists and ordinary people in their activities. In reality, team work is hard to materialize, and the scope for popular participation is often constrained by financial, political and time factors.

Social demand for futures studies turned out to be very weak. In fact most of the futures studies reviewed in this paper were initiated by foreign or international organizations, e.g. FAO, UNFPA, OECD, etc. The Egypt 2020 project is an exception in that it was endogenously initiated by an NGO - the Cairo branch of the Third World Forum. Indeed the initiative was more personal than institutional, as the project owes its idea and existence to the enthusiasm and dedication of Professor Ismail-Sabri Abdalla, to his willingness to face a variety of challenges, and to his excellent connections with key decision makers in the Egyptian government.

In contrast, government circles and even many researchers and intellectuals tend to view futures studies as a kind of mental luxury which a developing country like Egypt could not afford. This situation calls for great efforts to propagate the concept of futures studies, and to explain their purposes and their potential contribution to public debate and the decision making process. Both adults and children need to receive future - oriented education through well - designed and well - targeted programs, including programs to bring futures studies to the classrooms. In short, we should do everything possible to fill the vacuum caused by the absence of a future - oriented culture in our societies, and by the lack of sufficient competencies in the futures field.

Appendix

A List of Publications of Project Egypt 2020

1. Ibrahim El-Issawy, **Scenarios-An inquiry into the concepts of scenarios and the methods of scenario construction in project Egypt 2020**, Egypt 2020 Papers, no. 1, TWF, Cairo July 1998.
2. Project Egypt 2020 Central Team, **Starting points of alternative paths to the year 2020 – Initial conditions of the principal scenarios of project Egypt 2020**, Egypt 2020 Papers, no. 2, TWF, Cairo, Dec. 1998.
3. Ismail-Sabri Abdalla, **Main features of today's world**, Egypt 2020 papers, no. 3, TWF, Cairo, Jan. 1999.
4. Project Egypt 2020 Central Team, **The theoretical and methodological foundations for Egypt 2020 scenarios**, Egypt 2020, no. 4, TWF, Cairo, July 1999.
5. Fayez M. Mina, **Higher education in Egypt-Development and Alternatives for the Future**, Egypt 2020 Papers, no. 5, Al-Anglo Bookshop, Cairo, 2001.
6. Ali M. Saleh, **Nutritional aspects of food consumption in Egypt**, Egypt 2020 Monographs, no. 1, TWF, Cairo, Sep., 1999.
7. Zeedan E. Abdelal, **Adapting biotechnology to serve Egypt's development goals**, Egypt 2020 Monographs, no. 2, TWF, Cairo, Nov., 1999.
8. Ahmed E.I. Soliman, **Production and consumption of energy in the agricultural sector**, Egypt 2020 Monographs, no. 3, TWF, Cairo, April 2000.
9. Fayez M. Mina, **Complexity and Futuring**, Egypt 2020 Monographs, no.4, Al-Anglo Bookshop, Cairo, Oct., 2000.
10. Ibrahim El-Issawy, **Development in a changing world-A study of development concepts and indicators**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 1, Dar Al-shoroq, Cairo 1st. edition 2000, 2nd. Edition 2001, 3rd. edition 2003.
11. Mahmoud M. Abdelfattah, **Agriculture and food in Egypt – Present situation and alternative scenarios for the year 2020**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 2, Dar Al-Shrooq, Cairo, 2001.
12. Atef Helal, **Egypt's mineral resources and their development prospects up to the year 2020**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 3, The Academic Bookshop, Cairo, 2001.
13. Essam El-Hennawy, **Environmental issues and development in Egypt, Current conditions and future scenarios**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 4, Dar Al-Shrooq, Cairo, 2001.
14. Mohammed N. Allam, **Water and arable land in Egypt – Past, present and future**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 5, The Academic Bookshop, Cairo, 2001.
15. Fayez M. Mina, **Education in Egypt – Current State and the future up to the year 2020**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 6, Al-Anglo Bookshop, Cairo, 2001.
16. Abdelbaset Abdelmoati, **Social classes and Egypt's future**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 7, Merit, Cairo, 2002.
17. Mohammed M. Megahed, **Sources of energy and their development prospects in Egypt**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 8, The Academic Bookshop, Cairo, 2002.
18. Samir Fayyad, **Health in Egypt – The current state and scenarios for the future**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 9, The Academic Bookshop, Cairo, 2002.

19. Mohammed Iraqi, **Egypt's transportation sector-past, present and future up to the year 2020**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 10, The Academic Bookshop, Cairo, 2002.
20. Maged Osman, **Population and labour force in Egypt – Trends, interrelationships and development Prospects up to the year 2020**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 11, Merit, Cairo, 2002.
21. Mohammed M. El-Halwagy, **Science and technology in Egypt**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 12, The Academic Bookshop, Cairo, 2002.
22. Samaan B. Faragallah, **Egypt and the Mediterranean circle: The present state and future prospects up to the year 2020**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 13, Dar Al-Shrooq, Cairo, 2002.
23. Mohaya A. Zaytoun, **Tourism and Egypt's future – development possibilities and risks**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 14, Dar Al-shrooq, Cairo, 2002.
24. Abdel-Monem Bilal, **Communications and information in Egypt, The current situation and the future up to the year 2020**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 15, The Academic Bookshop, Cairo, 2003.
25. Salwa El-Amri, **Generations of the future-Children and youth**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 16, The center for Sociological and Criminological Research, Cairo, 2002.
26. Mohammed A. Ghoneimi, **Technological development in Egypt**, Egypt 2020 Library, no.17, The Academic Bookshop, Cairo, 2004.
27. Abdel-Monem Teleema, **Egypt's culture**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 18, Merit-Cairo and One Touch-Dubai, 2004.
28. Ali Soliman, **Egypt's foreign economic relations**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 19, Dar Al-Shrooq, Cairo, (forthcoming).
29. Gouda Abdel-Khalek, **Industry and industrialization in Egypt**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 20, The Academic Bookshop, Cairo, (forthcoming).
30. Salwa El-Antari, **The Financial Sector and Development Financing in Egypt**, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 21, The Academic Bookshop, Cairo, (forthcoming).
31. Abouzeid Rageh, **Al-Omran : Human settlement and Land Use** 2 volumes, Egypt 2020 Library, no. 22, The Academic Bookshop, Cairo, (forthcoming).