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08. June 2006
100/2006

2007 to Be German-Egyptian Year of Sciences and Technology Minister Annette Schavan: "Research enjoys top priority in both countries"

2007 will be the German-Egyptian Year of Sciences and Technology. This was agreed by Federal Research Minister Annette Schavan and her Egyptian counterpart Hany Helal in Cairo on Thursday. "This will be an excellent platform for highlighting the top priority of science and research, strengthening collaborations between both countries and promoting exchanges of scientists", Schavan said. Numerous projects and events are being planned in both countries for 2007: besides exchanges of scientists, both politicians agreed in principle to establish a fund to support joint research projects in the area of science and technology. A joint committee will plan the details.

The humanities and the natural sciences would be a priority of the German-Egyptian Year, Schavan said. "My first visit to Egypt is taking place at an early point in time because we are very much interested in close cooperation in research and technology. Egypt is a very important partner, not only in the area of science and culture but also regarding political stability. In many ways, Egypt is the gateway to the Arab world." Science and research are keys to mutual understanding among nations and to economic growth in both countries, and they are a driving force for innovative developments.

During her three-day visit to Egypt, Minister Schavan conducted a large number of talks with politicians and representatives of science at universities and non-university research institutions. It became clear that the relations between Egypt and Germany in the area of technological cooperation will enter a new stage, in particular in materials research and research on renewable energies.