



March 2021

Egypt Newsletter



The Aswan Forum Meets to Discuss Sustainable Peace and Development. On Monday, March 1, the second annual Aswan Forum met to discuss Africa's response to COVID-19 and broader peace, security development strategies. With the theme of "Recovering Stronger, Rebuilding Better," the forum brings together national leaders from around Africa in a cooperative and constructive environment. It is built on African Union and United Nations frameworks for peace and development, but is owned entirely by African leaders, who recognize the need for a paradigm shift from crisis management to conflict prevention. The Forum runs from March 1-5, and speeches from the event are being broadcast online.



Egyptian Minister Makes Historic Visit to Israel. Last month, Egypt's Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Tarek el-Molla, travelled to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel, a historic trip which marked the highest-level meeting between Egyptian and Israeli officials in 15 years. While in Israel, Minister el-Molla secured an agreement with Israeli counterparts to construct a natural gas pipeline stretching from Israel to Egypt, further demonstrating the important role Egypt plays as a regional energy hub.

Ambassador's Corner



• The Ambassador was hosted at a [Middle East Institute event](#) on February 23, speaking with Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Joey Hood. They discussed regional peace and security developments, and Egypt's role in the region.

- Ambassador Zahran will speak at another event at the [Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington](#) on March 11, focusing on domestic and international issues facing Egypt and its key partnerships with the United States and Gulf Arab states.
- Egypt's Ambassador Motaz Zahran was guest-speaker at the [Washington International Business Council](#) on March 2. Highlighting the resilience of Egypt's economy, he said that even in the midst of COVID-19, Egypt achieved a positive growth rate of 3.6%, which is unmatched by any other country in the Middle East or Africa at a time when most economies registered negative growth. Egypt has also been the only country in the Middle East and Africa to maintain its credit rating confirmation with a stable outlook by all three credit rating agencies. He emphasized that the Egyptian market is ripe with opportunities for U.S. businesses. The trajectory of the Egypt-U.S. business relations has been the most promising among all African countries. Egypt is the biggest U.S. trade partner in Africa and its biggest export market. The United States is the third largest investor in Egypt, and Egypt is the biggest recipient of FDI in Africa from the United States.



U.S. Ambassador Jonathan Cohen Emphasizes the Strength of U.S.-Egypt Partnership. In remarks given to the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt, the American Ambassador to Egypt emphasized in strong terms how valuable and important Egypt is to the United States and to the region. Speaking to business leaders who have financial and economic interests in Egypt, Ambassador Cohen expressed his “commitment to building our shared prosperity and advancing our mutual interests.” He provided details on the expansive relationship that currently exists between American companies and Egypt, and also advocated for greater American investment, noting all of the exciting projects that are in development.



Archaeologists Make Exciting Discovery About Egypt’s Mona Lisa. Last month, the mystery surrounding an Egyptian cave painting received considerable attention from the archaeological world. The Meidum Geese painting, which depicts a beautiful set of geese in a broader agrarian motif, has created controversy between archaeologists around the world in the past. However, it received renewed attention when researchers claimed that the geese depicted were of an extinct breed which was not thought to have lived in Egypt before. The work shows the importance archaeological finds can have on other areas of science, and the significance of Egypt’s renowned ancient artworks for global arts and sciences.



Egyptian Archaeologists Discover Ancient Brewery. A joint archaeological expedition between Egypt and the United States unearthed a massive beer brewery in North Abydos last month, thought to be linked to the massive funerary rituals performed for ancient Egyptian kings. The site at North Abydos would have been capable of producing almost 6,000 gallons of beer at a time, making it larger than any other known facility of a similar nature. The combined efforts of Egyptian and American researchers, which span decades and have produced some of the world’s greatest archaeological findings, and which will be displayed at the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) when it is opened later this year.



Golden Mummies of Egypt Exhibit Opens at North Carolina Museum of Art. On March 6, a new **exhibit** featuring eight gilded mummies was opened at the North Carolina Museum of Art. The exhibit, which runs through July 11, 2021, also presents over 100 related objects to the mummies, including jewelry and ceramics. The museum, located in the state’s capital Raleigh, is teaming up with local restaurants and businesses to offer Egypt-themed treats, such as the Gold of Egypt cocktail, Egyptian Sunset Tea, and custom themed sea salt chocolate bars.