

Dr. Hazem Abdelazim

ITIDA CEO



In December 10th 2007, Dr. Hazem Y. Abdelazim was appointed as the CEO of the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA) after serving as the Minister' senior advisor for the Technology Development Sector since May 2007.

Born in 1960, Dr Abdelazim graduated in Systems Engineering from Cairo University in 1982, with highest honors. He completed his MSc in Applied Mathematics in 1985, and then attained his PhD in Applied Pattern Recognition and Artificial Intelligence in 1989, both also from Cairo University. In 2003, Dr Abdelazim completed his MBA from the Maastricht School of Management in The Netherlands with distinction.

Dr Abdelazim's professional experience is a blend of Industry and Academia. He is currently an Associate Professor of Information Technology at the Faculty of Computer and Information Science, Cairo University.

Within the world of academia, he has become renowned for his teaching and research in the fields of pattern recognition, artificial intelligence, Arabic NLP, and applications of Soft Computing in Financial Trading of Securities. He also holds a Professional Certificate for Technical Analysis of Stock Markets.

From 1982 to 1986, Dr Abdelazim held the position of Teaching Assistant at the Department of Systems & Biomedical Engineering at Cairo University, before returning in 1993 to take his current position at the university. Also between 1994 and 1995, Dr Abdelazim was Visiting Professor for the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at the UAE University, Al Ain, teaching in his specialized field.

As an Assistant Scientist, and then Associate Scientist, for the IBM Research Center, Dr Abdelazim began research work during the period 1986 -1992 in Arabic Natural Language Processing, where he is considered one of the pioneers in Arabic Optical Character Recognition technology and jointly filed a US Patent with IBM. He was

awarded an 'Invention Achievement Award' from IBM in 1991 given to recognize significant contribution to society.

Between 1995 and 1996, Dr Abdelazim headed a team of scientists and researchers in Sakhr Software, a leading research and development company in the Middle East. He was a Chief Scientist for Optical Character Recognition (OCR) Development. Then, until the end of 1997, he acted as Senior Project Coordinator for Internet Development leading the company into the Internet business. He was then appointed the position of Executive Director, which he held until 2000. His work involved supervising all research and development activities and heading the company to new Business fronts.

Back in 2001, Dr Abdelazim was the entrepreneur and cofounder of IMAGiNET Software (now CIT MOBiDIV), one of the World's Top Players in Arabic Technologies on Microsoft Windows Mobile Devices. He headed a team of research engineers towards developing a new invention for Handwriting messaging over SMS Protocol, which was recently being filed as an International Patent. The company's success has attracted a reputable portfolio of multinational clients, including Samsung, Motorola, hp, HTC, imate, and ASUS.

Dr Abdelazim has been recognized for his achievements by being awarded the First Scientific Innovation Prize for Arab Scientists (1993), President's [Egypt] Excellence and encouragement Award (1992 and 1995), and Student of the Year Award and Director's Cup (2003) from the Maastricht School of Management. He is also continually contributing to technical journals and presenting papers at international conferences, such as the International Journal of Financial Management, in the field of Artificial Intelligence and Soft Computing.