



EGYPTIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION IN NORTH AMERICA (ESANA)

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ESANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

(GA 2006), January 20th – 23rd, 2006

Held at the Egyptian Cultural and Educational Bureau, Washington D. C., USA

The General Assembly (GA) annual meeting of *the Egyptian Student Association in North America* (ESANA) was held on January 20th to 23rd, 2006 at *the Egyptian Cultural and Educational Bureau (ECEB)*, Washington D.C., USA.

Attendees:

- Mr. Nabil Fahmy, Ambassador of Egypt to the United States of America.
- Dr. AbdAllah Bazaraa, Cultural Counselor of Egypt in the United States of America.
- Dr. Ismail Gomaa, Cultural Counselor of Egypt in Canada.
- Dr. Mohamed Hamza, Egyptian Cultural Attaché in the United States of America.
- Tamer Mahmoud, ESANA President.
- Hatem Seliem, ESANA Science Officer.
- Amr Saeb, ESANA Social Affairs Officer.
- Mohamed Youssef, ESANA Treasurer.
- Presidents and Representatives of the ESANA units in the USA and Canada.

The Opening Ceremony:

The ESANA president, *Tamer Mahmoud*, started the opening ceremony by welcoming all attendees and appreciating the attendance of *Mr. Nabil Fahmy*, the Egyptian ambassador to the USA.

Dr. Abdalla Bazaraa, the Cultural Counselor of Egypt in the USA, on behalf of *Dr. Hany Helal* (the Minister of Higher Education and the State of Scientific Research), sent his greetings to all students and wished a full success to this annual meeting. *Dr. Bazaraa* pointed out that the new plan for government missions had already been set. The plan has about 1100 new scholarships. He wished that the number of scholarships to the North America would increase since the actual number of Egyptian students studying now in the US is relatively small (1000 – 1500) compared to the total number of international students studying in the US (560,000). Despite the educational problems that we have in Egypt, Egyptian students studying in the North America are competing in

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the most prestigious and reputable American and Canadian universities. The role of the Egyptian students is very crucial in pinpointing the brilliant image of Egypt in North America, which can not be done by the cultural bureaus solely. *Dr. Bazaraa* also outlined the new structural changes in the missions department in Egypt and in the administration of the ECEB. For example, regarding the ECEB administration process, they updated the ECEB website, the internal phone network, and all students' data base.

Dr. Ismail Gomaa, the Cultural Counselor of Egypt in Canada, conveyed the heartfelt greetings of *Dr. Hany Helal* and *Mr. Mahmoud El-Saeed* (the Egyptian Ambassador to Canada) to all Egyptian students in North America and their wishes of a full success to this meeting. *Dr. Gomaa* assured that this meeting is different than the other meetings in the sense that it is being held after solving most of the problems and difficulties that were discussed in the last meeting. The last GA meeting in *Washington* and the semi annual meeting in Canada (*SAM 2005*) as well were full of complaints from most attendees. Afterwards, fortunately, there were some important decisions to improve studying and living conditions of Egyptian students in North America, the vivid future of Egypt, which were applied since the beginning of July 2005. These decisions included both the missions and self-funded students. Moreover, these decisions reflected also the new development process in the *Ministry of Higher Education*, which made us feel, for the first time, that there is a strategy to improve the Higher Education and Research in Egypt.

Dr. Gomaa confirmed that there is a new inclusive structural change for *the missions department* and its administration, which is necessary to enable us, as Cultural Counselors and students, to carry out our missions successfully. He believes that the big role to continue this development process relies on all students studying abroad, having the enough knowledge to highly improve the educational process in Egypt to elevate it to the international level. "It's impossible to have a comprehensive development in any country unless you develop a successful educational system in that country, and you are all responsible for developing this successful system", *Dr. Gomaa* argued. He also confirmed that this meeting, hopefully, would be full of hope because we started to feel that there are some people in Egypt who are concerned with our status and do their best to solve our problems. *Dr. Gomaa* emphasized the message that Egypt would never let its citizens down. Additionally, the importance of this meeting stemmed from the fact that it came after many political reforms in Egypt had been launched. It was the first time to have several candidates for the president position, and the elections of the *People Assembly* had an image different from before. It was *Dr. Gomaa's* opinion that the Education and the Youth ministries should work towards enhancing the political knowledge and political education of youth, as a part of the evolvement plan.

Mr. Nabil Fahmy, Ambassador of Egypt to the United States, began his speech by emphasizing his strong desire to attend this meeting to confirm the message that all Egyptian institutions working abroad are aiming to serve Egyptians wherever they are, and to achieve the

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general Egyptian goals. He pointed out the importance of maximizing the benefits of the presence of many Egyptian students in North America. *Mr. Fahmy* focused in his speech on the political reform in Egypt that is currently taking place, and its effects. He assured that this was his point of view and that there was no decisive view to what happened or what will be in the future since we are still in the change and reform stage. “The evaluation stage comes afterwards; after years not weeks or months”, *Mr. Fahmy* said. Nevertheless, for the time being, we can learn some lessons from this reform. The most important lesson is that the Egyptian community is now looking and asking for a reform. “During this reform process last year, I saw many pros and cons”, *Mr. Fahmy* said. “What impressed me is that there was a mature dialogue inside the Egyptian community, with different and opposing views”, *Mr. Fahmy* continued.

Mr. Fahmy explained that during the presidential elections last year, there were ten candidates and all of them pinpointed the way of how Egypt’s future could be established. They had different programs to build up this future, and the most qualified one should win. On the other hand, during the *People Assembly* elections, there were more than six thousand candidates, engaging in a serious competition. In many cases, the competition was based on personal criteria, not on specific political programs. *Mr. Fahmy* argued that this large number of candidates was normal and represented what we call “*domestic policy*”.

Regarding the governmental change, *Mr. Fahmy* described the formation of the new government as reflecting the political desire to give more weight to the youth and to the private sector. The lesson was that we should encourage the spirit of change, improve the confidence among the Egyptian society, and confirm that the change process is not a threat for anyone. The change process itself is positive and we should be well prepared for it.

Mr. Fahmy stated that the participation process, which we witnessed last year was not a complete participation, from the political point of view. However, at this stage of the change process, it cannot be a complete participation and we should have some defects resulting from our past participation. The participation rate, according to *Mr. Fahmy’s* point of view, was too small (23%) due to the fact that the Egyptian society is not used to participate in the political life and Egyptians did not feel that there is a direct effect on their daily life by participating or even that they can affect the political outcome. Moreover, the existence of ten candidates competing for the presidential position was an improvement. But the big difference between the first and the second candidates was a kind of weakness, although it was expected since it was the first time for such a process to be applied. *Mr. Fahmy’s* view was that the success of any party to have more than 70% of the seats in the *People Assembly* elections reflected the imbalance among parties in the society, however it did not reflect any defects in the legal system. “This imbalance also means that the society did not reach the sufficient maturity stage yet”; *Mr. Fahmy* continued. However, there was a big and an important gain that, after the elections, more than 70% of the *people assembly* has been changed. This percentage was higher than the one in the United States. Therefore, this percentage had significant indications; *firstly*: the change process was a natural and developmental process and we should accept it. *Secondly*, the society as a whole called for a change.

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Mr. *Fahmy* thought that the next stage of this change would have more political improvements. “What makes me optimistic about the future is the following: *Firstly*, the change process was welcomed by the Egyptian society. *Secondly*, there was an admission from all parties that we did not reach the perfection stage, which means that we are on the right track by starting to work on improving our status”, Mr. *Fahmy* announced. “The president focused on the political reform in his election’s program, beside the economic reform with the social aspects”; Mr. *Fahmy* asserted. One of the undertaken steps the president mentioned in his program was to abolish the *emergency law* which conflicts with the philosophy of openness and dialectics. *The president* also suggested a better balance among the authorities of the president, the parliament, and the government, especially in the emergency circumstances. Moreover, the president also supported issuing a particular law to improve the judges’ independency. In addition, *Mr. Fahmy* declared that the president introduced some different laws to improve women rights, improve education, and to achieve a higher level of decentralization in the administrative process to have a popular participation in the administrative function of the state, which in turn would improve the rate of election’s participation in the future.

Mr. Fahmy confirmed that he avoided taking the defensive position in his speech, regarding the discussed issues. He also stated that the main goal of what we are witnessing now of this new structural change is to encourage all Egyptian people to effectively participate in ruling their country and determining its future. The current stage of this change is so important since it gives a message that the discussion and dialogue are open to all people and all parties in the society. It also reflects that the Egyptian society has reached a particular stage of maturity and confidence, which allows the society to welcome the new structural change. In the next stage, we wish to see that the society determines the nature of the desired change and its goals.

Regarding the economic reform, Mr. *Fahmy* outlined that it’s tied with the political reform and vice versa. Our economy is moving towards the open market system. In the last two years we witnessed more economic transparency, which reflects the government’s desire to clarify the economic situation to all people. Actually, within two years, the GDP growth rate has been improved from less than 3% to 5.6%, which was a result of continuous efforts of the sequent cabinets. “For all these reasons, I am optimistic about the Egyptian political and economical future. It’s important to admit that we will face many political, economical, and social challenges, but we should work together to over come them”; Mr. *Fahmy* said. Mr. *Fahmy* ended his speech by answering attendees’ questions and concerns, which were more about the different aspects of the new structural change.

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I. The GA Theme: The Political Reform in Egypt;

* Session Moderator: *Hatem Seliem*.

➤ *The keynote speakers of this session are:*

- *Mr. Fahmy Howeidy*, writer and journalist at Al-Ahram (phone conference)
- *Mr. Zakaria Abdel-Aziz*, Head of the Egyptian Association of the Judges (phone conference)
- *Mr. Wael Aboulmagd*, Counselor at the Egyptian Embassy in the United States.

➤ *The main issues discussed in this session are:*

- 1- Means for Political Reform in Egypt.
- 2- Timeline for such political reform.
- 3- How do we encourage Egyptian citizens to be more politically active
- 4- Practical ways by which Egyptians abroad can help and promote political reform in Egypt.

Mr. Fahmy Howeidy, writer and journalist at Al-Ahram, started the session (phone conference) by pointing out his views as follows: *First* of all, we should discuss the political reform in Egypt frankly, and we should not conceal any truth. This fact stems from the relative importance of Egypt. *Second*, the reform has become an important title in Egypt in particular, and in all Arab countries in general. *Third*, the dialogue about the reform in Egypt goes beyond practicing the reform. *Fourth*, there are some social and political movements in the Egyptian society such as the judges' movement regarding the election process, the professors' movement regarding the government intervention in the student associations' formation, Kefafia movement, Muslim Brotherhood, who won 88 seats in the parliament, and the formation of the national bloc for reform. The public movement was bigger than the political elite's movement.

Mr. Howeidy mentioned that we witnessed the amendment of the article 76 of the constitution, which opened the door to competition for the president's position. On the other hand, we did not see an actual and effective willingness to accept this change by the ruling power, which gave an indication of hesitation on the political elite's side regarding the reform. "The violent acts that occurred in the third stage of the parliament's election prove this hesitation of the political elite. They also prove the worries of such elite towards the Muslim Brotherhood who won the 88 seats, although this number does not represent an effective pressure and is not enough to change any decision", *Mr. Howeidy* continued. In addition, the last election highlighted the political failure of

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many parties; there are 21 parties in Egypt of which 11 political parties failed to present candidates. Additionally, these political parties together won around 12 seats only which means that these parties do not have real basis in the society. We do not only blame those parties for this failure, but we should also blame the political parties' law, which made the political address and interaction between parties and people ineffective. In the same time, there exists the parties committee, which controls and evaluates the parties' performance on political and security criteria. This whole situation expressed the failure of political parties in Egypt and the necessity to privatize all political parties. *Mr. Howeidy* ended his dialogue by answering attendees' questions. He asserted that there is a hope for reform but we do not touch actual and effective steps for this reform. He also confirmed that it is us who build our future and that all possibilities for this future are in existence. So the question is: What do we need for this future?

Mr. Wael Aboulmagd, Counselor at the Embassy of Egypt in the United States, continued the discussion. He argued that we should look at the recent political reform in Egypt from a strategic point of view, taking into account that this reform is a social development and it has many components and different stages. Therefore, we should zoom out and concentrate too much on some individual cases. It is unfair to judge this process now since we are in the first stage and preparing for what we can call the predetermined conditions for the reform. It is true that there were many shortcomings in the election process and in the constitutional amendment regarding the article 76, but it is also true that it is not "same old" as some people say. Evaluation's faults may result in some mistakes in assessing the next step. *Mr. Aboulmagd* pointed out that we should feel the ownership of our home and we should practice our political rights, especially voting, to improve our national status. We should also improve the culture of democracy in our society, and respect all opposing views and opinions. The structural reform process during 2005 was crucial and a big improvement, and the political performance and freedom are now better than before. Hence, we should continue this process and keep everyone bound by its obligations. *Mr. Aboulmagd* ended his discussion saying "A lot will come out after we fix the shortcomings".

Mr. Zakaria Abdel-Aziz, Head of the Egyptian Association of the Judges (phone conference) shed light on the reform of judiciary system and the judicial authority's law. He explained that the judicial reform is a reform for the whole country. Egyptian judges had announced their particular views of the judicial reform in the First Justice Conference in April 1986. However, this conference's recommendations were not put into effect by the government. The judicial authority's law was suggested on January 18th 1996 by the general assembly of the Egyptian Judges club. But, since 1996, this draft law was kept out of sight.

Mr. Abdel-Aziz clarified that after he had been elected as a head of the Egyptian Association of the Judges on June 26, 2001 he made his mind to revive the draft law of 1996 after adjusting it to the new changes on the national and international level. The new version of the draft law calls for independency of judges through activating the general assemblies under the Supreme Judicial Council and an independent budget for the Supreme Judiciary Council away from the executive

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authority represented in the Minister of Justice. However, the Supreme Judicial Council held up this draft law till now; and did not continue the process to convert it into legislation. *Mr. Abdel-Aziz* expressed his wishes, and all his colleagues as well, for this draft law to be a complete legislation soon; especially that the judicial authority's reform was a part of President *Mubarak* program during the election time.

Mr. Abdel-Aziz also argued that the request of reforming the judicial authority is not only a demand by judges but also by all Egyptians to make the judicial authority completely independent from the executive and legislative authorities. *Mr. Abdel-Aziz* also pointed out that there were some other demands by judges, regarding the election process, to guarantee the election's integrity and to make sure that the elections' results truly reflect people's desires. *Mr. Abdel-Aziz* certified that the government responded to some of these requests. *He* answered all attendees' questions around the judicial reform. Regarding the slowdown of the judicial proceedings, *Mr. Abdel-Aziz* explained some reasons behind this sluggishness such as the fact that the Ministry of Justice and most courts have not yet applied the new techniques and adoption of computer system.

II. Forming the GA Sub-committee:

* Open session, moderator: *Mohamed Youssef*;

In this session, the following committees were formed:

- ***ESANA Election Committee:***
 - 1- Tamer Mahmoud.
 - 2- Amr saeb.
 - 3- Hisham Ismail.
- ***ESANA Budget Review Committee:***
 - 1- Deyab Gamal El-Dean.
 - 2- Ahmed El-Yazbi.
 - 3- Amin Akhnoukh.
- ***ESANA Social Fund Review Committee:***
 - 1- Ahmed Galal.
 - 2- Mohamed Ibrahim.
 - 3- Mahmoud Rafat.



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III. Achievements of ESANA over the Past Year.

* Open session, moderator: *Mohamed Youssef*;

Tamer Mahmoud, ESANA president, presented this session as follows:

A. ESANA's Mission and Duties:

- Representing ESANA.
- Overseeing the implementation of the GA recommendations.
- Attending to members' problems.
- Presiding over ESANA EC meetings.
- Consulting with other EC members.
- Informing members of all decisions.

Tamer also outlined ESANA's projects:

- Book Campaign
- ESANA-LINK
- SINA (Study In North America)
- ESANA Research Support (ERS)

B. The GA and SAM Recommendations during the Last Year:

1- Regarding members:

- 5th year extension to mission students.
- Travel Allowance for Mission Students.
- Practical training.
- Financial support to self-funded students.
- Airline Ticket Discounts for members.
- Degree Equalization Process Made Easy.

2- Regarding ESANA itself:

- Website (new design, more resourceful).
- Fundraising.

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- Instrument Campaign.
- Update members' Databases.
- Promote ESANA membership to all students.
- Canada Book Campaign.
- More Activities.
- ESANA Alumni.
- ESANA Constitutional Amendment.

C. Accomplishments:

1- For the Members:

- Extension granted to full mission and dual supervision students.
- Travel Allowance is back for Mission Students.
- Book and Clothing Allowance increased to one month salary.
- Family can join student 3 months after the mission starts and can stay till he has finished his dissertation.
- Allowance for printing thesis.
- Return tickets granted to the student and his family (wife + 2 kids).
- If assistantship/fellowship is terminated, the student can be treated as a Missions student under certain conditions.

2- For the ESANA:

- New website design. The website is very resourceful with links to Internet libraries, local and international press and important information for our members.
- An open discussion forum is also now available on the website.
- Database for members is up-to-date.
- Discount airfare for ESANA members.
- ESANA launched a donation campaign for the victims of the South East Asia Earthquake.

3- For the ESANA Projects:

1- ESA-Link:

- A booklet was written to serve as a guide for Egyptian students on their first arrival to the US.

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- A similar one is under way for those who are going to study in Canada.
- The booklet is posted on our website.
- It will be published by Al-Ahram Press and made available to the Missions Department in Egypt.

2- ESANA Book Campaign:

- The 8th Book Campaign was shipped to Al-Minya University on April 2005.
- The largest campaign ever (2 containers were shipped).
- ESANA already started collecting books and journals for the new campaign.
- Cairo University will be the recipient of the new campaign.
- Another ESANA book campaign has been launched in Canada.
- 6th of Oct. University will be the recipient of that campaign.
- Our ESA chapter at Edmonton, Alberta is hosting the Canada Campaign

3- SINA (Study in North America):

- A detailed outline for the application process for admission to graduate schools was posted on the website.
- Forms were e-mailed to members to provide information about potential areas of research at ESANA units. The forms are posted on our website.
- A database of Egyptian professors is being compiled.

4- Instrument Campaign:

- There is a proposal to launch an instrument and lab equipment drive similar to the Book Campaign.

5- ESANA Links to Egyptians Scientists:

In order to establish a strong link between ESANA and Egyptian scientists here and in Egypt, the science officer attended the following 2 meetings held at ECEB, Washington, D.C.:

- Egyptian American Scholars Meeting (Nov 19th 2005).
- Egyptian Delegation for research (June 6th 2005).
- An Egyptian American Professor offered ESANA PhD graduates a research position as a result of the meeting in November.

D. ESANA Stances on Political Issues:

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ESANA expressed its stance on the following occasions:

- Quran Abuse at Guantanamo Bay.
- Hurricane Katrina.
- Assassination of the Egyptian Ambassador to Iraq.
- London Attacks.
- Sharm El-Sheik Attacks.

By the end of this session, there was a short spell for open discussion, which was around the membership fees and the rules of establishing new units to make ESANA more effective.

IV. Overview of ESANA EC and Project Managers' Duties:

* Session moderator: *Mohamed Youssef*;

Tamer Mahmoud presented this session to let all members aware of the responsibilities of the EC, which will help a lot before making a decision to recruit for the EC. This session is the first time to be presented this year.

1. ESANA President:

- Presents the ESANA, to the world;
- Oversees the implementation of the GA and decisions;
- Presides over ESANA EC meetings;
- Consults with other EC members;
- Informs members of all decision

2. ESANA Vice President:

- Substitutes the EC president in case he is not able to carry out his duties;
- Assists the president in carrying out his duties;
- Runs the projects of the ESANA and create new projects;
- Presents a quarter-annual report to the ESANA-EC about all the ESANA projects;
- Improves the resources of the ESANA.

3. Media Affairs Officer:

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- Prepares the ESANA Media Plan which includes promoting both Egypt and the ESANA;
- Implements the ESANA Media Plan after its approval by the EC, and becomes authorized to contact and correspond with all national and international media related agencies;
- Manages and promotes all Media assets and activities of the ESANA such as Newspapers, mobile exhibitions, media campaigns about the ESANA, etc;
- Chief Editor of the VESA (Voice of the Egyptian Student Association) magazine. He becomes responsible for its production and distribution.

4. Units Affairs and Coordination Officer:

- Registers and files data of all ESANA chapters' information (number, location, president, EC members, mailing addresses, phone numbers, emails, members A, B and C names and counts, and other remarks);
- Implements ESANA Constitution by both national ESA and the Local Chapters;
- Forms New ESANA Local Chapters;
- Notifies ESANA Local Chapters with decisions.

5. Science Affairs Officer:

- Manages and promotes all scientific activities of the ESANA, especially those computer-based and related to the Internet, such as ESANA-NET, ESANA-Link, and the ESANA Web (home Page);
- Follows up deficiencies and problems in the scientific fields in Egypt and investigates ways to solve them in cooperation with the ESANA members and the Egyptian Scholars Associations in the USA and Canada;
- Collects the most recent scientific news with assistance from the ESANA members.

6. Social Affairs Officer:

- Gathers problems facing Egyptian students and objectively seeks to solve them with all necessary official and non-official agencies whether in USA and Canada or in Egypt;
- Cooperates with the Local Chapters and EC to promote unity and social cohesion among members;
- Issues social funds checks according to regulations of the ESANA Bylaws.



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7. ESANA Treasurer:

- Prepares Quarterly Budget and Annual Budget;
- Consults on the financial situation of the ESANA with the EC;
- Consults on the financial allocation portion to the ESANA Local Chapters;
- Signs checks within limits determined by the EC.

Tamer also outlined that all EC members must participate and vote on all issues that are being presented to ESANA.

V. Problems Facing ESANA members:

* Session moderator: *Amr Saeb*;

Tamer Mahmoud outlined the problems facing ESANA members in regards to the following:

1. Mission Students:

- Regulations for the 9-month extension in view of the latest modifications (7/2005) regarding:
 - The Single/Married Salary?
 - The Inconsistencies
 - Are Dual Supervision Students granted the extension as well?
- Bylaws modifications are not clearly communicated to students.
- Baggage Limit for airplanes is now 50 lbs.
- Duty-free limits.
- Medical bills still not paid by Loomis Co.
- Mission Students who will not return to Egypt (Tasweya).

* *Dr. Mohamed Hamza* stated that all medical bills by Loomis Company had been paid and this problem has been solved.

2. Self-financed/ Study Leave Students:

- Ph.D equalization process. There should be clear criteria for the evaluation process.
- More financial support in order to invest in this great number of students in NA when they return.



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3. ESANA as an Association:

- Members barely participate.
- Need to support local unit activities. ESANA has the budget to do so.
- Our members seldom pay membership fees.
- Fundraising for Social Fund and other activities.
- Number of active units declining.
- Many Egyptian students have not heard of ESANA.
- Lack of an effective media plan.
- Choice of EC members.
- ESANA is not updated with bylaws affecting students as they are issued.

VI. ESANA Executive Committee Reports:

A. Science Officer Report:

* Session moderator: *Mohamed Youssef;*

Hatem Seliem, ESANA Science Officer, presented this sub-session as the following:

1- Mission and Duties:

- Manages and promotes all scientific activities of the ESANA, especially those computer-based and related to the Internet.
- Follows up deficiencies and problems in the scientific fields in Egypt and investigates ways to solve them in cooperation with the ESANA members and the Egyptian Scholars Associations in the USA and Canada.
 - Collects the most recent scientific news with assistance from the ESANA members.
 - ESA NET Manager: Mailing List Moderation and adding members.
 - Web site (Webmaster).

2- Scientific Activities:

- *Meeting with Egyptian Delegates:*
 - Presidents of the National Research Centers and Institutes.
 - Meeting was held at the ECEB on June 6th,05
 - Comprehensive report was written by the science officer and was posted to the web.

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- Members' problems were raised with the ECEB administrators during the visit.
- Instrument campaign project was discussed with Dr. Abdallah Bazaraa.

- *Meeting with Minister of Higher Education:*

- Meeting with Dr. Amr Salama on July 29th, 2005.
- Self-funded students' memo was raised.
- Book Campaign project was discussed to be under the supervision of the ministry.

- *Egyptian-American Scholars Meeting:*

- Organized by the ECEB on November 19th, 2005 at City Center Hotel, Washington D.C.
- Introducing ESANA to the Egyptian-American scholars.

- *Downstairs Café Show on ART America Channel:*

- Taped at Reuters' studios, Washington D.C.
- Promoting ESANA to Arab-American community.
- Meeting with other organizations representatives, e.g. Egyptian American Alliance of Youth (EAAY).

3. Web-Site and Domain:

- New web site design, which has a modern looking, informative, discussion forum, and weekly poll.
- Online ESANA membership application form.
- New web and domain hosting company (GoDaddy).
- New email accounts for the ESANA EC and managers.

4. ESANA Net Project:

- New E-mailing list for unofficial emails (news@esana.org).
- ESANA Net web page.
- Adding new members to the two E-mailing lists and updating old members' information.

5. Web Site New Pages:

- Mission Bylaws.
- Egypt Air Offers.
- Research Funding Agencies.
- Internet Library.

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- Egyptian Research and Academic Centers.
- Egyptian Museums.
- Travel Egypt.
- International Media.
- ESANA Net Project.
- Frequently Asked Questions about ESANA.
- General Assembly (GA).
- Members' Activities and Awards (under construction).

6. Web Site Updates:

- Uploading ESA-Link Booklet.
- Selected Cities for Prospective Students (SINA Project).
- News and Events (Periodical).
- Conferences in Egypt (Periodical).
- Self-funded students' questionnaire, by *Tamer Mahmoud*.
- New elections' forms, by *Tamer Mahmoud*.
- Links to free software.

7. Challenges:

- Devote part of your time for ESANA.
- Webmaster duties dominate over scientific activities.
- Members' contribution and input are very weak.
- Good knowledge with Html and web sites design.

8. Suggestions:

- Entice ESANA Members to become more active.
- Find an ESANA member studying computer science to become the Webmaster.

B. Social Affairs Officer Report

* Session moderator: *Tamer Mahmoud*;

Amr Saeb, ESANA EC Social Affairs Officer, presented the accomplishments along the last year as the following:

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1. Social Fund Regulations:

- Social Fund is given to members A and B only.
- The social fund is 35% of the paid medical bills (uncovered by the insurance).
- The maximum limit is:
\$120/year single member
\$150/year married members
- Above the maximum limit;
\$50 newborn baby
\$100 twins
- The social fund for eyeglasses is 35% with a maximum of \$50/memebr within the maximum limit.
- All bills should be original and PAID.
- Photocopy of the birth certificate is acceptable.
- Only prescribed drugs are covered with the social fund.
- Receipts should not be older than 6 months prior to the GA meeting of each year.

2- Social Fund 2005 Income:

a. Assets:

- Opening balance from 2004: 300\$
- ESANA-MAIN Deposit: 2000\$ May 2005
- ESANA-MAIN Deposit: 1000\$ December 2005
- Membership fees 2005: 672\$
- Total inflow: 3672\$ (3972\$)

b. Liabilities:

- Total number of benefited members= 25
- Number of benefited members in USA= 17 (68%)
- Number of benefited members in Canada= 8 (32%)
- Total amount of social fund paid= 3195.24\$
- Social funds for members in USA= 2098.44\$ (65.7%)
- Social funds for members in Canada= 1096.8\$ (34.3%)
- The highest check value was \$200, while the lowest was \$50

**E G Y P T I A N S T U D E N T A S S O C I A T I O N
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c. Balance sheet:

Total inflow	\$ 3972.00
Total outflow (12/25/04)	\$ 3195.24

Assumed Net balance (If all checks have been cashed)	+ \$ 776.76
 Actual Net Balance (By 01/05/06)	 + \$ 831.26

C. Treasurer Report:

*Session moderator: *Hatem Seliem*;

Mohamed Youssef, ESANA EC Treasurer Officer presented this sub-session as the following:

1. ESANA Financial Resources:

- * 8.000 US\$; Ministry of Higher Education.
- * 2.000 CAN\$; ECEB of Montreal.
- * Hosting GA; and SAM.
- * The Sadat Endowment

2. New Sources of Funding:

The need:

- Limited resources.
- Funding units' activities.
- Independence.

The first step:

- The fund raising committee (April, 2005)

Brainstorming:

- Airlines.
- Egypt day.
- Symposia.



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Advertisements in ESANA magazine.
Egyptian businessmen.
Membership fees.

3. Egypt Air offer:

Started by October, 2005.
Dealing with Egypt Air bureau in Montreal.

Advantages:

Best prices of Egypt Air.
Ease of booking.
Supporting the national airlines.

Disadvantages:

Not always the best traveling price.
Canadian members should pass by NY.
High add-on charges.

4. Flydaddy :

- Flydaddy; an Internet travel service.
- Competitive prices for ESANA members.
- Starting by Feb. 2006 for a 6 months period, after which the agreement shall continue on a month-to-month basis.
- The importance of the members' feedback

Advantages:

- Wide choice of airlines.
- Special rates and service.
- The easiest way for the best prices.

Limitations:

- Flydaddy's service includes USA only

5. NPO/NGO:

- NPO/NGO = Non Profit/Gov. Org
- ESANA is declared as NPO in the State of Ohio.



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Why?

Tax-Exemption
Official declaration
Donations

To be considered with the new EC:

- Do we have to do the same in Canada?
- Is it easy?

- First, ESANA was incorporated as a NPO in the State of Ohio. This required correspondence with the Ohio Secretary of State.
- Second, ESANA applied to the IRS to receive Tax-Exemption status.
- This may be different in Canada.

How much does it cost?

- The attorney charge was \$230/hr
- The attorney estimated the cost to be about \$4,000 to \$8,000
- Contact with Mr. Ihab Lotfy

- We have to submit a report of the donations we received in the past years in order to pursue our tax-exempt status. We have 3 months left to do that!

6. ESANA's budget:

* 8.000 US\$, Ministry of Higher Education.

* 4.000 US\$, Units activities.

* 2.000 US\$, Central activities.

*2.000 US\$, ESANA expenses.

By the end of this session, MRS. Amal Elsebaay explained the changes in the mission's bylaw and the new decisions. MRS. Amal also answered all attendees' questions and concerns.



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VII. ESANA Project Manager report:

A. Book Campaign Manager Report:

* Session Moderator: *Mohamed Nashaat*;

Hatem Harraz, the Book Campaign Manager, summarized the activities of the Book Campaign Project last year as the following:

1. Book Campaign Manger Activates:

- Receives the shipments from the Post Office (or UPS) and moving them into the store house(s).
- Lists the numbers of boxes, their resource, contact person, type (books/periodicals) and the scientific area.
- Reports to ESANA Vice President.
- Re-locates the received boxes in the store room/house from time to time on pallets due to the different size of boxes and to be ready for final shipping to Egypt.
- Contacts the units' presidents or any donors to specify the way to send the boxes (Mail / U-Haul) and the exact time.
- Final Shipment to Egypt, including reviewing different bids from different shipping companies and preparation before and after shipping and coordinating with the treasurer financial issues.
- Public relations with societies, libraries, universities, research institutes, and individuals including replying emails or contacting them to seek new resources.

2. The 8th Book Campaign:

- The largest Book Campaign ever in the last 9 years, (over 1300 Boxes, Two containers 40, 20 feet long).
- ACS sent the largest donation, Over 50 different complete Chemical and Scientific Journals sets (84%).
- Only 4 units participated in the 8th book campaign, Cincinnati unit collected more than 220 boxes, we brought these boxes by U-Haul.
- 1st time to encourage Egyptian Professor to donate their libraries for the Campaign.

**** Acknowledgments:**

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1. *Dr. Joy Torrio* (ACS) for her continuous support to the Campaign.
2. *Cincinnati* unit and *Urbana-Champaign* unit.
3. Professor *Said Elnashaie* for donation of his entire Library to the Campaign.

3. The 9th Book Campaign:

General Information:

Hosted at Auburn University for the 2nd time, the 9th Book Campaign officially started at April 2005, though there is another one at the same time in Canada, the First Book Campaign in Canada in Edmonton, Alberta hosted under the management of *Sami Abdulsalam*.

Cairo University was chosen to receive the books for this year and sent the check. The books we received up till now are not enough to fill one 20-foot long container. Although the number of sources is almost the same as last year, however only 4 units this year sent books to the campaign.

The number of boxes is 262 boxes with different sizes. That means we only have less than one fifth of what we had last year when we finished the campaign.

Contributions and Donations:

The following list contains the names of the universities that have contributed to the 9th book campaign, along with the corresponding number of boxes sent, the area of the books, and the contact person (if available). The list is in a descending order of the number of boxes.

University / Society Name	# of Boxes	Area	Contact Person	
<u>American Chemical Society, ACS:</u> Different Journals issues years 2002 - 2005 All these Boxes are with different sizes and weights	46	Chemistry & Science	Tamer Mahmoud	
		14	Chemistry Journal [2005]	
		23	Chemistry Journal [2004]	
		2	Science Magazine [2002, 2003, 2004]	
		1	Dictionary of scientific terms	
		1	Chemistry & Computer Jr.	
		2	Merk Index 12 th Ed.	
		1	Dictionary of Graduate Research [2003]	
		1	Text Books Chemistry & Physics	
	1	Miscellaneous		
<u>NOVARTIS Pharmaceutical:</u>	35	Miscellaneous Scientific	Dr. J. C. Torio	

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		Journals and Pharmaceutical References	
Nalin Research Librery	9	Miscellaneous Journals	Dr. J. C. Torio
Dr. Kevin Haynes, University of Texas	14	Chemistry Jr.& others Miscellaneous Jr.	No Info.
Dr. Andreoli	21	Miscellaneous	Dr. J. C. Torio
Dr. S. Greer, University of Maryland	5	Miscellaneous Journals	Dr. J. C. Torio
Dr J. Donald Smith, MA	6	Miscellaneous Journals	Dr. J. C. Torio
University of Minnesota Library	8	Miscellaneous	Dr. J. C. Torio
Edgewood Chem. Biological Center, MD	1	Miscellaneous	No. Info
Philadelphia BMC, PA	6	Miscellaneous Jr.	No Info.
Aventis	3	Miscellaneous	No Info.
Millennium Inorganic Chemistry	2	Inorganic Chemistry Jr.	No Info.
Corporate Express	1	Miscellaneous	No Info.
Dr. Bobbi Weaver, San Diego, CA	2	Miscellaneous	No Info.
Dr. Kevin Wilson, Pittsboro, NC	1	Miscellaneous	No Info.
Dr. Karl Admunson, Cambridge, MA	1	Miscellaneous	No Info.
Dr. S. Campbell, Austin, Tx	1	Miscellaneous	No Info.
Anne Porzig, Portola Valley, CA	1	Miscellaneous	No Info.
Dr. Ruth Banner	4	Chemical Abstract	No Info.
Dr. R. E. Gawley, University of Arkansas	13	Miscellaneous Jr.	No Info.
Corporate Express	1	Miscellaneous	No Info.
Purdue University	36	Miscellaneous Books & Jr.	W. Lafayette Unit
Auburn University	12	Miscellaneous Chemistry & Biochemistry Books & Jr.	Tamer Awad
North Carolina State University, NC	11	Miscellaneous	Hatem Seliem
University of IL at Urbana-Champaign, IL	8 + (150)	Miscellaneous Books & Jr.	Khalid Ibrahim
University of Madison, Wisconsin	10	Miscellaneous	Ahmed Ayad
Edgewood CB Center, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD	3	Miscellaneous Journals	No Info.
Miscellaneous	1	Miscellaneous Chemistry Jr.	
University of Alabama	(150)	N/A	Tamer

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			Mahmoud
Total	262		

Problems faced this year:

- The number of shipments is very high with an average of 2-3 boxes per shipment.
- Boxes are not standard and easily torn off.

**** Acknowledgments:**

1. Dr. Joy Torrio (ACS).
2. Novartis Pharmaceutical.
3. Units: W. Lafayette (36 Boxes) and Khalid Ibrahim, Urbana- Champaign (more 150 Boxes).

4. Suggestions:

- Separating the public relation regarding the search for new donations resources.

B. SINA Manager Report:

* Session moderator: *Hatem Hazzaq*

Mohamed Nashaat, the SINA Manager, reported the current status of the *SINA Project* as the following:

1. Project objectives:

The main objective of this project is to help Egyptian students in obtaining graduate degrees from North America.

2. Current status of the project:

The website of ESANA is one of the major tools that we use to execute this project. We are actively collecting information from the ESANA units in order to promote the cities and universities, in which we have members. The members will provide us with helpful information that we can use to assist students in Egypt.



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Due to the limited resources the project is currently being operated in a passive mode; where we post the information on the website, and wait for questions and specific inquiries from the prospective students.

3. 2005 Year report:

- Total requests received 52 requests.
 - 21 e-mails were asking for jobs in the US or inquiring about professional training.
 - 18 e-mails were looking for summer courses/ undergraduate studies.
 - 13 e-mails were asking about the graduate programs/looking for accommodation.
 - 5 were looking for accommodation.
 - 2 were inquiring about the best school in their field (government grants).
 - 6 were looking for information on how to get into a program or find a supervisor.
- We have made efforts to help all the cases.
 - 3 cases have confirmed that they joined North American universities

C. ESA-LINK Manager Report:

* Session Moderator: *Tamer Mahmoud*;

Tamer Awad, the ESA-LINK Manager, summarized the activities of the ESA-LINK Project during the previous year according to the following:

1. Project Progress:

- Project was launched in 1998.
- Some response to individual e-mails from scholars who accidentally knew about the project.
- 0 % Progress in project development from 1998-2004.

2. Project Tasks:

- Helping new Egyptian students find suitable accommodation prior to their arrival to North America
- Pickup service to newly arrived Egyptian students at several Airports in USA and Canada.

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- Estimation of living expenses in several cities in Canada and USA.
- Evaluation of the performance and student-professor relationships of professors and researchers in different research areas in North America.
- Information about Egyptian professors in different universities in Canada and USA.
- Assessment of different research areas in North American universities.

3. Weakness Points:

- Lack of project advertising (Egypt).
- Lack of Informative database (living in USA & Canada).
- Poor design of the project on ESANA website.
- Lack of units' EC cooperation.
- Lack of Valid Egyptian professors' database.
- Lack of updated units' database.
- Financial Support.

4. Suggested Solutions:

- Lack of project advertising (Egypt):

- Preparing brochures to be distributed at home country universities, research center and missions department about ESA-Link.
- Role of ECEBs in advertising the project.

- Lack of informative database (living in USA & Canada):

- Preparing handouts about living in the USA and Canada (in the form of separate booklets)
- * Address the mission's Department to include the handouts in the scholars, coming to The US and Canada, package.
- * Post handouts in ESANA webpage and link to ECEB's websites.

- Poor design of the project on ESANA website:

- Online Response Form.
- Link to Living in North America booklets.

- Lack of units' EC cooperation:

- Each Unit Must Assign 2 members as project coordinators to Help Project manger and Unit EC.
- Funding to keep units members' donations.

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- Funding to help accommodating new comers.
- Lack of valid Egyptian professors' database.
- Lack of updated units database.
- Addressing units to provide Egyptian professors database.

5. Achievements Since January 2005:

- Living at the USA booklet ready:
- *Booklet has been posted on ESANA website
http://esana.org/Projects/Esa_Link/Esa_Link.asp
- * Final Version was sent to ECEB to be posted on its website and address missions department.
- * Agreement with Al-Ahram institution to print the booklet.
- * Addressed mission department for booklet existence.

- Advertising brochures ready:
- * Website response form is now available online.

- Booklet Covers the following areas:
 - * Introduction to ESANA.
 - * US Visas.
 - * Measurement units and USA Holidays.
 - * Airplane / Landing in the USA/ First to do.
 - * How to choose an apartment for rent.
 - * SSN / Bank Account / Driver's license /State ID.
 - * Buying a Car / Shopping for Car Insurance / Car Rentals.
 - * Health Insurance.
 - * Calling Egypt / Shopping / Miscellaneous.
 - * Relationship between students and faculty.
 - * US legal systems and Paying Taxes.

6. What is Next?

- Living in Canada booklet (help needed from members studying in Canada):
 - Printing the booklets in Al-Ahram institution.
 - Promoting project in Egypt
 - Fund raising to support new comers.



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7. Other Activities:

- Participated in preparing the following ESANA memos:
 - ESANA response to the Assassination of Ambassador Ehab Elsherif.
 - ESANA memo to the Minister of Higher Education regarding the 2nd book campaign shipment to Al- Minya University.
 - ESANA response to the Terrorist Attacks on London, UK.
 - ESANA response to the Terrorist Attacks on Sharm El-Shikh, Egypt.

VIII. ESANA President Conclusive Report and Recommendations:

* Session Moderator: *Hatem Seliem*;

Tamer Mahmoud summarized the recommendations drawn by the GA meeting as the following:

A. Recommendations pertaining to ESANA members:

- Encourage and support self-financed (SF) and study leave (SL) students. The Ministry of Higher Education should increase the number of SF and SL students through a strategic plan.
- There should be no difference between self-financed and study-leave students regarding the new bylaw modifications of July 2005.
- Allow post-doctoral practical training, especially that a new visa is not required. Also, the Egyptian universities have different opinion regarding the practical training, where some universities allow it while others do not.
- A fair and quick criterion is urgently needed for Ph.D. degree equalization process.
- Reconsider the value for extra baggage vouchers due to the limitation on the baggage weight to 50 pounds (23 kg) enforced by air carriers.



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- All modifications to financial bylaws should be communicated promptly to ESANA. These modifications should be posted on the ECEB and ESANA websites.

B. Recommendations pertaining to ESANA:

- Seeking more scholarship/fellowship opportunities and making them available to our Egyptian peers.
- *Instrument Campaign:* address University needs in Egypt and contact international corporations for potential donation programs
- Contact units and gift departments at University libraries for Book Campaign donations.
- Continue ESA-LINK Canada Booklet; get it published; make it available for prospective Egyptian graduate students.
- Declare ESANA as an NPO/NGO in Canada and maintain tax-exemption status for ESANA in the US.
- Database should be compiled in collaboration with the ECEBs and it should be utilized to serve ESANA Projects.
- Increase the number of ESANA units by promoting ESANA using brochures sent to University registrars and international offices. Breakdown units within one city into one unit per university.
- Encourage and promote local unit activities.
- Investigate the possibility of increasing the annual funds from the Ministry of Higher Education.
- ESANA Alumni database should be compiled.
- Promote our projects and activities to the Missions Department in Egypt.



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- More development in scientific research services by ESANA through utilization of the database and the on-line forum. The Egyptian Research Support (ERS) Project needs to be jumpstarted.

VIII. Suggested Modification of ESANA Bylaws:

* Closed Session, moderator: *Amr Saeb*;

This closed session was presented by *Tamer Awad* to make some modifications to ESANA's Constitution of 1996. The purpose of this amendment is to make ESANA more effective and more efficient. The amended bylaws will be published on ESANA's website.

IX. Election of ESANA Executive Committee 2005:

The election committee, mentioned in *section II*, had administered the election process. The election results were as the following:

A. ESANA 2006 Executive Committee (EC):

Name	Position	University	Department	Degree Sought	Country	Email
<i>Hatem Seliem</i>	President	North Carolina State University	Civil, Construction, and Environmental Eng.	Ph.D.	USA	president@esana.org
<i>Mohamed Youssef</i>	Vice President	Université de Sherbrooke	Electrical Eng,	M.Sc.	Canada	vicepresident@esana.org
<i>Ahmed El-Yazbi</i>	Units Officer	University of Alberta	Pharmacology	Ph.D.	Canada	units@esana.org

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Tarek Hatem	Science Officer	North Carolina State University	Mechanical and Aerospace Eng.	Ph.D.	USA	science@esana.org
Nasr El-Bahnasawy	Media Officer	Colorado State University	Economics	Ph.D.	USA	media@esana.org
Ashraf Shalaby	Treasurer	University of Alabama at Birmingham	Civil, Construction, and Environmental Eng.	Ph.D.	USA	treasurer@esana.org
Amin Akhnoukh	Social Officer	University of Nebraska - Lincoln	Civil Eng.	Ph.D.	USA	social@esana.org

B. Substitutes for ESANA 2006 EC:

- 1- Vice President Substitute: Mohammed Nashaat.
- 2- Units Officer Substitute: Mahmoud Rafat.
- 3- Science Officer Substitute: Ahmed Hosny.
- 4- Media Officer Substitute: Deyab Gamal El-Dean.
- 5- Treasurer Substitute: Shamel Alam-Eldein
- 6- Social Officer Substitute: Mohamed Fouad.

C. The committee of Conflict Resolution for 2006:

- 1- Tamer Mahmoud.
- 2- Tamer Awad.
- 3- Amr Saeb.
- 4- Hatem Haraz.
- 5- Mohamed Sorour.

X. ESANA Executive committees 2005 and 2006:

A closed session had been held between the EC-2005 and the EC-2006 to rotate responsibilities.

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