

**Gabr Fellows Ten-Year Reunion
2012 – 2023**

**28 April – 1 May 2023
Cairo and Luxor, Egypt**

Information Statement

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Shafik and Gigi Gabr and their daughter Malak Gabr with the Gabr Fellows at the Reception in Cairo hosted for the Fellows on 28 April 2023

The Gabr Fellowship is the flagship program of the *East-West: Art of the Dialogue* initiative at the Shafik Gabr Foundation. This fully-funded dynamic exchange program is designed to facilitate constructive relationships between future leaders from Egypt and the United States. Founded in 2012, the Foundation has 142 Gabr Fellows to date.

Established in response to the increasing tensions building between the East and West, the Foundation sponsors and fosters exchanges between emerging leaders from Egypt and the United States in multiple fields.

The Gabr Fellows explore one another's cultures, political realities, business trends, technological advancements and their goals for the future. Together, they are creating the legacy of 'The Gabr Fellowship': an international cohort dedicated to pursuing cooperative, collective solutions to the world's most pressing issues. The Foundation's mission and belief is that it is only by building bridges of understanding, investing in young leaders – and finding common interest and mutual benefit – that young leaders will be able to contribute to a better world tomorrow.

Hence, from Friday 28th April to Monday 1st May, The Shafik Gabr Foundation held its first ever Gabr Fellows reunion, with 60 Gabr Fellows from the United States and Egypt travelling to Cairo and Luxor for a four-day get-together.

The guests of honour during the ten-year Reunion were Mr. Dale Buxton, a global investor and technology expert, and Mr. Sean Cleary, a seasoned diplomat who is Chairman of Strategic Concepts and Executive Vice-Chairman of the FutureWorld Foundation.

The event consisted of tours of historic sites, talks by prominent speakers, and panel discussions on various topics such as AI, cybersecurity, art, spirituality, business, and tourism.

On day one, the Fellows arrived to Cairo where they had a tour of the Sakkara and Wahty Tombs, followed by a welcome meeting with Chairman Gabr and the guests of honour at ARTOC HQ. After that, the Foundation hosted a Reception for the Gabr Fellows, with over 200 guests including Ministers, Ambassadors, and prominent leaders in academia, culture, media, politics and business, including Ambassador Arturas Gailiunas, Lithuanian Ambassador to Egypt; Ambassador Axel Wabenhorst, Australian Ambassador to Egypt; Ambassador Dominic Goh, Singaporean Ambassador to Egypt; Ambassador Francois Coronet d'Elzius, Ambassador of Belgium to Egypt; Ambassador Gonzalo Urriolabeitia, Argentinian Ambassador to Egypt; Ambassador Han-Maurits Schaapveld, Dutch Ambassador to Egypt; Ambassador John Desrocher; US Charge d'Affairs; Ambassador M.K. Pathmanathan, Sri Lankan Ambassador to Egypt; Ambassador Salih Mutlu Sen, Turkish Ambassador to Egypt; Ambassador Michele Quaroni, Italian Ambassador to Egypt; Ambassador Mohamed El Orabi, Egypt's former Foreign Minister; Dr Hany Helal, Former Egyptian Minister of Higher Education; General Mohamed El Keshky, Former Assistant Minister of Defense; Mr Hossam Heiba, CEO of the General Authority for Investments (GAFI); Dr Ahmad Dallal, President of the American University in Cairo (AUC); Prof. Mohamed Loutfi, President of the British University in Egypt (BUE), among numerous other distinguished guests.

The following morning, the Fellows were flown to Luxor, where they had guided tours of the Karnak Temple and Luxor Temple. The afternoon was dedicated to the presentation of Mr Dale Buxton, entitled "World Changing Technologies for Good and Bad", where he discussed four world-changing technologies for the next five years: quantum computing, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, and genomics. The enlightening presentation was followed by an extended discussion and questions from the Fellows. The next event on the agenda was a panel by Gabr Fellows Judson Moore, Nourhan Moussa, Zeyad Kelani and Wessam Baher, on the topic of AI and Cybersecurity in the 21st century. The day ended with a breathtaking private tour of the Valley of the Kings, generously hosted by Mr. Buxton.

On their third day, the Fellows went to Luxor's West Bank, where they had a tour of the tombs of Amenhotep II and Hourmoheb, the Hatshepsut Temple, and the Colossi of Memnon. The afternoon was spent in thought-provoking conversation with Mr Sean Cleary, who held his presentation entitled "Strategic Foresight in an Age of Disruption" where he presented a compelling overview on current geopolitics, war, inflation, and the future. His presentation sparked a lively debate and a deep discussion with the Fellows. The day concluded with the screening of Gabr Fellow Nick Thomas's full-length movie "An Egypt Affair," and the screening of Gabr Fellow Mohamed Hassan's short movie "Ostaz Hamam."

The fourth and final day started with a guided tour of the Valley of the Nobles, Medinet Habu and Deir el-Medina. After this, the Fellows flew back to Cairo for a Fellows' panel entitled "Art, Spirituality, Business and Tourism", presented by Gabr Fellows Jeremy Pesner, Erika Witt, Magda Kura, and Amr Hesham. This was followed by a concluding meeting with



Mr Sean Cleary and Mr Dale Buxton during their presentations

Chairman Shafik Gabr, Mr Dale Buxton and Mr Sean Cleary, where the Fellows had an opportunity for an open discussion on the topics touched upon during the previous four days, and they also discussed the power of intercultural dialogue and in-person connections that change our outlook on the other.

The reunion, attended by 60 Gabr Fellows, was a remarkable opportunity for these young leaders to explore each other's cultures, engage in thought-provoking discussions, and visit historic sites in Egypt. The presence of distinguished guests - Dale Buxton and Sean Cleary - added further expertise and insights to the event. These interactions stimulated intellectual curiosity, sparked debates, and fostered a sense of collective responsibility to address today's pressing issues.

Beyond the enriching experiences, the reunion highlighted the significance of in-person connections and intercultural dialogue. The Gabr Fellowship strives to build bridges of understanding, invest in the potential of young leaders, and find common interests for the mutual benefit of both Egypt and the United States. By doing so, they contribute to the creation of a better world tomorrow, where cooperative solutions are pursued to address shared challenges.

The success of the Gabr Fellowship and its reunion is a testament to the power of dialogue, exchange, and cooperation. As we continue to invest in the potential of young leaders and cultivate opportunities for intercultural engagement, we move closer to a more inclusive and interconnected world, where cooperation triumphs over division.



Gabr Fellows at Deir el-Medina and Hatshepsut Temple



Mr and Mrs Shafik Gabr and the Gabr Fellows after presenting Chairman Gabr with a token of gratitude