



Bringing the World Home

An American-Egyptian Youth Dialogue on US Foreign Policy

**Cairo, Egypt
May 3-5, 2007**

On May 3-5, 2007, 60 young Americans and Egyptians (ages 18-28) gathered to discuss U.S. foreign policies in the region and to learn about each other's views on these issues. Over these three days, the participants discussed U.S. democracy promotion policy, the role of the US in the region, and worked towards developing greater mutual understanding of each other's views.

The conference provided an open forum for the American and an ideologically diverse group of Egyptian participants to directly engage each other about U.S. policy in the region and allow dialogue between them. But perhaps most importantly, by developing policy recommendations in small groups and then debating, amending and ratifying those recommendations in general session, the participants used democratic processes to arrive at specific and concrete outcomes: policy recommendations that they can use as a foundation for future events on their campuses and in their communities.

The conference was co-sponsored by Americans for Informed Democracy (AID), the Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED), Model Egyptian Parliament at the American University in Cairo, and the Center for American Studies at AUC. It was planned, organized and conducted by a joint American-Egyptian conference planning committee.

Speakers at the conference included Alistair Baskey, of the US Foreign Service, Ashraf Swelam of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, Dr. Jerry Leach, Director of the Center for American Studies at AUC, Fadel Soliman, the Director of the Bridges Foundation, Mohamed Sobeih, the Palestinian delegate to the Arab League, Jawad Nabolsi, a member of the Ministry of Youth's committee on Leadership, Laurel Rapp, MENA Director for Americans for Informed Democracy, Rashad Mahmood, Vice Chair of the Project on Middle East Democracy, as well as several young activists from a wide array of political backgrounds.

American participants included students at Middlebury College, Syracuse University, the American University in Cairo, Georgetown University, the London School of Economics, Brown University, Stanford, Trinity University, as well as an international lawyer, and other young professionals. Egyptian participants included students at Cairo University, Ain Shams University, the American University in Cairo, a medical student, a financial consultant, and several other young leaders.