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**News Release**

**Methanex Egypt and ILO Cairo celebrate first GET Ahead for Women in Enterprise training in Damietta in partnership with the National Council for Women**

**CAIRO, March 22, 2018 -** Methanex Egypt and the International Labor Organization’s (ILO) Decent Jobs for Egypt’s Young People (DJEP) project, funded by Canada, today celebrated the successful implementation of the first GET Ahead for Women in Enterprise training delivered to 108 women from Damietta. Attending the celebration was Dr. Maya Morsi, President of the National Council for Women, HE Dr. Ismail Abdel Hamid Taha, Governor of Damietta, HE Jess Dutton, Ambassador of Canada, Mr. Peter van Rooij, Director of the ILO Cairo Office, Mr. Brad Boyd, Senior Vice President, Corporate Resources, Methanex Corporation, and Mr. Mohamed Shindy, President, Methanex Egypt.

The training, delivered with the support of the National Council for Women Egypt, represents a unique collaboration between Methanex Egypt, a principal Canadian joint venture in Egypt and the ILO’s *Decent Jobs for Egypt’s Young People*, a Canadian funded, multi-year project addressing employment and employability.

“We are proud to sponsor this important training event in Damietta with the ILO and the National Council for Women. Methanex Egypt runs a robust social responsibility program that has been in place since we began our operations in Damietta in 2011. This new project aligns with Egypt’s aspirations, and also reflects our commitment to positively contribute to the communities in which we operate in a sustainable manner,” said Mohamed Shindy.

“Get Ahead for Women in Enterprise training addresses the practical and strategic needs of low-income women in enterprise by strengthening their basic business and people management skills. It shows women how to develop their personal entrepreneurial traits and obtain support through groups, networks and institutions dealing with enterprise development,” said Peter van Rooij.

Canadian Ambassador Jess Dutton said: “I am pleased to witness the collaboration between the ILO Cairo and Methanex Egypt. The GET Ahead training aligns well with Egypt’s ambitions to enable the financial inclusion of women and with Egypt’s vision 2030 and with Canada’s new Feminist International Assistance Policy.”

The event coincides with Women’s month, both International Women’s Day on March 8 and Egyptian Women’s Day on March 16, and the conclusion of the country’s Year of Egyptian Women 2017. “Women’s empowerment is one of the Government of Egypt’s strategic priorities, and I am happy to see the participation of the business community in supporting the country’s journey towards fulfilling the aspirations of Egyptian women,” said Dr. Maya Morsi.

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**Notes to Editors:**

**About the Egyptian Methanex Methanol Production Company:**

The Egyptian Methanex Methanol Company S.A.E. is the Egyptian joint venture operation of Methanex Corporation, the global leader in methanol industry supply, distribution and marketing. Methanex holds a 50% interest in the joint venture, together with the Egyptian government partners: Egyptian Petrochemical Holding Company (ECHEM), which holds 12%; Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company (EGAS), which holds 12%; Egyptian National Gas Company (GASCO), which holds 9% and the Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation (APICORP), which holds 17%.

Methanex Egypt's state of the art methanol production facility is located in Damietta, Egypt on the Mediterranean Sea and is among the most energy efficient methanol plants in the world. The plant has a production capacity of up to 1.3 million tonnes of methanol per year, supplying both the local and global markets.

**About ILO Cairo Office:**

The unique tripartite structure of ILO brings together governments, representatives of workers and employers organizations of its 187 member countries. Egypt has been a member of the ILO since 1936, and the country office in Cairo has been established in 1959. The ILO in Egypt is supporting its tripartite partners in Egypt in the application of Egypt’s Sustainable Development Agenda: Egypt’s vision 2030.

**The Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030**

Egypt Vision 2030 is Egypt’s long-term development plan. As a result of this, Egypt would possess a competitive, balanced and diversified economy, dependent on innovation and knowledge, based on justice, social integrity and participation, characterized by a balanced and diversified ecological collaboration system, investing the ingenuity of place and humans to achieve sustainable development and to improve Egyptians’ life quality to reach social and economic growth and inclusive development.

2017 was declared the Year of Women by H.E. Abdel Fatah El Sisi the Egyptian President, and the ILO’s commitment to enforce women’s economic empowerment efforts comes from its belief that their potential is able to gear other dimensions of empowerment and economic growth.

**About Decent Jobs for Egypt’s Young People Project:**

**Project background:**

The purpose of the project is to put the Government of Egypt, actors on the governorate and community level, civil society partners, the private sector, and young people in a better position to create and access decent work opportunities.

The core problem that will be tackled through the project is the increasing lack of decent work opportunities for young people (aged 15-29), especially for young women.

In order to give a full account on various experiences, the selected governorates are dominated by different sectors: El– Minya and Luxor by agriculture, Port-Said by industry, and Red Sea by tourism.

The Decent Jobs for Egypt’s Young People Project is funded by the Global Affairs Canada with a total budget of CAD$ 15,000,000

**Objectives and expected outcomes:**

• Strengthening the Egyptian Ministry of Manpower (MoM), other relevant ministries and national partners, with a focus on contributing to the development of policies and implementation of youth employment programmes.

• Contributing to the development of policies and implementation of youth employment programmes in the selected governorates while encouraging local partners to provide related services.

• Developing the capacity of skills training institutions through modern apprenticeship systems for youth in the informal sector, in addition to developing and providing entrepreneurship education packages for undergraduates, graduates, poor rural women and persons with disabilities.

• Strengthening the capacity of local public and private employment services, training for employment programs and youth organizations to efficiently match skills supply and demand.

• Promoting enterprise development and self-employment through a promotional campaign, improved policy environment, and strengthened business services to reach youth.

 Approaches for sustainable development:

 The project will mainstream four approaches for sustainable development throughout all activities:

• Green jobs

• Social economy

• Gender equality

• Community-based approaches for inclusion (Persons with disabilities)

Geographical area of implementation: Egypt: Cairo and the selected governorates: Minya (agriculture sector), Port Said (manufacturing sector), Red Sea (tourism sector) in phase I from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2016, in addition to Luxor (agriculture sector) in phase II from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2019

**Global Affairs Canada:**

Global Affairs Canada (GAC), established in 1968 by the Canadian government, administers foreign aid programs in developing countries, and operates in partnership with Canadian and local organizations in the public and private sectors, as well as other international organizations. The goal of Canada international development program in Egypt is to help the country generate economic growth by strengthening the enabling environment for small and medium-sized enterprises and providing skills for employment to under privileged people.