

Cairo Talks on Transformation and Change – CTTC

The Cairo Talks on Transformation and Change (CTTC) aim to provide a platform to analyse the ongoing changes and assess the perspectives of political transition in Egypt. Each talk will be animated by contributions from two scholars and will leave sufficient time for debate. CTTC are jointly organised by the Cairo Offices of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Freie Universität Berlin, and the German Orient-Institut Beirut.

In the 9th CTTC talk Prof. Mathias Rohe (Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg) will discuss with Dr. Abdel Moneim Said (chairman of Al-Masry Al-Youm) and Dr. Ashraf Nabih El Sherif (AUC) on:

„Egypt’s New Constitution: Towards a New Balance of Power?“

The idea of democracy – as opposed to dictatorship or theocracy – relies on human self-definition and self-determination on the basis of equality and dignity. How does the new Egyptian constitution grant the people's participation in decision-making and the necessary amount of institutional and societal stability at the same time? Three major levels have to be discerned here: On the state-institutional level, the distribution of powers and efficient mechanisms for impartial cooperation and mutual control has to be elaborated. Equally important is the level of relations between state institutions and civil society. Here, the use of the people's knowledge and participation has to be granted, to avoid alienation and to grant stability by structural flexibility. The third important level concerns the organization of the relations between the state and religions in a way of mutual respect for the relevant tasks.

Prof. Dr. Mathias Rohe is the chair of civil law and comparative law at the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg. Prior to joining the FAU, he acted as a judge at the court of appeal in Nürnberg. He is specialized in Islamic law in Germany and Europe.

Dr. Abdel Moneim Said is the chairman of Al-Masry Al-Youm newspaper. He also served as the president of the Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies and has written extensively about Egyptian affairs.

Dr. Ashraf Nabih El Sherif holds a PhD from Boston University with a specialization in Comparative Middle Eastern Politics and is currently working as an Assistant Professor of political science at AUC. His areas of expertise include state-society relations and democratic transition in the Middle East.



Venue: DAAD premises, 11 Saleh Ayoub, Zamalek, Cairo
Tuesday, 19 March 2013, 7 pm



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