

# The Swedish-Egyptian Society

Your suggestions  
and/or  
contributions  
to your bulletin  
are welcome.  
Thank you!

2006-02-09

Årgång 6, nummer 14

**T**his is the first bulletin with the new layout. As announced earlier, with the availability of the website, a simpler layout but more frequent issues will serve better the overall purpose of keeping in touch with our members.

The content of the new bulletin will, to a large extent, be dictated by the fact that not all of us have access to the Internet.

Hence, news essential to the association will always be included in this bulletin, while information of a more general character will only appear on the site, along with a copy of this bulletin.

## SCHEDULED FUTURE EVENTS

The details of the two next events have now been finalized, see below, others are still in the planning stage.

### ► MARCH 8TH, 2006

Lecturer: Mr Leif Hjärre  
Title: The Great Discoveries in Egypt  
From Napoleon to today  
Venue: Hotel Park

### ► APRIL 26TH, 2006

#### ANNUAL MEETING

Free attendance for all members.

The annual meeting will be followed by an oriental dance performance and dinner.

An entrance fee will be collected for the second part of the event

Further details concerning these events as per separate invitations will be mailed well ahead of time.

**WELCOME!**

## EN KVÄLL PÅ OPERAMATHUSET

Den 27 januari 2006 besökte 15 av vår förenings medlemmar resp. vänner Stockholms Operamathuset på Drottninggatan 71 A för att tillsammans avnjuta ett förstklassigt potpurri av kända opera arior under samlingsnamnet:

### "CLASSICO SPAGHETTIOPERA 8".

Vår förenings vice ordförande tog emot oss vid ankomsten, där även chefen och delägaren av Reginateatern, Hans Ramberg, hälsade på oss. Två av de bästa borden hade reserverats för oss inne på teatern, men dessförinnan fick vi i foyén inhandla de drycker, som vi ämnade avnjuta under middagen. Skådespelarna serverade under kortare eller längre pauser en superb middag, bestående av förrätt, huvudrätt och efterrätt, allt av mycket god kvalitet.

Det hela var en oslagbar kombination av god mat och utsökt sång. Även om kvällen i sig inte hade ett egypten-kopplat innehåll, så kunde vi 15 njuta av den sociala samvaron under skratt och beundran för alla artisters framstående prestationer.

Det kanske kan upprepas för de medlemmar i vår förening som just den 27/1-06 inte kunde komma !?

En av de närvarande

## OTHER EVENTS

The following activities are also being evaluated:

### Two are travel related.

The first is a 10-14 day trip to Egypt, most probably in October 2006. The second is a "long week-end" in London for a visit to the Egyptian Wing of the British Museum.

**Another two** are more traditional activities, i.e. a combination of culture or entertainment with a pleasant meal in a choice setting.

## CAIRO TO HOST "WOMEN'S DAVOS"

Egypt has been chosen to host the 2006 Global Summit for Women (GSW). Also known as "Davos for Women", the event is dedicated to promoting women's economic development in the context of efficient use of technology, and the benefits of cross-border business alliances.

Representatives from more than 85 countries will discuss these issues from June 10th to June 12th. The GSW will also feature a pre-summit ministerial roundtable, bringing together women ministers from different countries to discuss policies that have had a positive impact on women's economic status.

The summit is expected to be a launching platform for the creation of national and regional networks, of business initiatives for women, and generally enhance women's role in the global economy.

A major theme of the 2006 summit will be "redefining global leadership". Alternatives to the "top-down" hierarchical leadership style usually favoured by men will be explored.

In Egypt women currently account for 30 per cent of the labour force, a figure said to be on the rise, in tandem with the rise in women's purchasing power. A lot of women are now the major breadwinners for their families. They are also the ones who mostly take the decisions about health and education.

In the US, 44.4 per cent of private companies are owned by women, as compared to 30 per cent in the European Union (EU), 25 per cent in Japan, 20 per cent in China and 12,1 per cent in the Arab world.

Women also own 80 per cent of the world's micro-enterprises and as such they will be the major players in many economies in the 21st century

Egypt was chosen to host the summit because it is the dominant economy in the Arab world, and its most populous nation. Women now have leading positions in banks, brokerages and public-sector holding companies.

Twelve countries have previously hosted the event. The main Egyptian sponsors of this year's round are the Commercial International Bank (CIB) and EgyptAir.

## SWEDISH TRADE DELEGATION VISITS EGYPT IN FEBRUARY!

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Embassy of Sweden in Cairo and the Swedish Trade Council have invited Swedish companies to participate in a trade delegation visit to Cairo, Egypt, February 18th-21st, 2006.

The purpose of the delegation is to further enhance trade between Sweden and Egypt by identifying new projects, opportunities and business-partners. The delegation is headed by Mr. Lars-Olof Lindgren, State Secretary for Trade at the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications.

With a clearly business-oriented Egyptian government focused on the domestic economy and trade, the trade situation is currently improving steadily. The country is witnessing an increasing trade flow, new WTO-compliant rules and regulations, major customs reform and an increasing tourism.

Trade between Sweden and Egypt has been increasing (up 20% last year) with new business opportunities for Swedish companies in various sectors .

The delegation will meet with ESWEBA (Egyptian-Swedish Business Association), the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and several top government officials from the Ministries for Environmental Affairs, Industry, Home Trade and Foreign Trade, Communication and Information Technology and Health and Population.

The tentative program starts with a private dinner hosted by the Swedish Ambassador in Egypt for State Secretary Lars-Olof Lindgren, participating businessmen and officials.

Another reception will be hosted by Engineer Onsi Sawiris, president Orascom Group and chairman of ESWEBA.

Mr. Onsi Sawiris has participated in previous business delegations from Egypt to Sweden.

Time has also been reserved during the visit in Egypt for individual visits and meetings for the attending businessmen and women.

For additional information, please contact Mr Johan Eriksson at The Swedish Trade Council, Tel: +46 8 588 660 00.

Gustaf-Wilhelm Hellstedt

**SECRETARIAT: The Swedish-Egyptian Society, C/o Mr Sami A. Baladi**  
Bornholmsgatan 8 164 46 KISTA Phone: + 46 8 632 02 80 Fax: + 46 8 632 02 95  
email: [ses@swedegypt.se](mailto:ses@swedegypt.se) Internet: <http://www.swedegypt.se>