

### **Message from AOTS Alumni Society, Egypt**

I am extremely honored to receive the “Order of the Rising Sun with Golden Rays and Neck Ribbon” bestowed upon me by his majesty the emperor of Japan. No words can express the great honor and pride I feel upon receiving such a distinguished award. Needless to say, in addition to my scientific and cultural activities between Egypt and Japan, my efforts over the past four decades in establishing and operating AOTS Alumni Society - Egypt, encouraged by AOTS - Japan to promote Japanese Egyptian cooperation and mutual relations would never have culminated in such a beneficial and recognized positive effect without the great role of AOTS human resources and industrial development programs.

Over the past 40 years, more than 2000 Egyptian companies managers and engineers have been able to visit Japan in training programs arranged by AOTS. It is obvious that all of these trainees have been able to transfer what they have learnt in Japan to their companies here in Egypt, bringing new technologies and enforcing the Japanese-Egyptian co-operation.

Since their establishment in the 80s, the AOTS alumni societies have been working in harmony and good will with AOTS under the slogan of "HEART to HEART" in a friendly atmosphere with their counter parts in Japan. In 2013 upon merging AOTS and Japan Overseas Development Corporation (JODC) to form HIDA, the field and scope of technical cooperation has markedly expanded in collaboration with the 71 AOTS Alumni societies in 43 countries covering the four corners of the world. Thanks for those who decided to establish such a worldwide strong network.

I believe that it would be highly appreciated by all AOTS alumni societies if we can go back to previously organized tailored programs decided upon personal discussions and decisions between AOTS staff in Japan and involved overseas alumni societies. This should be highly encouraged to help flourish the training programs to cover the emerging demands of the alumni societies all over the world. For instance, due to the temporarily present economic situation in Egypt, it has become too expensive for trainees to go to Japan and it is strongly suggested that HIDA/AOTS can hold a series of overseas seminars and training programs in Egypt to cut down expenses until the present critical economic situation improves. Unfortunately, this will deprive the trainees from visiting Japan, but sometimes, it is the bitter price we have to pay to keep things going on instead of closing down the long lasting acknowledged activities of the alumni society in Egypt.

Whatever its name, with full due respect to the present name HIDA/AOTS, the traditional name of AOTS remains the one in people’s minds and its efforts in cooperation and transferring technology and culture to countries worldwide through the alumni societies have always been and will always be highly recognized and appreciated in the future.

#### **Prof. Bahaa Zaghoul**

Chairman of AOTS Alumni Society - Egypt  
Former Chairman of Central Metallurgical R&D Institute  
Chairman of Japanese Universities Egyptian Graduates Association  
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