

# Harmonized European standards for construction in Egypt

## Promotion of Eurocodes

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Organised with the support of the Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality



Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality  
الهيئة المصرية العامة للمواصفات والجودة



# European Commission project to promote Eurocodes

- Contractors: European Commission and BSI
- Purpose: To develop a strategic framework for promoting the adoption and use of Eurocodes in 6 target regions
- Period: November 2009 – March 2011
- Two phases:
  - Phase 1: Development of strategy and Action plans for the 6 regions - November 2009 to April 2010
  - Phase 2: Pilot implementation to validate the strategy - May 2010 to March 2011



# Scope of the project: target regions

1. Eastern Europe: Russia, Ukraine
  2. India
  3. South Africa
  4. South East Asia: Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia
  5. Eastern Mediterranean: Gulf States, Jordan, Syria
  6. Western Mediterranean: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia,
- Egypt



# Why promote Eurocodes outside Europe?

- Two main objectives
  1. To spread best practice
  2. To strengthen trade links
    - More opportunities for European industry in other markets
    - More opportunities for industry in other countries in the European market
- The opportunities for the Egyptian construction industry are the primary focus of today's event.



# Pilot action: Why Egypt?

- We were invited
  - Our thanks to Dr Barakat and Dr Albert
- Egypt has strong links with the European Union
  - Geographic
  - Historical
  - Economic
- Strategic
  - Egypt is a regional leader
  - Your decisions and practices will influence your neighbours



# What are we trying to promote?

- Not just a set of European standards
- A package: The EU 'New Approach'
  - An approach to regulation
  - An approach to standards
  - The relationship between the two
- Of specific relevance to the design and construction sector



# The EU 'New Approach'

- Regulation in the EU
- Directives
- High level requirements
- Mandatory
  - All member countries must enact them in their national law
- Agreeing or changing a Directive is a lengthy political process
- Directives have to be stable and long term



# The EU 'New Approach'

- Standards in the EU
- Support the implementation of Directives
  - Detailed
  - Flexible: more responsive to changing materials and technologies
  - Constantly being maintained, updated and extended
- Voluntary
  - The most certain means of compliance with a Directive
- In the EU construction sector
  - Eurocodes are now the preferred design standards for all public procurement



# Principles of the ‘New Approach’

- **Regulation** tends to be ‘top down’
  - Reflecting national needs and priorities
  - Through an essentially political process
- **Implementation** is best achieved ‘bottom up’
  - Reflecting practical experience
  - Technical expertise
  - Business realities
  - Through a more inclusive standard development process
- This is not specific to Europe – it is a good practice everywhere



# Eurocodes: design principles

- A marketing problem: the name
- Eurocodes
- They are not specific to Europe
  - They embody best practice developed over decades of research
- They are a comprehensive and integrated set of design standards that are relevant:
  - To all countries
  - All structures
- They can be customised to meet the specific requirements of Egypt
- It is your own engineers and designers that will ensure this



# Eurocodes in Egypt: Why change?

- A commonly asked question:
- “I have been designing structure for years
  - Offices
  - Hotels
  - Apartment buildings
  - Bridges
- My buildings have never fallen down
- My clients were happy with my work
- Why change now?”



# Advantages for Egypt: Practical

- The quality of the product
- Eurocodes are:
  - Comprehensive
  - Integrated
  - ‘State of the Art’
  - Subject to constant maintenance and extension
- Why re-invent the wheel?



# Advantages for Egypt: General principles

- They are permissive rather than prescriptive
- They allow optimal design
  - Lower cost construction
  - Economise on materials
  - Lower carbon footprint
- Eurocodes do not build better structures
- Good designers do that
- Eurocodes offer more scope for good designers



# Advantages for Egypt: Economic

- Eurocodes are a common design language
- They facilitate multinational building projects
  - Oresund bridge between Denmark and Sweden



# Advantages for Egypt: Economic

- Better, more cost-effective structures in Egypt
- Easier access to the European market
  - As main contractors
  - As sub-contractors
- Easier access to other markets where Eurocode principles are being adopted
- These themes will be developed further during the day



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# Objectives for the day

- We would like you to tell us more about:
  - Your needs
  - Your priorities
  - Your concerns
  - Your intentions
- We hope you will:
  - Decide to learn more about Eurocodes
  - Use them more widely in Egypt
  - Ultimately decide to adopt them as your national standards



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Thank you for your attention.



# Contact Us

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