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# EGYPT TODAY

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## EGYPT'S LEADERS LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Successful Businesses of the Past 15 Years  
Face the Challenges of Tomorrow

Designing Cairo for the 21st Century

Bank, he spends 200 days out of the year on field visits to countries from Zimbabwe to Nepal.

"This is all great experience — but everything I learn, I will use to help Egypt," says Sherif, 32, whose father Ahmed Fouad Sherif served as minister of cabinet affairs under President Anwar el-Sadat. "I eventually want to return to civil service and apply my experience here."

After graduating from the American University in Cairo with a BA in 1981 and an MA in 1983, both in economics, he later earned his doctorate in public policy and management from Boston University.

Sherif also helped the Egyptian government develop its privatization and state enterprise reform strategy in 1990, while working as an economist for the World

Bank for the United Nations, Sherif has a keen understanding of the Egyptian economy. He also has some definite ideas about how to improve it. Of his six books, four are about privatization.

"I say we should spread the wealth a little. Instead of selling these businesses to private companies, we should distribute the ownership to our civil servants," Sherif says. "Each civil servant would own stocks — then they could hire someone to manage the business."

In his present position, Sherif has had the opportunity to witness reform and privatization efforts in other countries, including Kenya, Sudan and Tanzania. "Most of my experience so far has been with the nature of the performance of the public sector," he says. "I haven't had the opportunity to evolve into other areas. My



**KHALED SHERIF**  
**ECONOMIST**

**K**haled Sherif never imagined that studying economics would lead to traveling around the world. But

as the Public Enterprise Specialist for eastern Africa development at the World

Bank's Young Professional Program. He was one of 20 chosen worldwide out of 4,000 qualified applicants.

For a person who spent most of his teenage years living in Queens, New York when his father was working

for the United Nations, exposure to the experiences of other governments [has shown] that we in Egypt have so many under-utilized resources. There is so much wealth that can be rediscovered."

*Scott Hamney*

**IMAN MOSTAFA**  
**OPERA SINGER**

**G**iven a choice, Iman Mostafa would like to be Placido Domingo. Chatting in the Opera House cafeteria, the 32-year-old opera soprano grins at the idea and says she would settle for being Joan Sutherland or Maria Callas.

Winner of the international Maria Callas Award for operatic singing in Italy, Mostafa's speaking voice is rich, with a sexy husk. It has made her the prima donna in international recitals and operas like *La Traviata*, *Carmen* and her favorite,

**"I wish there  
was someone  
here to sing to or  
sing with."**

*Aida*, gaining her a worldwide audience. It has also ruined her social life.

"It's awful," she says. "An opera singer has a tough life. It takes at least three months to prepare for a role. Three months going to sleep with the texts, living with the characters. It is so much hard work!"

Good-natured whining aside, her dedication is astounding. When most eight-year-olds were playing tag, Mostafa was learning how to play the violin at the Conservatoire. At 17, she enrolled in the operatic singing program and now, with a master's and a doctorate degree from Paris, she has come full circle, teaching