Fact Sheet on the Grand Egyptian Museum project, Cairo

Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) project is billed is one of the largest museum developments currently underway globally.

With an allocated area of 480,000 square metres, the museum will be located nearly 2 kilometres away from the Giza pyramids adjacent to the Giza plateau, and on completion will become the intersection between modern and ancient Cairo directing the public back to the ancient heritage of Egypt.

The facility will offer an exhibition area of 35,000 square metres and house 100,000 artefacts.

The project construction consists of the following main elements: Museum and Conference Center (Main Building); the Menkaurus Retaining Wall and other retaining structures; auxiliary buildings including restaurants; car and coach parking; exhibition works and an extensive external works package.

The items to be displayed will be organized into chronological galleries spanning the ages of Pharaonic history including: Pre-History; Old Kingdom; Middle Kingdom; New Kingdom; and Late and Roman Period. Besides, there will also be two special areas for display, including the Grand Staircase and the Tutankhamun Gallery.

Hill International, along with its Egyptian partner EHAF Consulting Engineers, was awarded in 2010 the project construction management contract by Egypt’s Ministry of Culture’s Supreme Council of Antiquities.

The five-year contract has an estimated value to the Hill/EHAF joint venture of nearly US$50 million. Hill has a 70% interest in the joint venture and EHAF holds the remaining 30% interest.

The museum has been designed by a team that consists of Heneghan Peng (architects); Ove Arup (structural engineer) and Buro Happold (mechanical engineer). Their scope of works included pre-schematic design, schematic design, detailed design, tender documents and construction drawings.
The beginnings

The genesis of the museum goes back to 1992 when a Presidential Decree was issued to allocate nearly 50 hectares at the current site location in Giza for the facility.

What followed was a flurry of activities with more than 1,550 conceptual architectural designs from 83 different countries being submitted by international architects and firms.

Schematic design of the museum building was completed in June 2005, while schematic design of exhibitions was completed by the end of November 2005. Detailed design for the museum building began in April 2006 and detailed design for exhibition works began in November 2010.

The project is estimated to cost US$800 million, with 70% funding coming from the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) and the remaining 30% from the Egyptian government.

As of 30 June, 829 total human resources are on the site and according to our estimates, there will be a total of 6,500 workers [including management staff] during the peak construction period.

With more than 4 million visitors anticipated to visit the museum, the first stage is targeted to open in August 2015.

Economic spin-offs

The economic benefits of GEM are too obvious to ignore.

At present, tourism accounts for nearly 4.4% of Egypt’s gross national product (GNP) and also 10% of the total jobs are either directly or indirectly linked in some form to tourism.
Besides, with every additional 1 million visitor to the country, new job opportunities are created for 200,000.

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