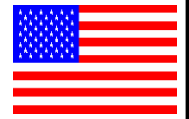




**NIST**  
National Institute of Standards and Technology  
Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce



**Egyptian Organization for  
Standardization & Quality**

# Standards and global economy – The case of Egypt

## Options for Action Summit

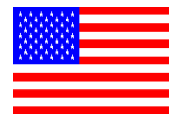
Gaithersburg, Maryland  
July 18-19, 2006

*Presented by*  
Dr. Eng. Mahmoud Eisa

President of Egyptian Organization for Standardization & Quality  
ISO Regional Liaison Officer for Arab & Mediterranean Region

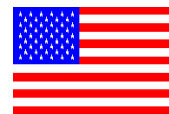
# Table of contents

- Egyptian Organization for Standardization & Quality.
- Standardization.
- Standardization in Egypt.
- Harmonization of Egyptian Standards.
- Impact on Egyptian economy.
- Technical Assistance



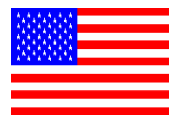
# Egyptian Organization for Standardization & Quality

- Founded by Presidential decree in 1957.
- Governmental body affiliated to the Ministry of Trade & Industry.
- National standards body for Egypt.
- More than 900 staff members.
- More than 105 technical committees.
- More than 1500 experts working in the technical committees.
- About 7000 published Egyptian standards.



# Standardization

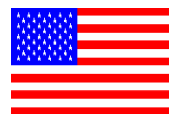
- The setting of standards is a crucial exercise.
- Standards can have a positive or negative impact on economy.
- On the positive side, standards:
  - Increase competition on prices, because standardized technologies and products can be compared.
  - Ensure compatibility and interoperability between products.
- On the negative side, standards:
  - Can be used as a trade barrier to protect an economy or discriminate a group of products.
  - Can be used by large manufacturers, especially in the high-tech industry, to monopolize markets.



# Standardization in Egypt

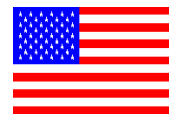
- For a country like Egypt:
  - A non-conformity to existing international standards can lead to a severe drop of its exports of materials or products and a loss of market share.
  - A non-conformity to Egyptian standards of imported goods and locally produced goods can lead to unfair competition, health and safety problems for consumers, and negative environmental effects.

**It is therefore very important to encourage and promote conformity to standards**



# Standardization in Egypt

- Fields covered by Egyptian standards include:
  - Chemical
  - Food
  - Mechanical
  - Electrical
  - Information technology
  - Metrology
  - Petroleum
  - Documentation
  - Metallurgical
  - Yarns and textiles
  - Building materials



# Standardization in Egypt

- Principles for the development of Egyptian standards:
  - Transparency
  - Openness
  - Impartiality
  - Consensus
  - Effectiveness
  - Relevance
  - Coherence

**Thus, our standardization system is harmonized with well known and applicable international practices**



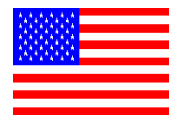
Options for Action Summit  
Gaithersburg, Maryland



Slide 7  
July 18-19, 2006

# Harmonization of Egyptian Standards

- EOS commenced an initiative to harmonize all Egyptian standards.
- Phase I of project ended in May 2006 with more than 3400 Egyptian standards harmonized to international counterparts.
- Phase II of project started and includes all the remaining standards in the Egyptian standards catalogue.





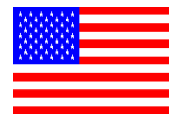
# Harmonization of Egyptian Standards - Objectives

- The objectives of harmonization are:
  - Promoting and increasing Egyptian exports.
  - Facilitating trade by removal of technical barriers to trade.
  - Assuring quality of products and technology transfer.
  - Better competitiveness of Egyptian goods and products.
  - Ensuring that the harmonization practice is embedded in the Egyptian standard making process.



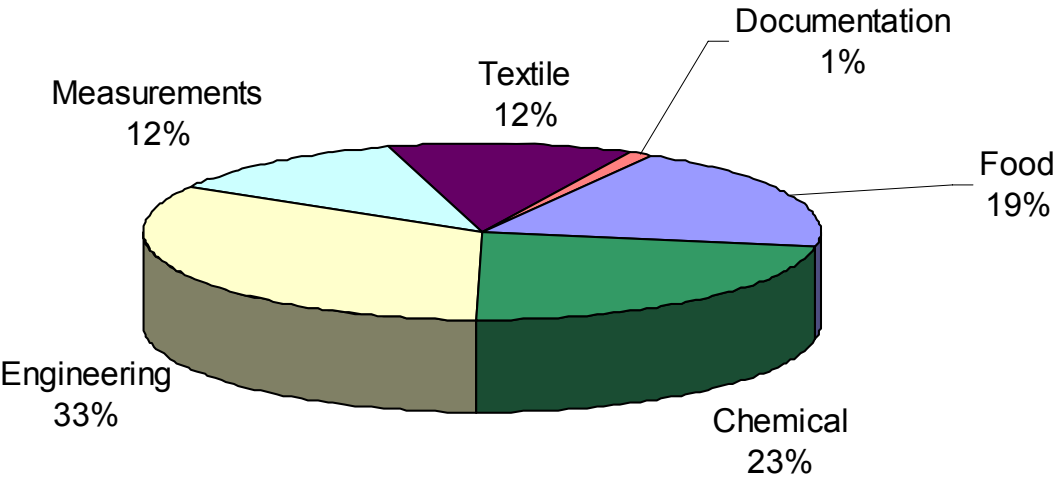
# Harmonization of Egyptian Standards – Target groups

- Target groups include:
  - Industry at large.
  - Importers.
  - Exporters.
  - Consumers.
  - Conformity assessment entities.



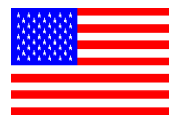
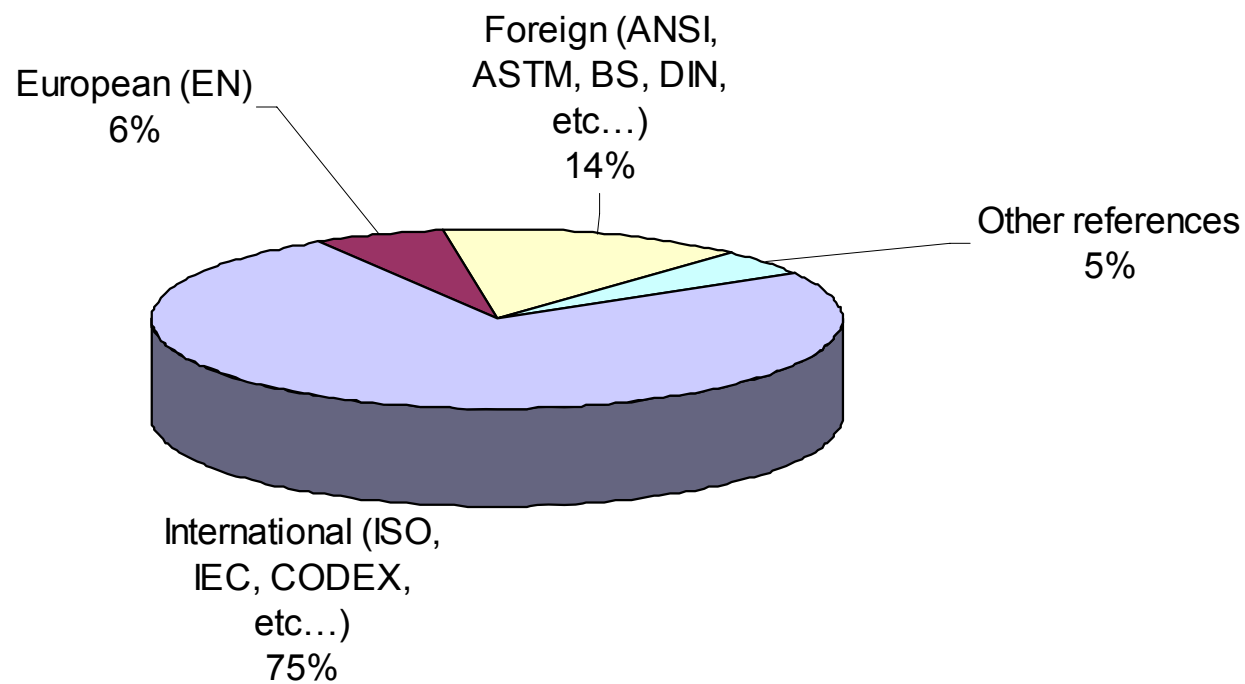
# Harmonization of Egyptian Standards

## Harmonized Egyptian standards per sector



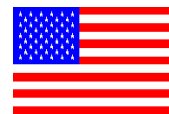
# Harmonization of Egyptian Standards

## References used in the harmonization process



# Harmonization of Egyptian Standards – Impact on economy

- For Egyptian manufacturers:
  - More Egyptian products are produced to international standards.
  - Greater access to international markets.
  
- For foreign manufacturers and foreign investments:
  - Removing technical barriers to trade.
  - Attracting foreign investments as international companies will no longer be obliged to produce according to locally based standards.



# Harmonization of Egyptian Standards – Impact on economy

## For Egyptian manufacturers

Biscuits manufactured to ES416/2005 which is harmonized to CODEX



Tungsten lamps manufactured to ES27/2005 which is harmonized to IEC

## For Foreign manufacturers

Processed cheese manufactured to ES999-2/2005 which is harmonized to CODEX



Bottled mineral water manufactured to ES1588/2005 which is harmonized to CODEX

Tomato Ketchup manufactured to ES132-3/2005 which is harmonized to CODEX

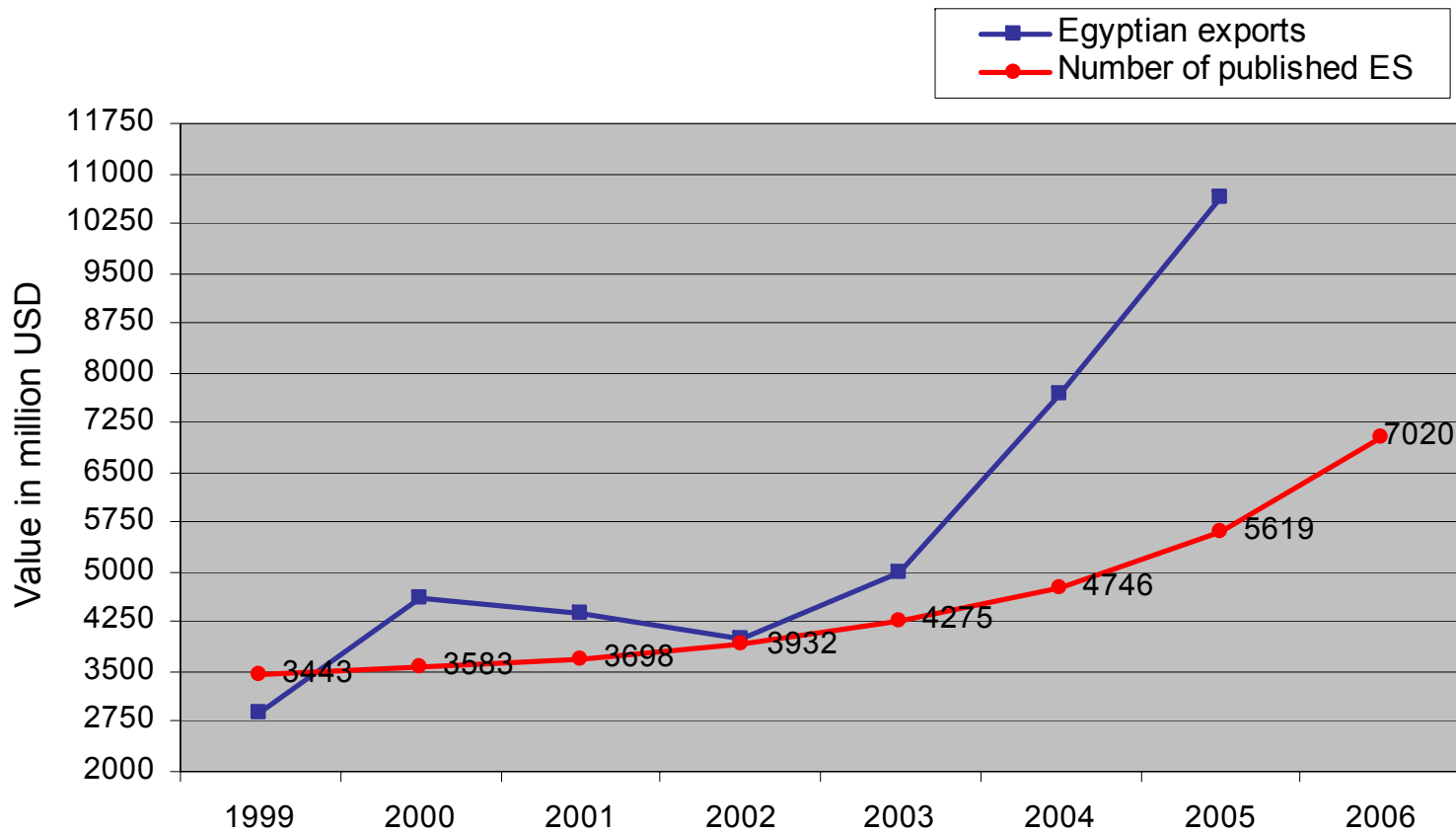


Options for Action Summit  
Gaithersburg, Maryland



Slide 14  
July 18-19, 2006

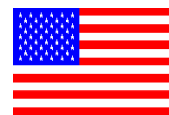
# Harmonization of Egyptian Standards – Impact on economy



Sources: US Census bureau, Egyptian Combined Foreign Trade Report – Ministry of Trade & Industry 2005

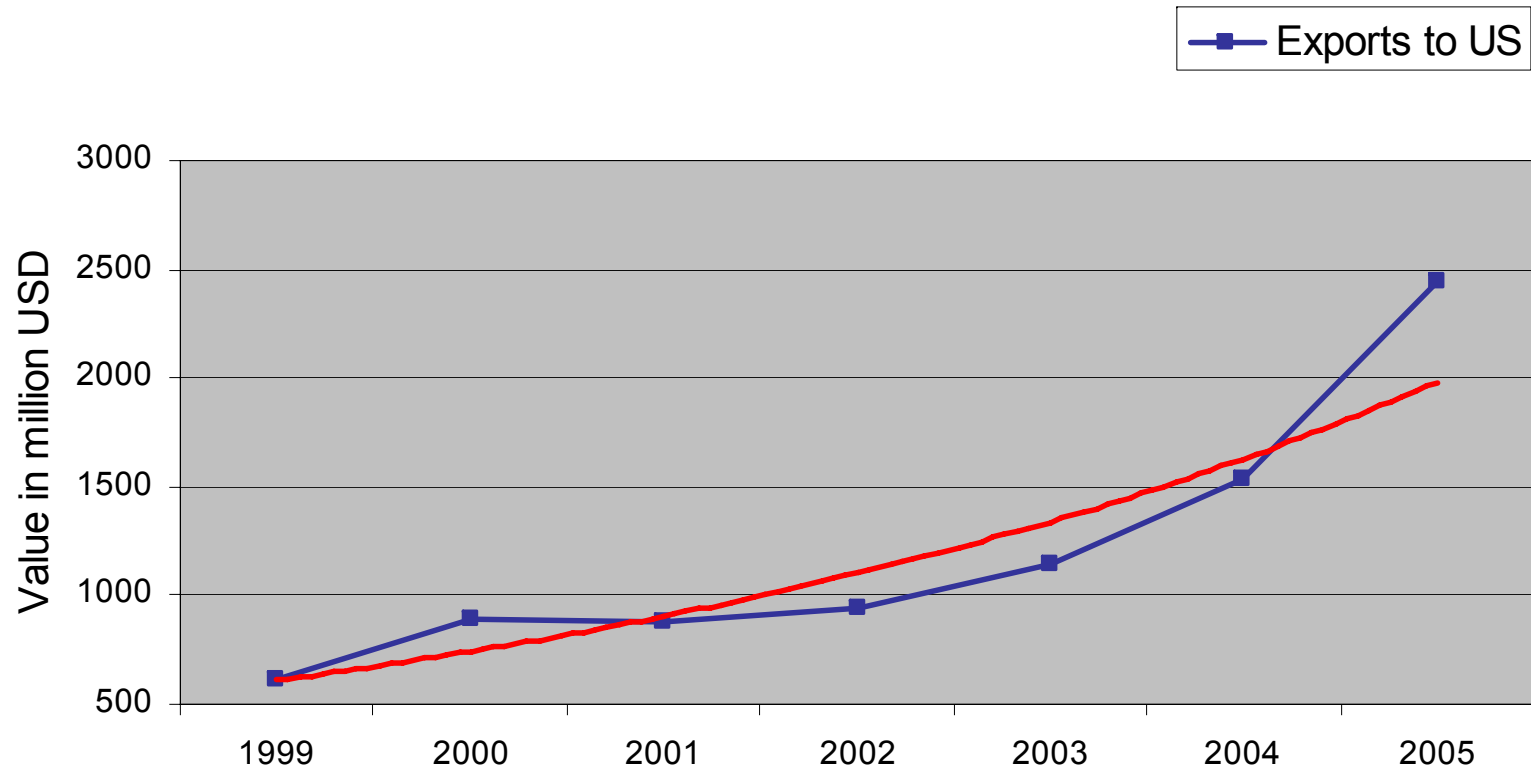


Options for Action Summit  
Gaithersburg, Maryland



Slide 15  
July 18-19, 2006

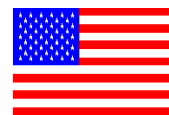
# Egypt and the United States



Sources: US Census bureau, Egyptian Combined Foreign Trade Report – Ministry of Trade & Industry 2005



Options for Action Summit  
Gaithersburg, Maryland



Slide 16  
July 18-19, 2006



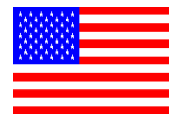
# Technical Assistance – Forms of co-operation

- Memorandum of understanding signed between EOS & ASTM on 08/10/2002.
  - Joint sponsorship of training programs.
  - Possibility to participate in ASTM technical committees.
  - Updated catalogue of ASTM standards.
  
- Various training courses in U.S.A. sponsored by the Commercial Law Development Program CLDP
  - 10 participants in 2002.
  - 11 participants in 2003.
  - 30 participants in 2004.



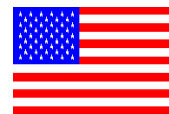
# Technical Assistance - Challenges

- Awareness with American standards & technical regulations:
  - A need to increase awareness with the American system for the development of technical regulations (TR) and bridging the gap between it and the existing methodology followed in Egypt.
  - A need to increase awareness with the scope covered by American standards for areas of common economic interests and promoting the use of such standards in the process of developing Egyptian standards.
  
- Participation in the works of American/international technical committees:
  - A need to support EOS technical committee members in the participation of the works of American/international mirror committees.
  
- Technology transfer and automating the Egyptian standards making process using the experiences in hi-tech which is well developed in the United States and the creation of live-links between Egyptian and American technical committees.



# Technical Assistance - Challenges

- Assistance in developing tools for income generation through methods that have been used within the United States (member subscription, etc...).
  
- Assistance in the area of promoting the use of standards and attracting more participation from the private sector/industry.
  - There is a need to assist in promoting the use of standards and attracting more participation from the private sector/industry.



# Technical Assistance - Challenges

- Assistance in developing health and safety standards/systems.
  - Exposure of top and middle management at EOS to OSHA training sessions.
  - Qualifying a group of EOS experts in the field of developing occupational health & safety standards and systems.
  - Promoting the use of safety standards and the creation of a culture of “safe work-place” among Egyptian companies.



# Thank you

Dr. Eng. Mahmoud Eisa

President

Egyptian Organization for Standardization & Quality EOS

16 Tadreeb El-Modarrebeen St., Ameriya

Cairo, Egypt

Tel. +20 2 284 55 22 / 284 55 24

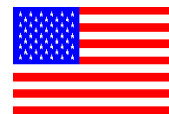
Fax. +20 2 284 55 04

E-mail: [moi@idsc.net.eg](mailto:moi@idsc.net.eg)

[www.eos.org.eg](http://www.eos.org.eg)



**Options for Action Summit**  
Gaithersburg, Maryland



Slide 21  
July 18-19, 2006