

The Embassy of the Federal
Republic of Germany in Cairo

and

The Ministry of State
for Environmental Affairs

Has the pleasure to invite you to the 29th Cairo Climate Talks (CCT) Panel Discussion

February 25th, 2015 at 6:30pm

at the Greater Cairo Library, 15 Mohamed Mazhar Street, Zamalek, Cairo.

“Authentic, Responsible, Exclusive: An Eco-traveler’s Guide to Egypt”



Though Egypt is a destination well known for its antiquities, culture, desert, beach landscapes and other tourist attractions, it is not high on the map of eco-tourist destinations, despite having a wealth of natural beauty.

For the past few decades, the Egyptian coasts have witnessed rapid development through large tourist resorts which offer a seaside experience, often at the expense of the very marine and land habitats they seek to promote.

Ecolodges, on the contrary, function in symbiosis with the surrounding landscape; more than a relaxing stay, they provide an immersion into Egypt’s varied palette of sceneries and cultures. Many are located in remote areas that have kept traditions intact for centuries. From Siwa to Fayoum, Minya, Dakhla and Sinai, small, family-owned ecolodges are taking root, embarking on environmentally-friendly and sustainable practices including the use of renewable energy sources,

waste segregation, composting, organic farming, green building and incorporating the local communities and traditions. We have traveled the country to tell the story of ecolodges and their owners and will be screening a short film during the event.

Although there have been efforts to create best practice guidelines for ecolodges, thus far there are no institutionalized standards or regulations in place in Egypt. This growing industry requires a public-private partnership where all stakeholders are working to improve the lodges as a model for sustainable development, ensuring job creation, inclusion of local communities and conservation of natural resources.

The 29th Cairo Climate Talks will bring together various stakeholders to discuss how we can support ecolodges and boost the profile of this alternative, sustainable type of tourism.

The discussion will be opened by

H.E. Dr. Khaled Fahmy
Egyptian Minister of State for Environmental Affairs

H.E. Hansjörg Haber
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Egypt

Panelists:

Emad Hassan
Advisor to the Minister
of Tourism

Cornelia Rudeker
Associate Professor of Architecture
and Urban Design at GUC and author
of a manual for ecolodge owners

Peter Wirth
Owner of International Hot Spring
Hotel and White Desert Tours

Hani Zaki
Owner of Zwara ecolodge

A buffet reception will close the evening