



78TH CAIRO CLIMATE TALK REPORT

Welcome to the Future: E-Mobility's Potential & Current State

12 OCTOBER 2021 // WRITTEN BY MERNA GHALY
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On the 12th of October 2021, the Cairo Climate Talks (CCT) hosted their 78th panel discussion in which experts from Germany and Egypt discussed the potential and challenges of E-mobility.

The transportation sector is responsible for the largest share of global greenhouse gas emissions at currently 29%. The most recent IPCC report points to the growing per capita demand for transport, pushed by rising incomes and infrastructure development. More people are on the move than ever, and the solution lies just within this movement.

Tilman Hochmüller, Deputy Head of Mission, opened the discussion on behalf of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, expressing his pleasure to be discussing the topic of mobility, especially since the Corona pandemic has shown us how closely CO2 emissions are connected to transport, with 2020 being a year with record reduction in global emissions. Tilman Hochmüller further stated that "We need to totally rethink the way we travel, from using more trains and public transportation to the use of bikes or electric scooters on short distances. It is particularly important to work on taking traffic away from the streets and onto the rails, especially in urban settings."

GERMANY HAS BEEN LEADING THE WAY TOWARDS A FUTURE BASED ON RENEWABLE ENERGIES WITH ITS WIDE-SCALE ENERGIEWENDE OR ENERGY TRANSITION. THIS NEEDS TO BE COMPLEMENTED BY A TRAFFIC TRANSITION, OR VERKEHRSWENDE IN GERMAN.

Opening on behalf of the Ministry of Environment of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Dr. Ayman El-Maazawy, General Manager of Technical Office of the Environmental Quality Sector, spoke about the initiatives being implemented by the Ministry within the transport sector and their relation to managing air pollution and climate change in the Greater Cairo Region. He also elaborated on the protocol between the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, and the Ministry of Health and Population, which includes the development of the metro line and monorail, purchasing of electric busses, and establishment of the electric charging infrastructure.

DAVID ALLAN ON SMART CITIES THROUGH THE BACKDOOR BECAUSE OF CORONA. THE CHANGE WAS DISRUPTIVE, THE SURVIVING GEOGRAPHY OF LONDON HAS CHANGED AND THE LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOODS HAVE BEEN THRIVING

In a discussion moderated by Ahmed El-Dorghamy, Basic Services and Climate Change Officer at UN-HABITAT, the panelists had a dynamic conversation on the potential and challenges of E-mobility. Starting with their vision of the future of mobility in Egypt, delving into infrastructure, electric vehicles, mass transport and the informal transport sector, regulations and tariffs, integration, and finally smart cities.

David Allan, Associate Director for Sustainable Infrastructure at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), spoke on the support the EBRD is providing to the mobility and transportation sector on the different levels, including financing and regulatory support. David Allan highlighted how using a “No-regrets” approach to design in new cities, where everything is planned in advance taking into consideration several potential scenarios, allowing for factoring in the infrastructure for integrated mobility systems. Their main advice was to: Start now and start small. The system does not have to be completely changed overnight, rather working on the capacity building and development of the value chain, are the way forward to prepare for the future.

While cars are usually at the center of the discussion of e-mobility, when talking about the initiatives, the conversation was naturally steered towards the mass and public transport sectors. This was then taken forward by Abdelrahman Hegazi, Co-Founder and Research Associate at Transport for Cairo and Ahmad Sami, Business Development Manager at Siemens Mobility. Abdelrahman Hegazi pointed out the very vital role played by the informal transport sector in Egypt, and how essential it is to investigate the potential of retrofitting for the electrification of the existing fleet, as well as raising the question on the accessibility of opportunities and services to vulnerable and marginalized groups.

AHMAD SAMI HIGHLIGHTED HOW A FULLY ELECTRIFIED LARGE-SCALE RAIL SYSTEM CAN CUT THE EMISSIONS BY 70%, IN COMPARISON TO THE CURRENT SYSTEM.

In addition to how integration and alignment between the different transport sectors can materialize through well-established networks in each of the sectors individually with the support of software and hardware solutions, which can transform a simple model to a fully smart electrified model for the Greater Cairo Region.

Redirecting the conversation back to Electric Vehicles, Ahmed El-Araby, Technical Manager of Infinity EV, provided details on the growing EV charging infrastructure in Egypt, as well as the regulatory context. To date, all EV charging has been at no cost to the consumers, however, a draft proposal for the executive regulations and tariffs has been recently finalized and is due to be issued within weeks. Moreover, the state-owned car manufacturer “El-Nasr” is planning to roll out the first batch of locally produced EVs by mid-2022, with over half its production aimed for taxis and other ride sharing services.

In closing, the panel agreed that before being smart, cities should assess and integrate the different levels of livability, and that e-mobility can play a role in obtaining that, as part of a more holistic approach, where each sector and market player adds a piece to the puzzle.

AHMAD SAMI

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER
SIEMENS MOBILITY L.L.C

Ahmad Sami is managing the business development responsibilities for Siemens Mobility Egypt since early 2020; during this period Siemens Mobility successfully reached the momentous milestone of signing the contract of Egypt's first High-speed electric rail system, in addition to signing Egypt's first ITS solution in Cairo Festival City by our UNEX Traffic (A Siemens Business). He joined Siemens Mobility in 2017 with the role of Project Operations Manager. He previously worked for Lafarge for more than 10 years, as well as for Orascom.

DAVID ALLAN

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
SUSTAINABLE
INFRASTRUCTURE
EUROPEAN BANK FOR
RECONSTRUCTION AND
DEVELOPMENT (EBRD)

David Allan is a leading practitioner in the sustainable infrastructure space, leading transactions and policy dialogue initiatives across both the public and private sector. After working in technical consulting in the transport field and a commercial bank, he joined EBRD in 2012 as part of the Bank's expansion into MENA, and is currently responsible for the Bank's municipal infrastructure business in Egypt.

AHMED ELARABY

TECHNICAL MANAGER
INFINITY EV

ELAraby has joined Infinity in October 2017 in the Solar Division as an Electrical Engineer. In 2018, ELAraby managed to take one step further in the company by moving to the EV division where together with the team was able to expand the footprint of the EV division in the market. As of January 2019, he was able to take a higher position as the Technical Manager responsible for all technical matters in the company. He has been involved in securing key partnerships for the company as well as building the EV network across Egypt, with the first station opening in March 2019. ELAraby was born in Egypt and graduated with a BSC in Mechatronics engineering from GUC [German University in Cairo].

Abdelrahman is an applied urban research professional with a diverse background over architecture, urban planning, geo-informatics and social sciences. He has more than 5 years of experience in the field of applied urban studies and informatics. Since 2014, he has worked on projects in the fields of regional planning, housing, transportation governance and planning, including a research project on the potentials of minibus electrification in Cairo, Nairobi and Cape Town. In 2015, Abdelrahman helped founding Transport for Cairo (TfC) where he currently work as a consultant. TfC is an action research lab re-imagining transportation networks in Africa to improve mobility".

ABDELRAHMAN HEGAZY

CO-FOUNDER & RESEARCH
ASSOCIATE
TRANSPORT FOR CAIRO

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Cairo Climate Talks are conceived, organized and hosted as a cooperation between the German Embassy in Cairo, the Egyptian Ministry of Environment, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ).



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