

An Innovative Public-Private Partnership on Digital Education and Training Strategic Alliance between the German Development Cooperation and Orange with the Establishment of Orange Digital Centre (ODC)

14th of April 2021 - Cairo, Egypt

Dr. Cyrill Jean Nunn, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in Egypt and Eng. Yasser Shaker Chief Executive Officer at Orange Egypt met to kick off the Strategic Alliance between the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Orange Egypt on Digital Education and Training.

The Alliance aims at establishing Orange Digital Centre (ODC) –a state-of-the-art training hub established for demand-driven digital education trainings in Egypt. The ODC is a joint cooperation of the develoPPP.de programme, which GIZ implements on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Dr. Nunn noted that, “Contributing to Digital Egypt is a top priority on the agenda of the long-standing cooperation between Germany and Egypt. We are proud that the Alliance between GIZ and Orange helps build the future of many ambitious Egyptian youth through empowering them with needed digital skills that would enable them to find jobs and support their start-ups.”

In the same context, Eng. Shaker commented on this cooperation, saying, “We are honored to be the first mobile operator in Egypt to inaugurate a digital centre for digital education and training in Egypt, which will be a strong addition to Orange’s journey that started years ago in supporting and empowering entrepreneurs, and small emerging companies”.

Eng. Shaker also said “Today we are laying the foundation for one of the most important projects in Orange Corporate Social Responsibility history through our cooperation with “GIZ”. This cooperation is considered a new cornerstone in supporting projects and ideas of creative youth. It represents a starting point and the beginning of a new era in working with those who are passionate about their ideas and their work.”

Planned to be officially inaugurated in the second half of the year, the ODC will be offering to Egyptian youth, free trainings, coaching and mentoring services to raise their job-related digital skills and to enhance their employability, as well as to encourage their entrepreneurial readiness and abilities.

Specifically, the Orange Digital Centre brings together in one place, a coding school, a hardware fabrication lab, and a start-up accelerator, thus offering an all-inclusive set of services supporting youth and entrepreneurship from training and technological incubation to start-up support, start-up acceleration and access to investment.

This Alliance offers an innovative public-private partnership model in lieu of the Egyptian Government’s current keen and continuous efforts to build Digital Egypt under the umbrella of Egypt’s ICT 2030 strategy as well as the Sustainable Development Strategy “Egypt Vision 2030.”

Orange is one of the world's leading telecommunications operators with sales of 42.3 billion euros in 2020 and 142,000 employees worldwide at 31 December 2020, including 82,000 employees in France. The Group has a total customer base of 259 million customers worldwide at 31 December 2020, including 214 million mobile customers and 22 million fixed broadband customers. The Group is present in 26 countries. Orange is also a leading provider of global IT and telecommunication services to multinational companies, under the brand Orange Business Services. In December 2019, the Group presented its new "Engage 2025" strategic plan, which, guided by social and environmental accountability, aims to reinvent its operator model. While accelerating in growth areas and placing data and AI at the heart of its innovation model, the Group will be an attractive and responsible employer, adapted to emerging professions.

The partnership between GIZ and Orange encompasses 14 countries: Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Egypt, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Jordan, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, Leone and Tunisia.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a service provider in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. Operating in Egypt since 1956, GIZ provides technical expertise, develops capacities and delivers effective solutions in close partnership with local governmental and non-governmental organisations. GIZ supports Egypt in its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030 and to create better social and economic prospects for the Egyptian people.

The **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** has set up the **develoPPP.de programme** to foster the involvement of the private sector at the point where business opportunities and development policy initiatives overlap. To this end, BMZ offers financial and technical support for companies that want to do business or have already begun operating in developing and emerging-market countries. GIZ acts as one of two official partners who implement the programme on behalf of BMZ. www.developppp.de