



Khaled El-Enany



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Khaled Ahmed El-Enany Ali Ezz, born in 1971, is a leading figure recognized for his expertise and commitment in a variety of fields, including management, public service, teaching, research, culture, tourism, sustainable development and international relations. A former Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, he is now Professor of Egyptology at the University of Helwan, where he joined the teaching staff over thirty years ago. His teaching, focused on ancient Egyptian civilization, archaeology and epigraphy, is delivered not only in Egypt, but also at internationally renowned institutions. His role as mentor has enabled thousands of students and researchers, both Egyptian and foreigners, to benefit from his in-depth knowledge and experience in the field.

He holds a PhD in Egyptology from the Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3 in France, and between 2006 and 2023 was appointed eight times as Visiting Professor at the same university. For some fifteen years, he was also involved with the Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale du Caire (IFAO), illustrating his contribution to scientific research as well as his dedication to training young Egyptian researchers. The scientific community has recognized and appreciated his work and the knowledge he has shared through his numerous lectures, conferences and seminars in some fifteen countries, and through more than twenty publications in scientific journals and international collections.

His influence also extends to important academic functions: Director of the Open Learning Center at Helwan University, Head of the Tourism Guidance Department and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management at the same university, he has

contributed to the development of Master's programs focusing on cultural heritage, museums and tourism, in partnership with international academic institutions. More recently, he was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the French University in Egypt, as well as other universities in Cairo, testifying to his growing influence in the fields of education and research.

After serving as head of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization and the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Khaled El Enany was appointed Minister of Antiquities in 2016, and has distinguished himself by his ability to combine scientific rigor and pragmatism in his ministerial management. In 2019, with the Ministry of Tourism added to his duties, he is personally overseeing the merger of the Ministries of Tourism and Antiquities, which had been separate entities since 1966. Under his leadership of the six authorities attached to the Ministry and with an annual budget approaching the equivalent of five hundred million US dollars, Khaled El-Enany has successfully mobilized funds, secured sponsorship and established fruitful partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations. He has also initiated important legislative reforms aimed at strengthening the protection and management of cultural heritage and museums, while stimulating the growth of the tourism industry and securing substantial new resources for the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage, museums and tourism promotion. Heading a team of thirty-five thousand employees, he has overseen the management of over two thousand archaeological sites, more than forty museums and thousands of hotels and private tourist establishments, affecting more than a million people working in the tourism industry.

During his ministerial term, he contributed to the construction and the renovation of more than twenty museums in various governorates, including the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, in collaboration with UNESCO. In addition, Professor El-Enany has overseen the significant progress and achievements of the Grand Egyptian Museum project, one of the world's largest museums at a cost of around one billion US dollars.

Over fifty restoration projects have been carried out on archaeological sites, monuments, palaces and historic religious buildings, such as the Al-Azhar mosque, Coptic churches and monasteries along the "Journey of the Holy Family", and Jewish monuments such as the Eliahu Hanavi synagogue in Alexandria. His proactive approach has facilitated the work of over three hundred Egyptian, joint and foreign archaeological missions from twenty-five countries, leading to significant archaeological discoveries. As Chairman of the National Antiquities Repatriation Committee, thanks to his brilliant diplomacy and outstanding leadership, he organized the repatriation of thousands of Egyptian cultural objects from over twenty countries.

With the aim of strengthening intercultural exchanges as vectors of peace, Professor El-Enany has successfully orchestrated nearly fifteen temporary exhibitions of Egyptian antiquities in ten countries. His tireless efforts have helped to promote Egyptian civilization on a global scale, as witnessed by the large-scale cultural events he has orchestrated, such as the spectacular ceremony "Luxor: Avenue of the Sphinxes", and above all the procession of royal mummies that lit up the streets of Cairo during the "Pharaohs' Golden Parade". This parade remains one of the emblems of Khaled El-Enany's time at the head of the Ministry

of Tourism and Antiquities. These ground-breaking initiatives celebrated the depth of Egypt's heritage, captivating audiences around the world and raising international awareness of the country's multifaceted cultural treasures, which had an exceptional impact on tourism in Egypt. Likewise, they have contributed to an unprecedented level of awareness among Egyptians, especially younger ones, as confirmed by the increased number of local visitors to archaeological sites and museums.

Convinced of the fundamental principles of human rights, he has always worked for inclusive policies, promoting equal opportunities for all to explore and appreciate the rich cultural heritage by making it more accessible to Egyptian children, the elderly and those with disabilities. Intensive training and awareness-raising programs for children and young people were regularly organized at archaeological sites, museums, tourist destinations and schools. He also stepped up capacity-building programs for the staff of the Ministry, tourist establishments and local communities, while prioritizing gender equality.

Khaled El-Enany also distinguished himself through his remarkable crisis management skills, with the emergence of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine. Quickly and effectively, he implemented strict health and public safety protocols. Similarly, thanks to the Minister's unstinting support, seventeen thousand of Ukrainian tourists stranded in Egypt also benefited from exemplary assistance until their return to Europe. Professor El-Enany's implementation of effective mitigation strategies during these two crises enabled a wide range of support and social protection to be provided to the tourism sector and its employees, promoting a rapid and solid recovery of tourism in Egypt since the summer season of 2022.

Khaled El-Enany was named Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters from France in 2015, honored with the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland in 2020, and awarded the Order of the Rising Sun by Japan in 2021. In September 2024, he received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3. In November 2024, he was chosen Special Ambassador for Cultural Tourism by UN Tourism and, more recently, designated Patron of the African World Heritage Fund. In September 2025, he received the insignia of Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honor, France's highest civilian decoration.

His candidacy for the post of Director-General of UNESCO, declared by Egypt in 2023, was endorsed by the African Union and the League of Arab States in 2024.

He was nominated by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 222nd session on the 6th of October for the post of Director-general of UNESCO.

His mastery of Arabic, French and English testifies to his communication skills, a major asset in fostering international cooperation.

He is married with one son.