

Narrative Report

the First workshop from 22nd to 24th April 2009

1- Participants

The workshop was held under the name "Media and People's image" in Summer resort of Ain Sokhana, and attended by 25 journalists, representing all media outlets in Egypt; governmental, independent and party papers in addition to websites and Religious TV satellite channels. The participants were divided as follows:

- 7 Christians, 18 Muslims
- 12 women, 13 men
- Two participants represented a well-known Islam online website, one participant represented official Coptic TV channel, while two participants represented the Coptic Newspaper Watani.

2- Schedule

The workshop started with three lectures made by famous intellectuals and media persons: Mr. Sayed Yassin, the Advisor of Ahram Strategic Center, Mr. Saad Hagrus, a prominent writer, and Mr. Hasham Gafar, the chief editor of Islam online website. Mr. Samir Marcos prepared a training manual and train the participants on how media represents citizenship values for two days.

3- Thoughts and Ideas

The workshop discussed many important issues such as; professionalism and media coverage of Muslim-Christian relationships in Egypt, moral responsibility of media during religious tensions, democracy and citizenship in media, and how media creates false images about citizens who are different in religion, gender and social status.

During the training course, attendants learned how to:

- use objective language to reflect citizenship rights of different groups.
- Prepare media "messages" to enhance citizenship in society (articles, reports, TV programs, etc)
- Understand citizenship in its various dimensions; political, economic, and social.
- Participants spent time preparing some materials to use in their work.

4- Media Coverage

The workshop was extensively covered by different newspapers in articles, news and reports. The coverage focused on the role of media in building peaceful co-existence between Muslims and Christians in Egypt, and how this mission is a part of moral responsibility of media in modern state.