

**ABOUT  
FREEDOM 250:  
THE FULBRIGHT REGIONAL  
ALUMNI CONFERENCE, EGYPT  
2026**



# ABOUT FREEDOM 250: THE FULBRIGHT REGIONAL ALUMNI CONFERENCE, EGYPT 2026

The 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence marks a historic milestone and a unique opportunity to reflect on America’s global educational, professional, and cultural partnerships and their role in fostering mutual understanding, professional collaboration, and economic prosperity. The 2026 Fulbright Regional Alumni Conference engages Fulbright alumni from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to highlight the enduring impact of U.S. educational and cultural exchange programs in the region, while focusing on crafting the next chapter of U.S. engagement with partners and friends in the Arab World. The conference is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and is hosted by the Binational Fulbright Commission in Egypt (BFCE), which is the oldest and largest Fulbright program in the MENA region, in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Cairo. It includes participation by alumni from over 10 Arab countries through Fulbright programs administered by Amideast, Washington D.C.

The conference is entitled “Education, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship in the Age of AI,” and includes alumni presentations discussing themes of education and economic prosperity in the digital age and showcasing the impact of America’s investment over 76 years — beginning with the establishment of the first MENA Fulbright Program in Egypt — in training local talent in the region. The panel discussions include a variety of insights and lessons learned from Arab alumni who have studied and trained in the United States and got exposed to American advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and are now applying these experiences and integrating American AI technology and tools in their work in their home countries and on the MENA region. The topics tackled include: Education, Scientific Research and Innovation; Entrepreneurship, Business, and Economic Growth; AI, Technology, and Digital Transformation; as well as other topics that approach AI from a multidisciplinary perspective. The alumni presentations engage with AI on multiple levels — its application and practical use to support advancements in scientific research, education, and business, as well as the frameworks and ethical and governance strategies necessary for responsible AI. They also help in fostering a forward-looking understanding of how future cooperation in the field of AI may look like between the United States and the MENA region countries.



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Together, these talks help us uncover the tremendous potential of American AI technology as a catalyst for development and highlight its expansive transnational impact across the different sectors. The participants in this conference symbolize the growing robust network and legacy of American exchange programs in the MENA region and amplify the voices of U.S. trained Arab alumni. MENA Fulbright alumni, the Fulbright Program, the BFCE, the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and Amideast are coming together in Cairo to commemorate Freedom 250 and America's 250th birthday, celebrate shared achievements, and reinforce commitment to common goals of strength, security, and prosperity.

