

المصطلحات التقنية للعالم العربي
جزء اللغوية تعيق التنمية

علوم العالم بأجمعه

المصطلحات التقنية للعالم العربي

قاموس المصطلحات التقنية للعالم العربي

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Knowledge of the World

A technical dictionary for the Arab world

Arabic – German – English – French



On behalf of
Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



GOETHE-INSTITUT

Language barriers inhibit development

Access to knowledge of the world is the prerequisite for sustainable development. Young people in the Arab world face huge obstacles in gaining access to such knowledge.

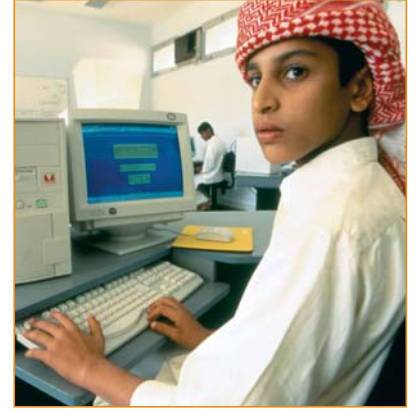
Access to knowledge of the world is the prerequisite for sustainable development.

A significant hurdle is the language barrier between the Arab world and the industrialised nations to the north that generate the majority of

technical innovations. Many companies only publish their manuals or provide user interfaces for electronic devices in English. Because of this, it is imperative for most experts to attain a basic knowledge of technical English terminology.

However, this is complicated even more by the lack of clarity regarding the correct Arabic equivalent for numerous technical terms. Given the diversity of the many spoken dialects in the region, there is often no distinct or standard term for technological innovations. Often, the lack of specific technical terms in Arabic can be particularly felt in everyday business matters. It is not uncommon for Arabs from different countries in the region to be forced to use a third language in order to communicate in technical dialogue.

Even at many universities in the Middle East and North Africa much of the teaching material for engineering is only available in either English or French as there are no Arabic translations. Students are often given texts in English or French while receiving instruction in Arabic during class time. This ultimately contributes to a reduced level of employability for many young Arabs.



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التنمية المستدامة

The objective is to improve access to global knowledge

The Arab Human Development Report of 2004, which featured contributions from numerous researchers from the region, called for an increased effort in building a modern Arab knowledge society. The authors call for introducing modern information technologies and the Arabisation of imported knowledge. This 'enables young minds to develop firm critical and creative capacity in their own language and to assimilate the rising volume of scientific knowledge'.

Drawing on these demands, the project for creating a multilingual technical dictionary was initiated. It was commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is implemented by GTZ together with the Goethe-Institut in Cairo and Arab partners. Appearing in twenty volumes, the dictionary will provide the basis for the standard translation of textbooks, curricula and technical handbooks. It will offer young Arabs in training or studying at a university, from Morocco to the Persian Gulf, a quick reference aid for the many language problems that arise.

Who can afford a twenty-volume technical dictionary?

Whoever has access to the internet, as the dictionary will be made available to all users at no cost. Simply enter the search term and click. In addition to glossary lists in German, English and French, a translation in Classical Arabic is provided along with a short definition and illustration of the term. In an adjacent column, examples are given of terms that are more commonly used in various Arab countries. An interactive discussion forum offers each user the opportunity to exchange ideas on language problems within the various disciplines as well as provide additional comments or more detailed definitions. A team of specialists will be created for each discipline and will regularly moderate the entries and update the database.

Making a contribution to Arab-German understanding

German-Arab partnerships in the education and university sector have intensified in recent years. The opening of the German University of Cairo and the German-Jordanian University of Amman are just two examples of the roughly eighty cooperation arrangements between German and Arab universities. However, an up-to-date Arabic-German technical dictionary still does not exist. The project will help to close this gap and aid partners in learning the language.

When will the dictionary be available?

The first two volumes on automotive engineering and the water sector, respectively, are to be completed by 2010 and will be made available on the internet. By 2015 the technical dictionary will successively be expanded by eighteen additional volumes, covering a wide range of fields such as energy and environment, transport, construction, information technology, finance and law.

How can I find out about it?

In future, an electronic newsletter will be sent out periodically with news about the dictionary. Those interested can receive regular updates on the project's progress and notification of access to new volumes.

Please send an email to:
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Additional information is available upon request.

للتنمية المستدامة علم العالم بأجمعه قاموس المصطلحات التقنية للعالم العربي

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