

SCRIPT: "RISE's Path: Saves The Waste"

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Tuesday, December 13, 2016

This documentary reveals the history and objective of Research Institute for a Sustainable Environment (RISE) in the American University in Cairo (AUC). Founded in 2013, RISE positively impacts not only AUC and Egypt but also the Middle East and North Africa as a whole. The institution provides awareness to the entire Arab region and opportunity for AUC students to get involved in understanding and enhancing the environment. RISE generally encourages serious sustainability in a diversity of environments through crucial research and training programs.

*SFX: FADE IN: Nature Ambiance*

*SFX: FADE OUT: Nature Ambiance*

*MUSIC: FADE IN: Slow Motion by bensound.com (0-1:45 secs from the start of the song)*

ANNC: RISE stands for Research Institute for a sustainable environment. It has been developed by the American University in Cairo to provide better living opportunities for both rural and urban communities in sustainable development. Through applied research, education and training programs, the institute improves the environment and raises awareness around AUC, Egypt and the entire Arab region. (:28)

Karen Purinton (KP): *"You can't talk about RISE without talking about its predecessor the DDC, the Desert Development Center that was founded in the 70's."* (:09)

ANNC: That was Karen Purinton, the Program Coordinator Manager of RISE and she's absolutely correct. RISE is actually an expansion of an older center called the DDC, the Desert

Development Center. The DDC concentrated on natural resource management, water conservation, irrigation systems, and renewable energy. Director of RISE, Richard Tutwiler, elaborates a little bit. (:28)

Richard Tutwiler (RT): *“The DDC as the name would imply focused mainly on desert environments, and the idea was to promote sustainable development in Egypt’s deserts particularly agricultural projects.”* (:12)

*SFX: FADE IN: Builders Drilling*

*SFX: FADE OUT: Builders Drilling*

ANNC: Even though it was a decent training and learning system for desert farming, The DDC faced some complications. (:08)

RT: *“Things began to change because originally we had from the government a lease on our research stations for 30 years and in 2009 those leases at least expired so after prolonged negotiations university decided it was not possible to continue because the government was essentially asking for more rent than we could afford to pay.”* (:19)

*MUSIC: FADE OUT: Slow Motion by bensound.com*

*MUSIC: FADE IN: Epic by bensound.com (0-1:29 secs from the start of the song)*

ANNC: So the university took a different approach and created a center that has a broader reach. (:05)

*SFX: FADE IN: Tractor Digging*

KP: *“Out of that history, we have RISE, which started in 2013.”* (:06)

RT: *“The university decided that they would actually prefer to close the DDC put it to rest, but to transform it and to change it into something new that would not only be a reinvention and build on a legacy of the DDC but would broaden the mission and scope to encompass natural resource management in many different environments not just the desert.”* (:29)

KP: *“Now we’re reaching out more into application in solar energy and using solar energy to provide electricity for things like drinking water filtration in rural areas and providing electricity in areas where it’s either very um inconsistent, maybe just a couple of hours a day.”* (:20)

*SFX: FADE OUT: Tractor Digging*

ANNC: RISE meets basic needs that should be naturally given in today's century. (:05)

KP: *"And to provide that for these communities to have drinking water filtration, or to be able to charge their phones, or to be able to uh operate irrigation bumps."* (:12)

ANNC: The institute also offers a newer development in urban green spaces and implements rooftop gardens. (:08)

KP: *"We have a lot of rooftops in Egypt and most of them are covered with garbage or just other things and wonderful flat rooftops that get lots of sun, they're the perfect place to grow vegetables for the families that live in the building."* (:18)

*MUSIC: FADE OUT: Epic by bensound.com*

*MUSIC: FADE IN: Memories by bensound.com (0-1:22 secs from the start of the song)*

ANNC: *Besides its accomplishments outside the AUC, RISE makes a major difference inside the university campus as well. From AUC Carpooling, recycling stations to Sustainable Campus Day, Earth Week and Community Day.* (:14)

*SFX: FADE IN: Crowds of Students*

*SFX: FADE OUT: Crowds of Students*

ANNC: Although RISE has a staff of around 35 researchers and technicians, it also has a significant amount of student involvement in what it does, both on campus and off campus. (:12)

KP: *"We are often approached by students in coordinating on their own projects and we have done several programs where we coordinate with some faculty and the students participate in hands down projects at our facilities."* (:19)

ANNC: Mayar Rahmy, an undeclared student, shares her experience.

Mayar Rahmy: *"We had a project where we went there every Tuesday, we tried different types of crops with different types of water, like tap water and yeah fish water, tap water and fish*

*water so we wanted to see which like fertilizer, which crop, which water, which combination like result, like make the plant grow faster, we measured the plant every week.” (:24)*

*SFX: FADE IN: Rain*

*SFX: FADE OUT: Rain*

*KP: “And so we have students doing things like, projects where they are doing soil trials with rooftop gardens, testing out three different soil types, which one works the best, which one doesn't, we had some engineering students that were testing our irrigation system and seeing which one operates the most efficiently so we have coordination on those types of things.” (:30)*

*MUSIC: FADE OUT: Memories by bensound.com*

*MUSIC: FADE IN: Moose by bensound.com (0-15 secs from the start of the song)*

*MUSIC: FADE OUT: Moose by bensound.com*

*MUSIC: FADE IN: Piano Moment by bensound.com (0-1:24 from the start of the song)*

*ANNC: RISE's main objective is to empower communities to manage their natural resources by considering the human side of the issues rather than depending on technology. With enough support, the institute has the power to upgrade the environment of Egypt and the Arab region to a whole new level. (:18)*

*KP: “What our focus on is kind of empowering people and communities to manage their natural resources and to do this is through education, raising awareness, helping people learn, context sensitive solutions to how they manage these things.” (:27)*

This audio documentary was produced by Sama El Feky for the Audio Production course at the American University in Cairo taught by Professor Kim Fox in Fall 2016. Special thanks to my interviewees, Richard Tutwiler, Karen Purinton and Mayar Rahmy. The songs used in this documentary are Slow motion, Memories, Epic, Moose and Piano Moment. They are all by bensound.com. Sound effects are by soundbible.com. (:27)

*MUSIC: FADE OUT: Piano Moment by bensound.com*

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