



Risk Management and ISO 31000 in Egypt

Interview conducted for isotc262.org by
Dr. Frank Herdmann with

Dr. Mohamed Lashin, Head of the Egypt delegation to TC 262

Dr. Lashin has a PhD in human resources development and a PhD in risk management. He is executive manager with the Egypt office of ISC Global, a full scope certification body providing management system certification services. He is also a lecturer of higher education at Cairo university, a certified lead auditor in various fields and a member of the Egyptian Society for Quality and the Institute of Risk Management amongst others.

isotc262.org: *Mohamed you were the head of the Egypt delegation to the ISO/TC 262 meeting in October 2016 in Amman. Can you briefly introduce the Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality Control (EOS), your national standardization organization, please?*

Mohamed: The Egyptian Organization for Standardization and Quality Control is the only competent national body in Egypt affiliated to undertake all the relevant activities of preparing and issuing Egyptian standards, as well as the different activities in the field of quality assurance and conformity assessment for the relevant products, testing & industrial measurements. EOS aims to enhance the quality of Egyptian products to be competitive in the international and local markets along with protecting consumers and the environment. It also represents Egypt in international and regional organizations in the fields of standards, quality, measurements and testing.

isotc262.org: *Since when are you mirroring the TC 262 work in EOS and have you been to meetings of the Technical Committee before?*

Mohamed: I have been involved in the risk management field since 1985, when I joined the Egyptian Armed Forces, and through the usual responsibilities, training and practices, I gained experience in managing risks and crisis, so I decided to gain more benefits through holding a PhD degree in risk management, then I joined the ISO TC 262 in 2015.

isotc262.org: *What is the impact of risk management and in particular ISO 31000 in Egypt?*

Mohamed: The Egyptian administration has always been interested in risk management, and went through many studies and assessments, and concluded that any organization has no choice but to develop its business to compete domestically and globally. Competing globally means facing challenges of a diverse nature, various customers' cultures, different governmental regulations and laws, different business environment and practices and whether the country is a developing or a developed one. All these factors lead to the increase of risks associated with the business which eventually needs to be well managed. These risks mainly include political instability, business breaches and violations, corruption and bureaucracy, improper design, high inflation, fluctuation of currency exchange rates, work site hazards, government license permits and approvals, inability to finance the business, change of clients demands, lack of required equipment or material risks. Regarding ISO 31000, the standard has set a well-designed framework to manage risks.

isotc262.org: *Who are the key stakeholders of risk management in Egypt?*

Mohamed: Well, like any other country, risk management interests any business owner, whether this business is government, profit, or non-profit, administrative, manufacturing or services.

isotc262.org: *What are the biggest obstacles for integrating risk management in all organizational activities for managers in Egypt?*

Mohamed: The main obstacle for integrating risk management in all organizational activities is lack of awareness and knowledge, and I think it's our role to raise this awareness.

isotc262.org: *ISO 31000 quickly became one of the bestselling and most well recognized standards in ISO. What do you think about the future of the standard and how will it change to adapt to new challenges?*

Mohamed: As we highlighted earlier that risk management is facing lack of awareness and knowledge of how to integrate it in all activities, and the key solution to that is to simplify the standard to make more clear and understandable, and I think we did a very good job in simplifying and clarifying the standard in our last meeting in Amman.

isotc262.org: *Having been to the Amman Meeting, what was your experience and what advice can you give to interested parties in Egypt who want to offer their input to the work of ISO/TC 262 and who should they address?*

Mohamed: Well, risk management is not an option now, so I think that it should be included in all governmental training as a priority and all business jobs and responsibilities as a pre-requisite.

isotc262.org: **Thank you very much!**

Mohamed: I thank all ISO/TC 262 members for the experience and knowledge they gave me.