Arab Academy for Science, Technology & Maritime Transport

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Report 2024 / 2025

SDG 1

Our Aim in 2024 -2025

In order to contribute to achieving the primary goal of SDG 1: eradicating poverty in all its forms everywhere, AASTMT intensified its efforts during the academic year 2024–2025 to expand equitable access to quality education. The Academy provided comprehensive financial assistance to over 10,490 students, expanded international and refugee scholarship pathways, fostered youth entrepreneurship and start-up financing, and delivered targeted vocational and community outreach programmes aimed at reducing economic vulnerability and uplifting low-income populations.

THE Impact Ranking Scores 2023-2024

THE IMPACT RANKINGS



SDG 1

NO POVERTY



Overview

As a specialized regional organization of the League of Arab States, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) is dedicated to fighting poverty (SDG 1). We believe that education, job skills, and business support are the best ways to help young people and families build a stable income.

During the 2024–2025 academic year, AASTMT supported low-income students, refugees, and underserved communities across Egypt and the Arab-African region. Every semester, the Deanship of Student Affairs (Student Support & Expatriates Department) works with Financial Affairs and Admissions to review student hardship cases—such as family income reports, medical records, or loss of a parent—before the Social Support Committee and the President of AASTMT approve final aid.

Key Milestones in 2024-2025

1. Bottom-Quintile Admission Target (10%–15% Semester Benchmark)

AASTMT reserves 10% to 15% of newly admitted seats each semester for bottom-financial-quintile and low-income applicants. Applicants submit official income, social-solidarity, or refugee documentation, which a joint committee from Student Affairs, Admissions and Registration, and Financial Affairs audits prior to registration to match confirmed students with tuition waivers, sponsorships, housing, and meal subsidies.

2. Cohort Retention, Completion & the *Students First* Initiative

During 2024–2025, AASTMT recorded 10,846 total graduates across all campuses. Within the tracked cohort of 10,498 financial-aid recipients, 525 students graduated in 2024–2025 and 9,973 students remained actively enrolled in good standing. Under the flagship *Students First* initiative, faculty advisors monitor mid-semester progress against the 2.40 GPA benchmark, arrange peer tutoring, and coordinate with Student Affairs to resolve non-academic barriers.

-**Academic Continuity & Renewal Rules:** Recipients of recurring merit and social waivers must maintain a 2.40 GPA minimum, carry a standard full-time credit load, maintain a clean disciplinary record, and submit updated original documentation annually. Students facing sudden household income loss or medical crises are reviewed confidentially for mid-year tier upgrades.

3. Support for Students from Low-Income, Lower-Middle-Income & Conflict-Affected Countries

In 2024–2025, AASTMT administered externally sponsored scholarships—alongside internal fee waivers and Egyptian-rate parity—for students from Sudan, Palestine, Yemen, Syria, Somalia, Djibouti, Comoros, Mauritania, Eritrea, Chad, Nigeria, and Tanzania, co-administered with the League of Arab States, African Union, Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD), and accredited embassies. Displaced students receive flexible credit transfers, expedited placement exams, fee deferrals, and Arabic/English academic bridging.

4. Entrepreneurship Milestones: Spin-offs & Start-up Capital Mobilized

Through the AAST Entrepreneurship Center (AASTEC), AASTMT formalized 23 university spin-off ventures across logistics, agri-tech, clean energy, fintech, and health-tech, and mobilized over EGP 29 million in co-financed start-up capital alongside direct seed prizes for 45 youth projects.

Funding Partner / Program	Committed Capital	Target Beneficiaries & Financial Mechanism
National Bank of Egypt (NBE)	**EGP 8,000,000** (2024)	Seed grants, incubation services, and pre-commercialization financing for youth-led technology and industrial start-ups across Egyptian governorates.
USAID / Business Egypt	**EGP 8,000,000**	Accelerator grants, business-development services, and market-access linkages for high-growth small and medium enterprises (SMEs).
Plan International Egypt	**EGP 4,000,000** (2024) **EGP 6,500,000** (2025)	Dedicated entrepreneurship seed funding and livelihood grants empowering underserved youth and women-led micro-enterprises (totaling EGP 10.5M across 2024–2025).
Obeikan Investment Group	**EGP 2,500,000**	Co-investment, supply-chain mentorship, and prototype validation funding under the *Supply Chain Accelerator*.
MSMEDA — *Ready for Tomorrow*	Cash prizes for **45 projects**	Direct non-dilutive seed prizes, feasibility training, and formal enterprise licensing delivered with the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency.

Community Engagement

1. Charity & Foundation Scholarship Partners

AASTMT teams up with leading Egyptian and international charities so money never stops a talented student from studying. Key partners include Misr El-Kheir Foundation, Sawiris Foundation for Social Development, Abu El-Enein Foundation, Children's Cancer Hospital Foundation (57357), Agricultural Bank of Egypt (Matrouh), Ezz Steel, Institute of International Education (IIE), the League of Arab States, UN ESCWA, and the African Union.

2. Refugee & Displaced Youth Job Training

- **Caritas Egypt & ILO Partnership:** Under our April 2024 cooperation agreement, the Industry Service Complex ran five ILO-funded courses in small-business digital transformation (graduating 60 trainees between Feb and Apr 2025), Caritas Austria-funded car repair diagnostics courses, EU-funded solar energy workshops, and factory electrical maintenance courses for Sudanese refugees.
- **UNHCR Livelihoods Program:** Following our June 2024 agreement with UNHCR, AASTMT launched a technical training program targeting 280 refugees in electrical work, mechanics, refrigeration, and air conditioning. Students from the College of Language and Communication (CLC) also led digital media and marketing workshops at UNHCR headquarters.

3. Healthcare Convoys, Charity Drives & Public Discounts

- **El-Hamam City Medical Convoy (Dec 2024):** Students and professors from the Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy (El Alamein Campus) teamed up with the Ministry of Social Solidarity to provide free checkups across medical specialties and free medicines to local residents.
- **CLC Ramadan Food Drive (Feb 2025):** Faculty and students at the College of Language and Communication (Smart Village) packed and delivered Ramadan food boxes directly to underprivileged families.
- **Affordable Public Courses & Industry Links:** The Community Service and Continuing Education Sector kept discounts above 50% on career training courses for low-income learners. AASTMT also worked with 18+ universities, the Ministry of Housing, Etisalat Misr, and Smart Factory to expand practical training.

Events

In 2024–2025, AASTMT hosted flagship scholarship ceremonies, national entrepreneurship competitions, accelerator demo days, and international showcases connecting underserved youth with funding and markets.

AASTMT Scholarships for “Thanaweya Amma Top Distinguished Students” — 15 August 2024

On 14 August 2024, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) hosted Egypt’s top-performing Thanaweya Amma students from the 2024 cohort at its Alamein Campus. During an introductory session attended by AASTMT President Prof. Dr. Ismail Abdel Ghafar Ismail Farag and Academy officials, the President announced scholarships for outstanding students across AASTMT colleges and campuses throughout Egypt.



Automotive Diagnostics Training Group at the Industry Service Complex Workshops in Collaboration with Caritas Egypt Sponsored by Caritas Austria

On April 22, 2025, AASTMT Industry Service Complex in collaboration with Caritas Egypt, sponsored by a grant from Caritas Austria delivered hands-on technical training in automotive fault diagnostics for a second cohort of trainees from vulnerable and displaced communities, equipping participants with certified, market-ready mechanical engineering skills for immediate employability.



AASTMT–ASRT Partnership to Promote Entrepreneurship and Innovation for Poverty Reduction

In July 2024, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, and technological start-ups through business incubators, accelerators, and specialized training programs. This strategic partnership aims to empower young entrepreneurs and researchers with the resources,

mentorship, and technical support needed to transform innovative ideas into viable economic enterprises.



AASTMT–ASRT Memorandum of Understanding to Support Entrepreneurs and Technological Projects

In July 2024 AASTMT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) to enhance cooperation in supporting entrepreneurs and technological projects. The agreement establishes a framework for collaboration between the two institutions, including cooperation involving entrepreneurship programmes and initiatives. This partnership is relevant to local start-up assistance because it provides an institutional basis for strengthening entrepreneurship, innovation and the development of technology-based ventures.



Obeikan Company and AASTMT Collaboration to Support Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Industrial Sector

On 21 March 2025, AASTMT and Obeikan Company announced the continuation of their collaboration to support innovation and entrepreneurship in the industrial sector. The announcement highlights knowledge exchange, mentorship, capacity-building and stronger connections between entrepreneurs and the industrial ecosystem. The collaboration aims to help innovators understand industry needs and develop practical solutions with greater potential for market readiness.

AASTMT Supply Chain Accelerator Demo Day

On 3 July 2024, the AAST Supply Chain Accelerator Demo Day provided an opportunity for ten entrepreneurs to present their companies and demonstrate their progress through the accelerator. The participating start-ups included Nowlun, Pharmapill, Coinix, Fuelin, Tawredaat, Super Be, Ecomilez, Wfrley, Tatbeek and Garrar. The event also included networking opportunities connecting entrepreneurs with other participants in the supply-chain and logistics ecosystem.



“Ready for Tomorrow” – Rally Egypt 2024 Competition Training Bootcamp

During 9–10 August 2024, the Rally Egypt 2024 “Ready for Tomorrow” training bootcamp brought together more than 150 student entrepreneurs with innovative business ideas. The programme provided training in business-plan development, securing funding, pitching ideas to potential investors and using AI technologies for digital-marketing strategies. The announcement acknowledges the support of Plan International and the National Bank of Egypt as Rally Egypt’s strategic partner.



Rally Startup Festival 2024 – Closing Event

On 12 September 2024, the Rally Startup Festival 2024 brought together start-ups, students, investors, mentors and organisations within Egypt’s entrepreneurship ecosystem. The closing-event announcement describes entrepreneurs pitching business ideas, students presenting their work and participants engaging in discussions and networking. These activities provide opportunities for entrepreneurial visibility, exchange of knowledge and connections with the wider start-up community.



Rally Society 2025 Bootcamp: Student Innovators from more than 35 Universities

On 18 February 2025, AASTMT's Entrepreneurship Center hosted the Rally Society 2025 Bootcamp, a two-day event bringing together members of the Rally Society from more than 35 universities across Egypt. Participants engaged in interactive workshops, expert-led training, mentorship and team-building activities. The bootcamp focused on start-up development, innovation management, business-model design, leadership, pitching and problem-solving.

The programme provided an opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs to strengthen their business-development skills, exchange knowledge and establish connections with peers and entrepreneurship mentors.



Final Day of the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Course in Collaboration with Caritas Egypt

On 2 March 2025, AASTMT's Industry Service Complex completed the first Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) training course in collaboration with Caritas Egypt, supported by a grant from the International Labour Organization (ILO). The initiative contributes to strengthening entrepreneurial and business-development skills and supporting the development of sustainable small enterprises.



Activation of the MoU between AASTMT and Caritas Egypt

On 29 April 2025, under its cooperation agreement with Caritas Egypt, AASTMT's Industry Service Complex implemented five training courses between February and April 2025, benefiting 60 trainees. The Digital Transformation Programme for SMEs was funded through an ILO grant and aimed to strengthen the digital capabilities of small and medium-sized enterprises, supporting their competitiveness and sustainability.



AASTMT – UNHCR: Vocational Training

Following the agreement signed in June 2024 between the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Academy's Industry Service Complex, through its Technical and Vocational Studies Institute, undertook the implementation of the *Skills Development for Livelihoods* project. The initiative was designed to expand refugees' access to practical vocational training and strengthen their capacity to pursue employment and livelihood opportunities in Egypt. The agreement established a target of training 280 refugees in technical occupations aligned with labour-market needs, including electrical and mechanical trades, refrigeration and air conditioning. Implementation relied on the Academy's specialised training facilities and technical expertise to provide opportunities for skills development and practical learning.



AASTMT–Etisalat Misr: Technical Services, Community Support and Electronic Payments

Protocol signed: 5 December 2024

AASTMT and Etisalat Misr signed a cooperation protocol to strengthen collaboration in areas of mutual interest and support the educational process through the provision of technical services to AASTMT students and academic staff. The agreement also included cooperation in community service, assistance for medical staff at university hospitals.



Launch of an Integrated Professional Diploma in Digital Transformation through a Cooperation Agreement with Smart Factor

Cooperation agreement signed: 19 May 2025. AASTMT, represented by the Dean of the Industry Service Complex, signed a cooperation agreement with Smart Factory for Industrial Projects during the Academy Advisory Council for Industry. The agreement aimed to strengthen cooperation in professional training and skills development through the launch of an integrated professional diploma in Digital Transformation. The diploma was designed to prepare industrial and administrative professionals to manage digital transformation within their organizations. Its scope includes technologies associated with the Fourth Industrial Revolution, data management, automation, artificial intelligence and systems integration. It also covers executive leadership and change management, with an emphasis on improving organizational efficiency and productivity.



Healthcare Convoys and Direct Community Aid (2024)

El-Hamam City Medical Convoy (December 2024): In partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity, the Colleges of Pharmacy and Medicine at the Alamein Campus launched a community-based medical convoy to El-Hamam City. The convoy offered comprehensive, free medical examinations across multiple specialties and dispensed essential medications free of charge to patients in need.



Upcoming Goals

Goal 1: Expand Financial and Social Support for Low-Income Students

- **Initiatives:** Expand scholarships, tuition-fee reductions, subsidized housing, meals, and transportation for economically disadvantaged students.
- **Implementation:** Strengthen coordination between Student Affairs, Financial Affairs, and external funding partners to identify eligible students and provide appropriate support.
- **Expected Results:** Improved access to higher education, reduced financial barriers, and increased student retention and academic success.

Goal 2: Promote Economic Empowerment through Skills Development and Entrepreneurship

- **Initiatives:** Expand vocational training, digital skills programmes, entrepreneurship support, and SME development opportunities for disadvantaged youth and vulnerable groups.
- **Implementation:** Strengthen partnerships with Caritas Egypt, ILO, and other development organizations, while providing practical training, mentoring, and business-development support.
- **Expected Results:** Improved employability, increased income-generation opportunities, and stronger local entrepreneurship.

Goal 3: Enhance Community-Based Poverty Alleviation

- **Initiatives:** Expand community outreach programmes, free or subsidized healthcare, food assistance, and educational support for vulnerable families.
- **Implementation:** Collaborate with NGOs, charitable organizations, healthcare providers, and local authorities to deliver targeted community services.
- **Expected Results:** Improved access to essential services, greater social inclusion, and enhanced support for disadvantaged communities.