Dr. Ahmed N. Tantawy is currently leading the development of a sustainable ecosystem that should enable Egypt to accelerate its economic growth through the advancement and use of nanotechnology. At the core of this national initiative lies the Egypt Nanotechnology Center, a leading edge R&D facility being built in Cairo with help from IBM and other specialized world-class partners.

In 2008-2009, Dr. Tantawy was Chief Technical Officer of IBM Software Group in the Growth Markets Region, where he initiated and oversaw the technical aspects of complex, innovative projects in Africa, Asia, Australia, Central & Eastern Europe, and Latin America.

As the Technical Director of IBM in the Middle East and North Africa from 2000 to 2008, he established and led numerous initiatives in the region, particularly the Global Resource Centers in Egypt. There, he built a team of 500 engineers and scientists and led them to produce over 25 inventions per year while developing products and applications for various IBM divisions and customers around the world. The Cairo Technology Development Center was among the exclusive group of global organizations that have achieved CMMI Level 5.

From 1998 to 2000, Dr. Tantawy was the Director of Advanced Technology Development for IBM Software Group in the USA. Among other activities, he managed the invention and development of secure management and distribution techniques for electronic media assets over the Internet and digital broadcast networks, with proper content protection and digital rights management.

As the Worldwide Director of Digital Media Technology in 1996 - 1997, he was responsible for the development of IBM hardware and software products and solutions for digital video-enabled applications in various areas such as security, entertainment, and healthcare.

From 1988 to 1995, Dr. Tantawy was a Research Scientist then Manager of the Multimedia Communication Systems department at the IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, New York. There, he initiated and led several projects in the areas of high bandwidth networks, interactive multimedia systems, autonomous decentralized systems, and high performance workstations.

Between 1980 and 1988, he was a University Professor and an independent consultant in the USA, France, and the Middle East. He led several projects in the areas of Factory Automation, National Health Information Infrastructure, and Satellite Data Networks. He also played a significant role in the establishment of the first College of Computing in Saudi Arabia.

The scientific contributions of Dr. Tantawy include 18 issued patents, 4 books and over 100 refereed papers. He serves on the Board of Trustees and Advisory Boards of a number of universities and research institutes in the USA, Europe, and the Middle East. He had special assignments with the US National Academy of Sciences, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. He also served as the Editor-in-Chief of a book series on High Performance Computing and Communications, an Editor of 4 scientific journals, and the General Chair of 14 international conferences.

Dr. Tantawy received his Ph.D. in Computer Engineering with highest honors from Grenoble, France in 1980. He received his B.Eng. and M.S. degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering with distinction and highest honors from Alexandria University, Egypt, in 1973 and 1976, respectively. Throughout his career he received formal training in various areas including a number of IBM corporate leadership programs, the Presidents Class of Harvard Business School (1995), and R&D Management at MIT (1999).