

# Ismail Serageldin

## **Position/Department/Division/Institution/Organization**

Founding Director Emeritus, Library of Alexandria

## **Country**

Egypt

## **Career history**

Ismail Serageldin, an Egyptian national, is the Emeritus Librarian of Alexandria and the Founding Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA), the new Library of Alexandria in Egypt, which he headed from its inauguration in 2002 to his retirement in 2017. He is advisor to the Egyptian Prime Minister in matters concerning culture, science, and museums. He has been Distinguished Professor at the College de France in Paris (2010-2011) Vice-President of the World Bank (1993-2000), and has received the Public Welfare Medal of the National Academy of Sciences (USA), as well as the Legion d'Honneur (France) and the Order of the Rising Sun (Japan). He is a member of many academies. Mr. Serageldin serves as Chair and Member of a number of advisory committees for academic, research, scientific and international institutions and civil society efforts, including as co-Chair of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center (NGIC), and serves on the Advisory Committee of the World Social Science Report for 2013 and 2016, as well as the UNESCO-supported World Water Scenarios (2013) and the executive council of the Encyclopedia of Life (2010) and Chairs the Executive Council of the World Digital Library (2010). He also co-chaired the African Union's high level panel for Biotechnology (2006) and again for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in 2012-2013, and was a member of the ICANN Panel for the review of the internet future (2013). He lectures and publishes widely.

## **Areas of expertise**

Biotechnology, rural development, sustainability, and the value of science to society. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from Cairo University and Master's degree and a PhD from Harvard University and has received over 38 honorary doctorates.