

Ismail Serageldin

Position/Department/Division/Institution/Organization

Emeritus Librarian of Alexandria,
Founding Director of the 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 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, and he was recently elected as a founding Patron of the International Science council (ISC) created in 2018 by a merger of the International Social Science Council and the ICSU (natural Sciences). 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). He has a B.Sc. from Cairo University, and a Ph.D. from Harvard University, and has received 40 Honorary Doctorates.

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.