

Moataz Ahmed approached EMRO in July as he was participating in a local competition run by the Intel Bibliotheca Alexandrina Science and Engineering Fair called Intel BASEF. This competition prepares students for participating, competing, and hopefully winning the Intel ISEF that takes place every year in the US.

The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (Intel ISEF), the world's largest international pre-college science competition, provides an annual forum for more than 1,500 high school students from 65 countries, regions, and territories to showcase their independent research as they compete for over \$4 million annually. The Intel ISEF is the premier global science

Here in Moataz's words is the whole story of his project in Intel BASEF and Intel ISEF:

The purpose of my project is addressing the Egyptian-Mau as one of the most cultural identifies for Egypt. This cat thought to be originally domesticated by Egyptians several thousand years ago

This project aims to get benefits from the Egyptian-Mau in parks to raise Egyptian tourism income, like the panda parks in China. And how could we get the ancient pure breed of the Egyptian-Mau. But what makes people in Egypt interest to save the Egyptian-Mau? Well it has a lot of advantages but many people could not see that even me, but when I worked on this research I found out that

Egyptian-Mau is the one of the only small spotted cats, which developed naturally. In ancient Egypt we can see the paintings in the tombs talking about cats, and the drawings which show scientists that the cat had become an integral part of the ancient Egyptian family life style. Besides this cats played a vital role in the Nile agriculture ecosystem. In addition in my research I suppose that thinking about the Egyptian Mau could be the key to understanding what transformation had happened to tigers to convert in cats.

Nowadays this amazing cat lost in the streets, homeless suffering from diseases and hunger facing the death in any minute. So I hope that all Egyptians co-operate to save this cat from extinction.

