

## The Arabic Technical Terminology Online Dictionary Project

[www.arabterm.org](http://www.arabterm.org) is an online internet dictionary jointly commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), and carried out by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in collaboration with ALECSO's division, the Arabization Coordination Bureau (BCA). Germany has been funding this project with 4.55 Mio Euros from 2008-2014.

The ground-breaking Arab Human Development Report 2003 pointed out that knowledge transfer cannot take place when academic and vocational students do not dispose over a command of terminological precision in their habitual language. Often, the tuition takes place in a linguistic jargon enriched with spoken dialectal Arabic mixed with English or French technical terms, while teaching manuals are in English or French only.

In order to comply with the objective of the creation of an "Arab Knowledge Society" (UNDP Human Development report 2010/11), the Arabic language must regain its position as a scientific language operative especially in the technical domain.

This multidisciplinary project combines linguistic and translation efforts with aims of creating opportunities of knowledge transfer for key technologies that have been identified as vital with regard to more sustainable absorption within the Arab world.

Its main objective is to close the gap by providing concise Arabic-language definitions of latest technologies, hitherto unavailable in Arabic. As an online dictionary, [www.arabterm.org](http://www.arabterm.org) is allowing a shortcut into the internet age. Its main target group is

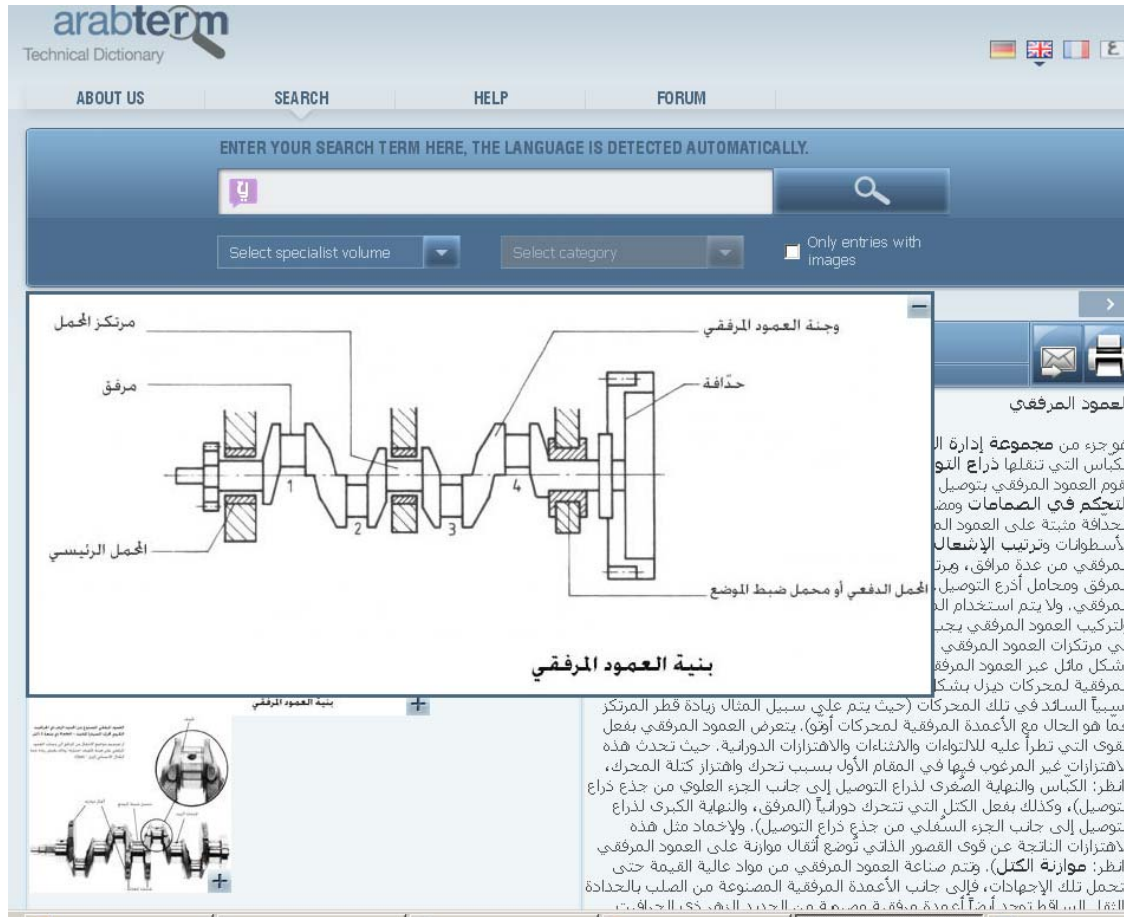
- teachers within the academic, vocational and training sector
- technical specialists and executive managers, line managers
- technicians, engineers
- education planning specialists

It is also catering to the needs of students, apprentices and trainees, linguists and translators, technical journalists, within and beyond universities and industries.

[www.arabterm.org](http://www.arabterm.org) is intended to be a tool of a standard reference, for use in a wide range of fields, i.e. legal consulting as well as hands-on-mechanics. It is to facilitate access to updated knowledge and expertise for users in the Arab world, and for the consistent translation of textbooks, curricula, technical manuals and other specialized texts. German and Arabic stand for the direction the knowledge exchange has had, English and French are vital additions with regard to language realities within the Arab world. It is available online, free of charge.

[www.arabterm.org](http://www.arabterm.org) is organized per industry sector and provides a generally accessible reference for six volumes, with 4000 to 10000 terms accordingly, along with concise and comprehensive definitions, technical drawings and pictogram content (with Arabic legends). They are carefully selected according to sustainable development priorities. Online so far are "automotive engineering" and "water technology", forthcoming volumes are "Renewable Energy", "Electrical Engineering", "Textile" and "Transport/Infrastructure".

Awareness has been raised for the fact that economic improvement, job facilitation and employment, as well as linguistic precision are interrelated and need to be developed further in order to overcome the unemployment gap within the Arab countries.



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