

Biographical Notes



Monira A. Abu El-Ata, PhD, CE, MIET

Dr. Monira Abu El-Ata is a prominent Electronics Engineer and a Telecommunications expert; with over 35 years of experience, in the academic, industry, university education and research sectors. After a period in IT research and education in Egypt and the UK, she led major Telecom research functions in the optical technology and the submarine communication systems areas, leading to commercial exploitation worldwide. She returned to the academic sector where she taught and led industrial cooperation projects in various areas of the Telecommunications and industrial sectors. During the last 9 years she participated and led a number national and European research projects in the areas of 3rd Generation Mobile Communication Systems; use of RFID devices for Security and Identification; and the use of sensor networks in industry.

- A Chartered Engineer, with over 35 years of experience as a leading researcher, manager, and teacher in electronic engineering, telecommunications and information technology sectors
- Between 1970 and 1979, undertook research and taught undergraduate and post graduate classes in Electronic Engineering, Digital Signal Processing and communication engineering at Universities in Egypt and the UK. She moved to industry in 1979.
- In 1979, joined Standard Telephones and Cables (STC) to undertake R&D work in the area of submarine optical fibre communication systems, leading to the installation of the first international test system in Loch Fine, Scotland in 1983.
- In 1984, she moved back to an academic role, as a Senior Lecturer at the South Bank Polytechnic (later the University of South Bank SBU, London). She taught EE and telecommunication courses, supervised over 200 student undergraduate and postgraduate project work, research and led several school activities in collaborating with the industry. She organised industrial placement of students from both SBU and the Bremen *Hochschule*, Germany, as part of a European Cooperation programme. She developed and ran a distance learning course in Electronic Engineering and Communications, and worked as Academic Consultant to industrial companies under the UK Teaching Company Scheme.
- In 1998 she relocated to Switzerland and in 1999 joined Swisscom Innovation as a Senior Consultant, responsible for a number of R&D project areas within Swisscom. Over the last 8 years her work spanned projects in various wireless technologies including Bluetooth, RFID, and remote sensors. She led projects in the areas of home networking; 3rd generation mobile communication systems; and architecture, security and optimisation of wide band code division multiple access. Some of those projects were Europe wide, undertaken in collaboration with a number of leading European Operators as part of the EUROSCOM initiative.
- In February 2008, she left Swisscom to join the Board of Directors of Accretive AG, a business and technology strategy consultancy company, where she is currently developing advisory and support activities in the area of telecommunication engineering and related businesses.
- Throughout her career, she concentrated on developing the skills, experience and the careers of young professionals both at the universities she taught at, within the research programmes she led, or on voluntary basis, as the part of national programmes (e.g. The Women in Engineering and Science UK Programme), and professional bodies, (e.g. IEE/ IET).

- A member of the Institute of Engineering & Technology (IET); she is active in leading the Institution's activities in Switzerland where she is currently the Chairman of the Management Committee of the Swiss Network. She has presented frequently in business, educational and industry conferences, forums and seminars throughout Europe.