

"He who hath not seen Cairo  
hath not seen the world."

- the ancient tales of 1001 Nights

## U.S. expatriate nears two decades in Egypt

It's been nearly two decades since C. "Teny" Mittal accepted a two-year assignment to work in the Land of Pharaohs and Pyramids. Several projects and two cities later, he's still on Egyptian soil.

By all accounts, Mittal is CH2M HILL's longest-term expatriate.

After working in the early 1980s on a large water pollution abatement project in Milwaukee, Wis., Mittal and his young family arrived in Alexandria with feelings of excitement and uncertainty.

"The first few months were tough on all of us," Mittal said. "We missed the U.S. way of living."

Alexandria, a city of 4 million, is Egypt's largest port. A rapidly growing population and the need for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements, coupled with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development, has provided ongoing engineering and construction management opportunities for CH2M HILL.

The Mittal children, Manish and Neetika, were ages 10 and 8 respectively when Teny

**Time flies...In 1984, C. "Teny" Mittal and his family arrived in Alexandria, Egypt, for a two-year assignment. That assignment led to others in Alexandria and Cairo. All told, Teny and his family have spent nearly 20 years overseas.**

and his wife Pramila first moved to the city on the Mediterranean Sea.

They enrolled their children in a private school where most students were offspring of expatriates from nearby and far-away countries. Attending the school provided the children with a diverse cultural awareness.

It wasn't long before Manish and Neetika adapted to the new surroundings and made friends. Burgers, fries and tacos, however, were nowhere to be found and sorely missed.



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# AT HOME IN TWO WORLDS

## Mittal family grows with CH2M HILL overseas

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"Our children (especially) missed McDonald's and Pizza Hut," Teny said. Western food of any kind wasn't available. "We couldn't find a proper loaf of bread."

Today, though, most American groceries line market shelves, American fast food joints are common, and "life is much easier," Pramila said.

After spending six years in Alexandria, the Mittals moved to Cairo, Egypt's capital, where Manish and Neetika completed secondary school.

Teny, who is a senior project manager specializing in construction management for water and wastewater facilities, managed the Cairo Water II program, a multiphase project started in 1990 and successfully completed in 1998 that had a total value of approximately \$110 million. Currently, Teny is

managing another wastewater conveyance tunnel construction project in Cairo, which is expected to be completed in 2003. He also acts as CH2M HILL's senior representative for two other ongoing projects in Alexandria. In addition, Teny provides training aimed at bringing western methods of project delivery to Egyptian engineers.

Neetika and Manish have since moved to the U.S. where they completed undergraduate studies and are living on the East Coast. As the family has done annually since first moving to Egypt, Teny and Pramila visit America each year. They plan to return permanently within a couple of years.

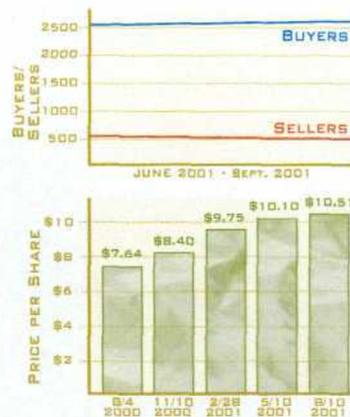
"Life is so fast here," Pramila said during her most recent trip to the U.S. "There (in Egypt) it is very relaxed."

## Expert advice for foreign assignments

If you are considering an assignment in a foreign country, consider these tips and insights from the Mittals:

- Go with an open mind; do not arrive with prejudices.
- Be patient, but persistent; don't expect people to have the same sense of urgency.
- Expect some culture shock; respect the local culture and religion.
- Many local workers may not be as quality conscious.
- If possible, as soon as you arrive, link up with someone who can serve as a coach to help you acclimate to the project and local culture.
- Foreigners are not automatically accepted; they have to prove themselves to the locals.
- Unlike in the U.S., where products and services can be procured over the phone, in the developing countries you have to physically search for what you need.
- In Cairo, you can still reach a live voice on the phone rather than a recording.
- Overseas assignments allow employees and their families to learn firsthand about other cultures and provide an opportunity to "see the world."

## Performance...at a glance



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