Zahi Hawass has been named chairman of Egypt’s Supreme Council of Antiquities.

Zahi Hawass was named chairman of the Supreme Council of Antiquities to succeed Gaballah Ali Gaballahe, according to Egypt’s state-run Middle East News Agency. The appointment was made by Culture Minister Farouk Hosni.

As director of the pyramids plateau in the desert just west of Cairo, Hawass had led several projects to upgrade the site, Egypt’s number one tourist attraction.

Hawass had shown world celebrities — including Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain, Senator Hillary Clinton and her daughter, Chelsea, Princess Diana and actress Brooke Shields — around the pyramids since he took over the site in the 1980’s.