

"New Master Plan will nudge Egypt towards a broad market economy".
Dr. Shinji Naruo, adviser to the Egyptian Planning Ministry, which is revising the current **Five year Development plan (2007-2012)**.



Learning through play: JICA Volunteers support Nursery Education

JICA together with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MOSS) are collaborating in implementing the project **"Improvement of ACTIVITY-based childcare in Nursery for 0-4 years old"**. The project involves assigning Japanese Volunteers to individual nurseries to convey their knowledge and skills on "learning through play" within the nurseries.



Nursery teachers training seminar

Another core pillar of the project is the training of Nursery teachers in conducting activities such as singing, role play, physical exercise, storytelling, and art craft as well as carrying out seminars to enhance the understanding of "learning through play". Based on the needs of MOSS and past performance of Japanese volunteers, both sides agreed upon to conduct the Project with duration of 5 years and 7 months starting in September 2008.

Mutual learning and collaboration through training Third Country Training Projects in Egypt

JICA recently conducted a training course for Iraqi nationals as part of the 'Third Country Training Projects (TCTP)' in Egypt. The course aimed at enhancing the Iraqi participants' skills and knowledge in the Operation management of thermal power plants, economically viable operation and new and renewable energies.

The course took place between the 15th January and 10th February 2012. On the 9th February, the Minister of Electricity Mr. Hassan Younes and the Ambassador of Japan, HE Norihiro Okuda attended the closing ceremony at the Ministry of Electricity of Egypt.

The participants explained how essentially crucial such training course are for the reconstruction of their nation for the next generation, but also an important element is that Iraqis, Egyptians and Japanese enjoyed the opportunity to talk about 'Peace', 'Future' and 'Dream' for the Middle East and all over the world. Mr. Satbast Fattah Muhammed, a Kurdish participant, commented, saying that "I have learnt a lot from the course and also I got great chance to talk about peace and solidarity among Kurds and Arabs in Iraq through this special occasion in Egypt."



Closing ceremony of TCTP for Iraqis

New field of Collaboration with Ministry of Water Resources for enhancing Drainage Water Reuse

JICA started a new field of cooperation with Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation for a project titled "The Project for Drainage Water Quality Control for Irrigation in Middle Nile Delta" starting from February 2012 for three years. Water resources in Egypt depend on the Nile River which is equal to 55 BCM per year since 1959 according to agreement with Sudan; the demand for water is increasing, due to the rapid population growth, expansion of agricultural and industrial areas and improvement of life standard. To meet such growing demand, and at the same time, in an eco-friendly way, the project focused on the drainage water reuse, one of the great potential areas for Egypt to improve further. The kick-off meeting between JICA study team and the Drainage Authority was conducted in February 2012 at Kafr el Sheikh Governorate.

Agricultural Residues Management: Benefiting from Japanese Experience

In December 2011, JICA invited 12 participants from the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MARL) and the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) to attend a Country Focused Training Programme for Egypt on Agricultural Residues Management.



Training course in Japan

The training programme aimed at deepening the understanding of the participants of the Japanese policies, regulations and laws regarding agriculture residues as well as practices and technologies in collection and reuse, so as to apply them to Egypt.

One of the participants, Mr. Farag, a member of the Agricultural Waste Recycling Unit at the EEAA said "One of the most impressive site visits was watching the students presentations on Biomass town project activities at the Saijiyo Agriculture High School in Hiroshima prefecture; We have nothing like that in Egypt."

Full interviews are available from April 30th 2012 on JICA Egypt website



Experts measuring water Quality

Japan
 International
 Cooperation
 Agency

Egypt News

March 2012



Feature

JICA supports Egypt's democratic transition through free and Fair Elections



Photograph: Ahmed Jadallah/Reuters

The Metro in Cairo is the best solution to avoid traffic jams and travelling daily on the metro, Japanese Expert Mr. Kuroda noticed that the Metro is the best place to think of ideas and be inspired about the best way to assist Egyptian people to conduct credible elections.

In addition to enjoying time being with Egyptian people face to face and having heart to heart conversations with them on a better future of their country and the ways the Egyptians and Japanese can work together towards that goal.

Being a part of JICA, he is actively utilizing opportunities of dialogue with the people of Egypt, the Egyptian government structures, international organizations, United Nations organizations and agencies, Egyptian organizations as well as with Egyptian partners of JICA's projects and activities.

Mr. Kazuyoshi Kuroda is an elections expert with over 20 years of experience in international electoral assistance in 14 countries then now in Egypt. After the revolution in Egypt last year, Mr. Kuroda realized that Egypt's destiny is changing through the power of her own people and it is a great opportunity to share his experience and knowledge with them through the Electoral process.

He realized that there must be a destiny in Egypt to attract people to get together because of his experience of re-union with many colleagues from previous missions of electoral assistance and now in working in various different organizations but together for Egypt's elections.

JICA conducted two seminars in 2011, the first, in July, was titled; "Election Systems and Democratic Elections in Japan" and it contributed to the preparation for the elections commission in Egypt, which was about to be established as an independent body taking charge of all electoral management.

The second seminar was conducted in October. The seminar was especially designed for supporting the media coverage for the elections news, as well as 'Democratization through Media'. This was also very beneficial for the election commission in terms of public information outreach with a new type of initiative from election commission itself.

Moreover, JICA assisted the High Election Commission (HEC) through the procurement of equipments. Laptops PCs, Satellite receivers, multifunction fax machines and TV conference systems were identified as a series of needed items for HEC secretariat's operation room and media center for their independent operation.

Mr. Kuroda believes in Egypt's ability to carry out free and fair elections, especially, after the inspiring voters' turnout with good knowledge of polling systems and awareness of their rights.

What's inside

- JICA supports Egyptian Elections
- Water Management Improvement Project
- The Fourth Metro Line
- Grand Egyptian Museum

Did You know?

- About 50 million people were eligible to vote out of a population in excess of 85 million

Overall voter turnout was 54%

- The election committee to extend the hours of polling by two hours to end at 21:00 because of the huge turnout of voters

There are 50 registered political parties in Egypt

- Dakahlia has the second largest number of seats in Parliament (36) after Cairo (54) and not the second biggest Egyptian city of Alexandria (30)

JICA Egypt NEWS

JICA Egypt News is a bimonthly news letter covering Japan's involvement in, and its perspectives on, international development. It details the work of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Egypt, which is the world's largest bilateral donor agency providing various forms of assistance in over 150 countries around the world.

Editors

Mr. Masaki Kudo, Representative, JICA Egypt
 Ms. Basma Gaber, PR Advisor, JICA Egypt

Contact us

Egypt Office

World Trade Center 8th Floor, 1191 Corniche El Nil Street, Boulak, Cairo
 Tel 02-2574-8240 Fax 02-2574-8243

COUNTRY

REGION

THEME

SECTOR

CROSS CUTTING



Agriculture & Rural Development



The Final Workshop of Water Management Improvement Project-Phase 2 [WMIP-II]



Joint Repair work in Damietta

The final Workshop of the Technical Cooperation project "Water Management Improvement Project-phase 2" was held on the 8th of March 2012 attended by high officials from Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation and related stakeholders. The seminar discussed the summary of the achievements of the project which started in June 2008 till April 2012.

The project provided the technical assistance to improve the management of water resources and promote the Ministry's strategy for decentralization and participation of the related stakeholders in water management. Six pilot sites were selected at Fayum, Kafr el Shiekh, Minia, Gharbia, Kena and Damietta for the implementation of the project activities. The main targets of the project are two fold: (1) supporting the exiting Water Users Organizations [WUOs] at the branch and mesqa canals (Tertiary canal) levels nationwide and; (2) enhancing the capacity of the staff of Central Department of Irrigation Advisory Service [CDIAS] to establish a new WUO and to strengthen the existing WUOs.

The project was broadcasted by NHK World, the Japanese National TV channel (on March 29 "sharing know-how"): http://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/english/movie/findex_asia.html (accessible as of April 2012)

WMIP-II campaign: Clean Environment for better life

by Alshaimaa Naguib

Originally, these environmental campaigns weren't planned as project's activity, but after the discussion with Water Users organizations and different stakeholders, all partners agreed on holding the campaigns. JICA experts proposed the participation of schools, because they are the future. They said that if they were able to change the children's way of thinking and habits, we can have a better future and cleaner environment in Egypt.

The environmental awareness campaigns were implemented in 3 villages in three different governorates; El-Shagaa village in El-Bihayra, Beni Ebeid village in Minia and Wileda village in Fayoum. The common problem in three villages is that they didn't have a garbage collection system, which led to the accumulation of garbage along the roads and the canals especially within the residential area. The villages formed environmental committees to analyze the existing environmental problems in each village and collaborated with the JICA experts in figuring out the solutions, and making a long term work plan including the activities after the end of the project.



Alshaimaa Naguib, Project Assistant

The children were very eager and interactive, for instance in El-Shagaa village the children were surrounding the Japanese expert while he was testing the water quality and asking him complicated questions about the mechanism of measuring the water quality. They also formed a "water club" for children, which played a central role in the success of the campaign and the children's awareness. We knew later that Beni Ebeid received a prize as the most beautiful and clean village in the whole of Minia governorate after this environmental campaign.



Japanese expert testing the water quality



Campaign in Fayoum

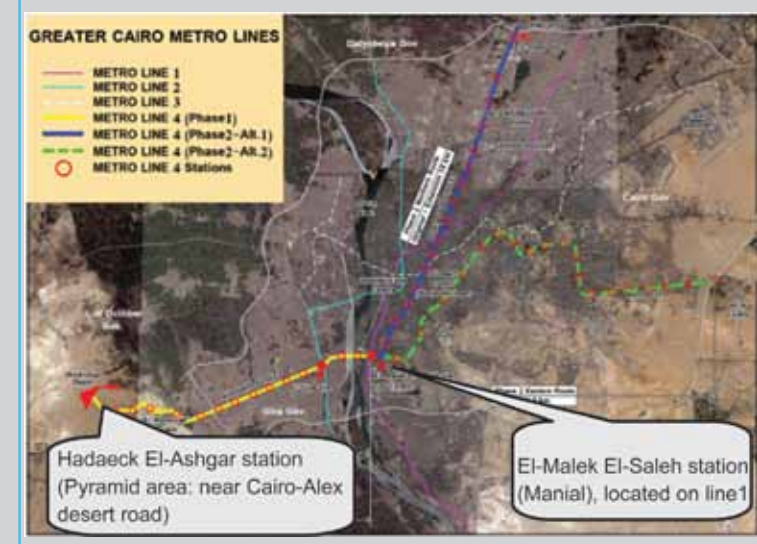
ODA YEN Loan Projects



Connecting the City: Japan supports the Greater Cairo fourth Metro Line

On the 19th of March 2012 JICA signed the agreement with the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for a Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of up to approximately \$390 million as a first tranche for "Greater Cairo Metro Line No.4 Phase 1 Project". This was the first loan agreement for Egypt after the revolution.

The Project will construct the fourth metro line which will start from El-Malek El-Saleh station on the existing Line No.1 and end with the entrance point of the 6th October City (by the desert road to Fayoum), via Al-haram Street (the Pyramids neighbourhood is one of the most crowded areas in Giza governorate), Roda island, Giza Square, El-Giza station on existing Line No.2, Maryoutia, El-Remaya Square, the Grand Egyptian Museum (which is expected to be constructed by 2015 with the support of JICA: see the article below), and the northern part of Pyramids area. Overall, this line will bridge the existing two metro lines (Line No.1 and 2), therefore, it will become one of the most important parts of the mass transport system network in the Greater Cairo Area.



JICA is financing the foreign currency portion of the project cost under the umbrella of the ODA soft loan scheme. This loan is considered to have the most favorable terms: 40 years repayment period including 10 years grace period with the lowest interest rate (0.2% per year). The new line is expected to be completed in 2020.

A new home for Egypt's artifacts: Construction of the Grand Egyptian Museum Kicked-off

On the 10th of January 2012 the construction of one of the most remarkable projects in Egypt; the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM), has kicked-off following the signing of construction contract between the Minister of State for Antiquities and the joint venture of the Belgium Besix Group and Egypt's Orascom Construction Industries. The construction is expected to take 40 months and the museum would be opened in August 2015.

The works include the construction of the museum main building, the surrounding landscape and the exhibition halls, to be ready to house more than 100,000 ancient Egyptian artifacts. The project is financed by JICA's soft loan equivalent to 450 M USD, and is benefiting from JICA's technical assistance to support the activities of the Conservation Center (CC) that is associated to the GEM, in recognition of its important role. More than 24 training courses in Japan and other countries have been provided to the GEM-CC staff to enhance their conservation capabilities.



CG of GEM to be constructed by 2015

The top attractions of the museum would include a Tutankhamen display as well as King Khufu's second solar boat. The GEM is expected to attract many tourists to Egypt, which will help raise more revenues for the Egyptian economy and create new employment opportunities. It is also expected to contribute to conservation of the historical cultural heritage of Egypt. The final goal pursued for the project is to have GEM as the main focal point of Egyptology in the world, not only as a building, but also as a center that performs comprehensive and crucial functions in the field of conservation and restoration, exhibitions, research, study, and education.