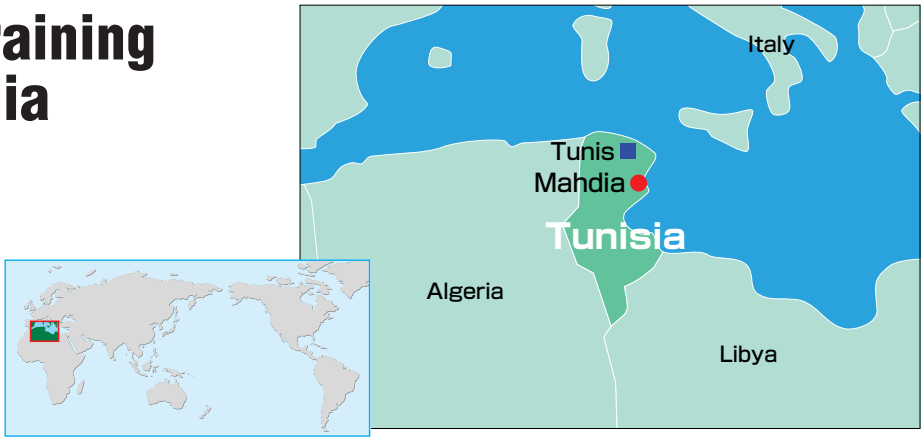
Tunisia

The Fisheries Training Project in Mahdia



Project Sites Mahdia

1. Background of Project

The government of Japan provided cooperation aiming at upgrading the level of staff training skills to the Fisheries Professional Training Center of Mahdia (CFPP Mahdia) from 1978 to 1982. Since then, the center has served as a leading institution in fisheries education in the country. However, now that 15 years have passed since the cooperation was started, technology has become out-of-date and equipment is decrepit. These have lowered the center's contribution in relation to the increase of fisheries products.

Improving and strengthening of the vocational training system was raised as one of the Tunisian government's policies in the "Social and Economic Policies-Ninth Development Plan (1997 − 2001)". The plan aimed at increasing fisheries products from around 80-90 thousands tons to 120 thousands tons.

Based on the above-mentioned background, the Government of Tunisia requested the Government of Japan to provide cooperation in order to upgrade the CFPP Mahdia to be a training and educating organization with provision to implement third-country training programs in the future.

2. Project Overview

(1) Period of Cooperation

1 August 1998 − 31 July 2001

(2) Type of Cooperation

Project-type Technical Cooperation

(3) Partner Country's Implementing Organization

Fisheries Professional Training Center of Mahdia, (CFPP Mahdia), Agency of Training and Extension, Ministry of Agriculture

(4) Narrative Summary

1) Overall Goal

Fishery training ability in Tunisia is developed.

2) Project Purpose

The facilities of the Fisheries Professional Center of Mahdia (CRPP) are improved and training capability is strengthened.

3) Outputs

a) Facilities and equipment procured under the Project are operated and maintained by CFPP.
b) Technologies on new/improved fishing methods are introduced to C/Ps (instructors) of CFPP.
c) The concept of fisheries resources management is introduced in the training courses of CFPP.
d) The current curriculum is reviewed.
e) Textbooks are introduced in training courses of CFPP Mahdia.

4) Inputs

Japanese Side

Long-term experts	4
Short-term experts	6
Counterpart training	
Japan:	11
Morocco:	4
Equipment	158 million yen
Local cost	12 million yen

Tunisian Side

Counterparts	12
Facilities and training vessels	
Local cost	27 million yen

3. Members of Evaluation Team

Team Leader:
Hajime KAWAMURA, Head of Fisheries and Environment Division, Forestry and Environment Department, JICA

Technical Cooperation Planning:
Kojiro MOTOMURA, Professor, Department of Fishery Science and Technology, National Fisheries University
Akira KUROIWA, Executive Managing Director, Japan Fisheries Telecommunications Association
Maki HAMAOKA, Japan Techno Co. Ltd.

4. Period of Evaluation

6 March 2001 − 18 March 2001

5. Results of Evaluation

(1) Relevance

The Tunisian goverment has made effort on strengthening fishery sector. The intention was seen in the plan to increase fisheries products which was adopted in the government's "Social and Economic Policies-Ninth Development Plan" and appointment of the new Tunisian Vice Minister of Fisheries in the structural reform in 2001. CFPP Mahdia has been a key institute in providing primary fishery training. Its activities were not limited to education for trainees, but included reeducation for training staff and fishery workers in other fishery training centers. Considering that concepts of resources management, technologies, and equipment introduced to the center have been dedicated to the improvement and activation of fishery training in Tunisia, the project can be considered as relevant.

(2) Effectiveness

The project has led to the upgrading of facilities through equipment provided, and to the improvement of course materials and training curricula. The course materials have been modified to be more practical and training were revised by adding practical training to lectures. Additionally, techniques to operate and maintain equipment are also acquired through the project, except electronic devices.

The project's achievement has reached the level that the counterpart can spontaneously manage and develop the acquired technologies such as improving texts subsequent to the technologies learnt. Thus, it can be considered that the primary purpose was almost attained.

(3) Efficiency

The project had difficulties in communicating in French and delay in selection of the fish-catch processing expert. In addition, the fields of specialization for the three long-term experts, namely "Fish Catch Processing", "Coastal Fishery", and "Fishing Vessel Engines", were comparatively broad, preventing each individual's technology transfer activities from going into detailed items. On the other hand, the prolongation of construction of a storage shed to install the equipment as well as the delay of provision of equipment from the Japanese side led to the delay of equipment install. All these issues affected the period of technology transfer, which lowered the efficiency of the project.

(4) Impact

A seminar for fisheries resources management, targeting people involved in fisheries nationwide was held as a part of the project. The seminar has become a place for mutual understanding and sharing ideas of both the final beneficiary and competent authority which was never seen before. Moreover, cases in which fishery workers actively contacted the project to collect information could also be observed.

(5) Sustainability

The revenues of CFPP Mahdia are secured by the Government of Tunisia, and CFPP also has income from sales of fish caught by training vessels. Financial prospects for sustainability of the center are high except for cases of mechanical failure of high-level electronic devices or procurement of new training vessels.

Fishing trawler: maintenance of fishing vessel

On the other hand, the course will be conducted without difficulties due to the stability of the workforce retained.

6. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

(1) Lessons Learned

Activities of the project were restricted due to the delay of provision of equipment. In order to implement efficient technology transfer within a relatively short period of three years, appropriate measures, such as providing approximately 80 percent of planned equipment by the first year, will be required.

Issues of communication should be considered when implementing cooperation in Francophone areas compared to in Anglophone areas. The dispatching period for each expert should be longer to enable enough linguistic preparation. Also, in cases long-term experts are in charge of wide-ranging fields as in this project, flexible measures such as dispatching of short-term experts should be taken, when necessary.

(2) Recommendations

The government of Tunisia should concretize the implementing policy and plans for extension activities. The equipment provided should be self-managed, though technical assistance from Japan is still needed in operating new training vessels provided by Japanese Grant Aid Cooperation.

Since effectiveness of a human resource development project takes time to be revealed, monitoring of the capabilities of training staff and the employment situation of the graduates is required.

7. Follow-up Situation

Based on the above recommendation, follow-up cooperation was implemented from 1 August 2001 to 19 October 2001.