



Hani Kurdi

Chief Program Officer, JICA Jordan Office

Jordan is one of the countries where renewable water resources are the most limited in the world. Hani Kurdi, Chief Program Officer at JICA Jordan Office, is working on projects for the people in the area most in need of water in his country. Alleviation of the water shortage, as well as improvement of the water supply, is never easy in his country, but he is motivated to pick up this challenge.

A specialist in Civil Engineering and Water Resources Planning & Management, Kurdi started his career at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in his country. He was involved in irrigation projects financed by OECF (currently JBIC) as well as some water studies conducted by JICA. In late 1991, when JICA established a Jordan office, he decided to work for JICA so that he could bridge the gap between donors and recipient organizations.

In 1994, Kurdi worked with a Japanese expert, Haruo Iwahori, who spent four months as his mission to Jordan. During the mission, Iwahori visited all water facilities in the country to collect information by interviewing the staff. This helped the facility staff to recognize the problems and thus to nego-

tiate with people concerned. They have successfully formulated a plan of intervention consisting of several projects which were implemented from 1994 to 2011. The projects had remarkable achievements and Kurdi is proud that he took part.

Among the projects, there was a water supply project from Yarmouk river and lake Tiberias, the sources that brought additional water to Jordan from Israel as a peace dividend in 1994. Amman, the capital of Jordan with around two million residents, had been suffering a severe water supply condition. With Japan's help, Jordan implemented the water supply project around Amman and the renewal of the equipment at the Zai water treatment plant not only made it possible to supply more water but also better quality of water, which solidified the confidence of citizens toward the Water Authority of Jordan.

He thinks Japan's assistance is focused on the basic needs of his country. As JICA's staff, he is trying to make the best use of assistance and make sure it's directed to the sectors and areas where it is most needed.