Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST) is a national university established in 2009 by the Egyptian government based on collaboration with Japan in line with Egypt’s efforts to promote science and technology. JICA has supported the establishment and operation of the university through a Technical Cooperation project (E-JUST Project). With the number of students at each national university in Egypt topping 100,000 per university and a particular shortage of facilities and equipment materials, the environment for research and education in the engineering field for science and technology in that country is inadequate. To improve this situation, the Egyptian government established E-JUST as a core university of science and technology with “Japanese-style” features such as “small-size classes,” “emphasis on postgraduate education” and “education based on research laboratories.” JICA began providing support for E-JUST in 2008.

In supporting the establishment of E-JUST, JICA formed a consortium consisting of 12 Japanese national and private universities.* Through this consortium, Japanese faculty have been dispatched to E-JUST, while Egyptian faculty members have been accepted by Japanese universities as fellowship programs. By adopting this approach, JICA and the consortium aim to promote a deeper understanding of Japanese-style engineering education and improve Egyptians’ capabilities in research laboratory operation and department management.

From among the 12 Japanese universities, specific universities were selected as a “main supporting university” to provide support for each of seven individual programs (Electronics and Communications Engineering, Mechatronics and Robotics Engineering, Energy Resources and Environmental Engineering, Material and Science Engineering, Industrial Engineering and Systems Management, Chemical and Petrochemical Engineering, Computer Science Engineering), and a structure for providing systematic support is being established.

E-JUST began accepting students in February 2010. Student Mohammed Sallam, who is majoring in Mechatronics and Robotics Engineering, explains, “Classes are centered on experiments and I am pleased I can learn so much through practice.” Meanwhile, Waseda University associate professor Hiroyasu Iwata voiced his hopes, “The students have a high eagerness to learn everything just like a sponge that absorbs water. I would like to see students obtain knowledge that allows them to organically combine theory and monozukuri (manufacturing).”

Case Study Supporting the Establishment of a Japanese-Style Science and Technology University

Egypt: Project for Establishment of Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology (E-JUST)

*Tokyo Institute of Technology, Waseda University, Kyoto University, Kyushu University, Hokkaido University, Tohoku University, University of Tokyo, Keio University, Nagoya University, Kyoto Institute of Technology, Ritsumeikan University and Osaka University.