

Internal Ex-Post Evaluation for Technical Cooperation Project

conducted by Middle East and Europe Department: December, 2013

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| Country Name | Capacity Development of Environmental Administration in Algeria |
| Algeria | |

I. Project Outline

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| Project Cost | 260 million yen | |
| Project Period | December 2005 - November 2008 | |
| Implementing Agency | The National Observation for Environment and Sustainable Development (ONEDD), The Ministry of Land Planning, Environment and Tourism (MATET) Central Regional Laboratory (CRL) (Alger) (under ONEDD) | |
| Cooperation Agency in Japan | Ministry of Environment | |
| Related Projects (if any) | Japan's cooperation: Project for Capacity Development of Environmental Monitoring (Phase 2 of this project) (Technical cooperation, 2009-2012) Other donors' cooperation: Technical cooperation to ONEDD/HQ by GTZ | |
| Background | <p>In Algeria, following the recovery from the unstable public order of the early 1990s and the upsurge of the economy, environmental administration became a focus for the government. ONEDD was established under the MATET as a part of the "National Environment Action Plan for Sustainable Development (NAPE-SD)" in 2003. The mission of ONEDD was to support the decision making of the environmental administration, and to provide services in the field of laboratory analysis through collecting the information on the current condition of the environment and industrial activities and research of the environment.</p> <p>When outline of the water and sediment pollution in the Oued El Harrach (OEH) was reported as a result of field studies conducted by the JICA short-term experts dispatched from 2004, ONEDD recognized the needs to strengthen its capacity to conduct the environmental monitoring.</p> | |
| Inputs | Japanese Side | Algeria Side |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Experts: 10 persons Trainees Received in Japan: 7 persons Equipment: 57 million yen Local Cost: 26 million yen Others: Local consultants | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Staff allocated: 22 persons Land etc. provided: An office for experts, a temporary laboratory, 2 sampling vehicles Local Cost: 381,000 Euros |
| Project Objectives | Overall goal | |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> ONEDD establishes environmental monitoring system based on the National Environmental Strategy under the well-organized network of laboratories and stations with the Central Regional Laboratory (Alger) plays a leading role. National environmental protection policy is promoted and counter-measures are recommended. Counter-measures to prevent environmental pollution in Oued El Harrach industrial areas are deployed. | |
| | Project Objective Environmental monitoring capacity of the Central Regional Laboratory (Alger) is strengthened. | |
| Outputs | | |
| Output1: Laboratory management to ensure a high-quality operation is in place | | |
| Output2: Skills and knowledge in field survey and sampling management are acquired | | |
| Output3: Skills and knowledge in organic chemical analysis are acquired | | |
| Output4: Skills and knowledge in inorganic chemical analysis are acquired | | |
| Output5: Skills and knowledge in microbiological analysis are acquired | | |
| Output6: Skills and knowledge in developing and maintaining database are acquired | | |
| Output7: Skills and knowledge for environmental evaluation, analysis and recommendation utilizing the obtained data are acquired | | |
| Output8: Technical knowledge for the de-pollution and remediation are acquired | | |
| Output9: Knowledge on environmental quality standards, regulations, and institutional/administrative setup for de-pollution and remediation are acquired | | |

II. Result of the Evaluation

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| Summary of the Evaluation |
| <p>This project has mostly achieved its objective of strengthening of environmental capacity of CRL since most indicators, set at the beginning of the project, have been achieved considerably (e.g.: the number of samples analyzed increased from 103 in 2005 to 690 in 2011, the monitoring data was compiled/summarized and disclosed, and internal trainings were conducted). The overall goal is also mostly achieved since the environmental monitoring system is established (although, continuous effort for regional laboratories and monitoring stations is needed to firmly establish the system). As for sustainability, some problems have been observed in terms of technical and financial aspects due to the still weak status of</p> |

ONEDD.

For relevance, the project has been highly relevant with Algeria's development policy, development needs as well as Japan's ODA policy. For efficiency, the project cost exceeded the plan.

In the light of above, this project is evaluated to be satisfactory.

1 Relevance

This project has been highly relevant with Algeria's development policy (high priority on environmental monitoring in National Environmental Strategy 2000-2010 and NAPE-SD 2003), development needs (capacity development in environmental monitoring for pollution control of OEH), as well as Japan's ODA policy (priority on environmental issues), at the time of both ex-ante evaluation and project completion. Therefore, its relevance is high.

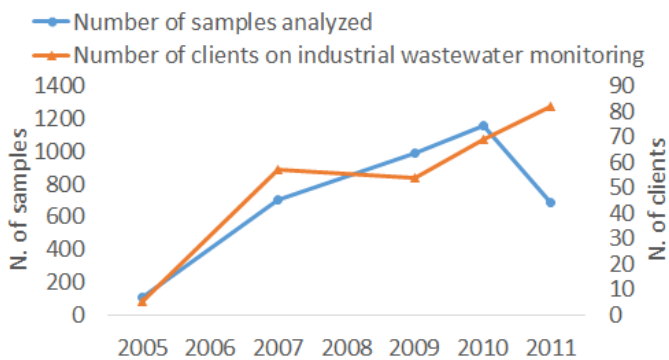
2 Effectiveness/Impact

This project has largely achieved the project purpose of strengthening of environmental monitoring capacity of the CRL, as well as overall goal of establishment of monitoring system through the activities of CRL and ONEDD.

For the project purpose, most indicators set at the beginning of the project, have been achieved considerably. (i) CRL's environmental monitoring for various clients: the number of samples analyzed at CRL increased from 103 in 2005 to 690 in 2011, and the number of clients on industrial wastewater monitoring increased from 5 in 2005 to 82 in 2011. The standard operating procedures (SOPs) for sampling that the project developed have been used, shared with ONEDD's other regional laboratories, and updated, which have improved the quality of sampling. (ii) Comprehensive environmental reports on the OEH pollution problems: due to the delays of the construction of the laboratory facilities, such reports were not prepared as expected during the project period, but with the support from the Phase 2 project, the preliminary interpretation was conducted based on the updated and accumulated monitoring data, and the results were summarized in a report. (iii) Technical advice to ONEDD's other regional laboratories: Although it is provided, periodic training has not been realized yet due to budgetary constraints.

The overall goals have also been mostly achieved though there are some issues to be further addressed. (i) Network of laboratories: with the CRL's technical guidance, regional laboratories and monitoring stations became able to carry out monitoring activities on industrial wastewater in accordance with the executive decree 07/300 (issued in 2007, enacted in 2010.) for decision on penalty tax against discharging wastewater above the regulation level. However, these activities rest still weak, in comparison with CRL. (ii) Recommendations and implementation on policies and countermeasures: MATET has assigned ONEDD as designated laboratory for industrial effluent monitoring. With strengthened cooperation with CRL, Direction de L'environnement de la Wilaya d'Alger (DEWA) has taken more strict action to control the coastal area of OEH through reinforcing the inspection toward industrial factories. Also, national-level coordination between MATET and environment-related ministries are being promoted in the context of environmental legislation. Phase 2 also positively impacted to achieve the overall goals; CRL transferred the technique to operate monitoring devices to laboratories and monitoring stations in the regions, and thus further strengthened the network with them.

Therefore, effectiveness/impact of this project is high.



Number of samples and clients of CRL (source: CRL)



Laboratory equipment (Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry, source: CRL)

3 Efficiency

Although the project period was within the plan, some inputs were not appropriate for producing the outputs (such as delay of set up of provisional laboratory facility by Algerian side). And the project cost exceeded the plan (ratio against the plan: 130 %) due to cope with the delay of input. Therefore, efficiency of this project is fair.

4 Sustainability

The project has some problems in technical and financial aspects of the implementing agency due to its still weak status of ONEDD. In the technical aspect, while the skills transferred from this project are kept in CRL, the capacity of other regional laboratories/monitoring stations is still in improvement stage. As for the financial aspect, commercial activities of ONEDD, which should be financially independent as an independent administrative agency, is limited in analysis of industrial wastewater and is weak to manage the revenue to cover all the expenditure. However, considering its mission to public interest, the status of ONEDD will be changed to Public Administrative Establishment (EPA) in the character of Science and Technique (the process of changing status of ONEDD is under preparation within the Government of Algeria). Once this change is in effect, all the budget will be taken in charge by the State.

No problem has been observed in policy background and the structural aspects of the implementing agency: this project

is consistent with the next 10 years national plan of environmental protection of the Government of Algeria in an ongoing manner, and the relationship between ONEDD Headquarters and CRL has much improved with the progress of the Phase 2 project.

Therefore, sustainability of this project effect is fair.

III. Recommendations & Lessons Learned

Recommendations for Implementing agency

In the project, technical advice to ONEDD's other regional laboratories has not been realized yet due to budgetary constraints of CRL and ONEDD. Therefore, it is recommended that the CRL and ONEDD will continue its effort to ensure their financial sustainability by increasing samples or clients as well as taking the government's assistance, in order to diffuse knowledge and skills on advanced technologies of chemical analysis compiled in CLR for other regional laboratories/monitoring stations.