

Supporting Infrastructure Improvement in the Capital and in the Region - Contributing to the Environmental Improvement in Tunisia-

OECF (the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Japan: President, Chairman of the Board: Mr. Kyosuke Shinozawa), has decided to provide a loan to the Republic of Tunisia as a necessary fund totaling up to 15.587 billion yen for "Water Resource Management Project" and "Rades-La Goulette Bridge Construction Project", and signed the loan agreements on March 30, 1999.

The loan agreements were signed at OECF head office in Tokyo by Mr. Kyosuke Shinozawa, OECF's President and H.E. Mr. Salah Hannachi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Tunisia to Japan.

As a result, the cumulative total of ODA loan commitments to Tunisia now stands at 124.205 billion yen with 20 projects.

This ODA loan to Tunisia for fiscal 1998 is the third since Tunisia became an annualized loan recipient country in 1996.

The amounts, terms and conditions of the loan, and project description are as follows.

1. Amounts, Terms and Conditions

Project Name	Amount (Mil. Yen)	Interest Rate (% p.a.)		Repayment Period / Grace Period (years)		Tying Status	
		Goods and Services	Consulting Services	Goods and Services	Consulting Services	Goods and Services	Consulting Services
1 Water Resource Management Project	7,184	1.7*	0.75**	25 / 7	40/10	General Untied	Bilateral Tied
2 Rades-La Goulette Bridge Construction Project	8,403	2.2	0.75**	25 / 7	40 / 10	General Untied	Bilateral Tied
Total	15,587						

* Standard environmental project

** Special environmental project

2. Project Summary

Water Resource Management Project

(1) Need for the Project

Tunisia belongs to the Mediterranean climate and generally has the meteorological condition of less rainfall. Its annual precipitation is about 1,000mm in the northern region where relatively much rainfall occurs and only 100mm to 200mm in the southern region near the desert, where heavy rain which could even cause flooding may occur from time to time. Under such a severe environment, an effective utilization of its limited water resources is one of the most important policy issues in this country.

Against such a background, the Tunisian government is aggressively implementing water resources development under its 9th National Development Plan (1997-2001) in order to stabilize its agriculture sector which has a large share in its economy, and increase its production, as well as to meet the growing water supply demand due to its revitalizing economy and tourism promotion, one of the leading industries.

(2) Description of the Project

This project is to construct small-scale multi-purpose dams (artificial recharge of groundwater, irrigation, flood prevention, soil runoff prevention, etc.) and irrigation facilities at 22 sites of 7 prefectures (Siliiana (9), Kef (2), Beja (4), Zaghuan (4), Sousse (1), Nabeul (1), and Jendouba (1)) which are located in the northern and central regions of Tunisia. In addition, the management of the proper river basin will be conducted, including tree planting, dam dredging and utilization of dredged soil for farm land.

(3) Benefits of the Project

This project is to stabilize water supply to the farm land by securing water resources through the construction of small-scale dams in the northern and central regions of Tunisia where relatively much rainfall occurs, thereby increasing the crops and improving the income of the farmers. Also, through the proper management/control of river basins, good effects in terms of the people's living environment, such as recharge of groundwater, soil runoff prevention, flood prevention and prevention of runoff of fertile soil, can be expected.

The proceeds of the loan will be used for procurement of equipment and materials, civil works, and consulting services (execution management, participatory approach support, etc.).

The executing agency is the Ministere de l'Agriculture (Address: 30, rue Alain Savary 1002 Tunis, Republic of Tunisia, TEL: 216-1-892318, FAX: 216-1-847015).

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Rades-La Goulette Bridge Construction Project

(1) Need for the Project

In the Grand Tunis region around Tunis, the capital of Tunisia, there live 2 million people, one-fifth of the Tunisian population, and it is also the center of economic activities in this country. Presently, the Grand Tunis region is divided into southern and northern areas by the Tunis Lake Canal, and the traffic between the two areas depends on either routes passing through the urban area of Tunis or ferryboats connecting Rades and La Goulette ports. The ferryboats, however, are limited in service time and number of vehicles to be carried, and most of the south-north traffic concentrates on the routes passing through the urban area of Tunis, causing traffic congestion and environmental deterioration in the city. In the future, as the economic activities in this region are activated, the tourist demand increases, and by the general development of the Tunis Lake proceeds, the traffic volume is expected to increase and it is desired to relieve the traffic congestion and improve the environment in the urban area of Tunis.

Against such a background, the road related projects based on the 9th National Development Plan (1997-2001) aim at mitigating the traffic congestion in this area. This project is also considered important for forming important links connecting the south-east and north-west areas of the metropolitan area.

(2) Description of the Project

This is to construct a bridge (extradosed bridge) as an important portion of the metropolitan ringroad crossing the Tunis Lake Canal and connecting the southern and northern areas of the Grand Tunis region to connect Rades on the north side and La Goulette on the south side. The project details are as follows.

1. Main Bridge : length of bridge about 260m (double shaft type)
2. Approach bridge and approach roads on Rades (southern) side
Approach bridge: about 400m, approach road : about 2,190m
3. Interchange and Ramp way road on La Goulette (north) side
4. North extension road: about 2,300m

Note : Type of bridge with outer cables (conventionally arranged inside the girder) installed outside the girder, and which is between girder bridge and cable stayed bridge.(back)

(3) Benefits of the Project

Connecting the Rades port and La Goulette port by land is well to promote the economic development around the south and north Tunis lakes as well as the development of ports around Tunis.

By reducing the traffic volume passing through the urban area of Tunis, the nitrogen oxides (NOx) exhausted from diesel engines in Tunis will be reduced and the city environment will be improved.

The proceeds of the loan will be used for procurement of equipment and materials, civil works and consulting services (detailed design, supervision, etc.).
The executing agency is the Ministère de l'Équipement et de l'Habitat (Address: Cite Jardins, 1001 Tunis, Republic of Tunisia TEL: 216-1-842481, FAX: 216-1-787062).

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