

## Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with the Republic of Tunisia

### –Improving Hygiene Conditions and Bolstering Water Resources Management–

On June 21, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Japanese ODA loan agreement with the Office National de l'Assainissement (ONAS or the National Sanitation Utility) to provide a loan of up to 10.871 billion yen for the Local Cities Water Environment Improvement Project.

The objective of the project is to improve the sewerage systems in the local cities of Tunisia to bolster their sewage treatment capacity, which will prevent contamination of the natural environment by wastewater, leading to improved hygiene and living conditions. The loan funds will be allocated to the restoration, renovation and expansion of sewage processing plants; the renovation and expansion of sewer pipes; the procurement of maintenance and management equipment; and consulting services (including for detailed designs, tender assistance and construction supervision).

Tunisia is located in a semi-arid climate zone with a national average rainfall of 500 millimeters. Because Tunisia depends on groundwater for approximately two-thirds of its water demand, groundwater resources are very important. Although the sewer connection rate in the area administrated by ONAS has reached 89.3 percent (2010), sewer pipes installed in the 1970s and 1980s in inland local cities have already deteriorated with age, and there are concerns about the contamination of groundwater resources by leaked wastewater. Additionally, the population in those inland cities is increasing at an estimated rate of 1.3 percent (between 2008 and 2030), which is expected to increase the urban water demand from 450 million cubic meters in 2008 to 862 million cubic meters in 2030. Thus it is necessary to further improve sewer facilities to handle increasing wastewater resulting from the rise in water demand. In these circumstances, renovating and expanding the sewerage system is a pressing issue. By preventing groundwater pollution, it is expected to contribute to improving the hygiene conditions of local residents and to strengthening water resources management.



Signing ceremony

- [Project Map \(PDF/181KB\)](#)

### Reference

#### 1. Terms and Amounts of Loans

Project title	Amount (million yen)	Annual interest rate (%)		Repayment period (years)	Grace period (years)	Procurement
		Project	Consulting services			
Local Cities Water Environment Improvement Project	10,871	1.20	0.01	25	7	General Untied

#### 2. Project Summaries

##### Executing Agency

Office National de l'Assainissement (ONAS)

Address: 32, rue Hédi Nouria, 1023, Tunis, Tunisia

Phone: +216 (71) 343-200, fax: +216 (71) 350-411

#### 3. Planned Implementation Schedule

(i) Completion of project: October 2020 – when the facilities are put into service

(ii) Issuing of letters of invitation for consulting services (including detailed design work): October 2013

(iii) Tender announcement of initial procurement package for international competitive bidding on project construction:

Procurement package title: Wastewater Treatment Plant Urgent Rehabilitation

Release date: August 2013

# Tunisia: Local Cities Water Environment Improvement Project

