

Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with the Kingdom of Morocco

—Correcting Educational Disparities through Basic Education Reform and Improvement Assistance—

On December 6, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Japanese ODA loan agreement with the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco in Rabat to provide up to 8.899 billion yen for the Basic Education Sector Support Project.

The objective of the project is to correct disparities in Morocco's basic educational sector by providing assistance for policy and system reforms and improvement with respect to access, quality and governance, as well as support for the construction of educational facilities. These are all priority issues for the Government of Morocco and will contribute to the country's social development and economic stability. Funds for this project will be allocated to financial assistance to maintain and further educational policy and system reforms that the Government of Morocco has been working on, as well as to expenses to construct new lower secondary schools with dormitories in rural villages.

Since the end of the 1990s, the Government of Morocco has been putting efforts into increasing access to basic education (making primary and lower secondary education mandatory), which has greatly improved the primary education net enrollment ratio from 71.0 percent in 1999 to 96.6 percent in 2011, and the lower secondary education net enrollment ratio from 37.0 percent in 2005 to 53.9 percent in 2011. However, the government has faced problems in areas such as: 1) regional and sex disparities, 2) access to lower secondary education, 3) education quality, and 4) governance in the educational sector. From 2009 to 2012, the Government of Morocco initiated policy and system reforms through its Emergency Education Program with assistance from international agencies. Within the framework of the program, JICA proposed policy actions and has continued policy dialogues with the Government of Morocco. Taking into consideration the completion of those policy actions and the results on policy and system reforms in Morocco, the project aims to provide budgetary support for further reforms and improvement in basic education in cooperation with the World Bank. Furthermore, by constructing secondary schools with dormitories in rural areas where improvements are needed in the enrollment ratio and other areas, the project is expected to improve the access to and quality of basic education in Morocco.



Signing ceremony

JICA has already contributed to the improvement of access to and quality of the educational sector in Morocco by implementing the Basic Education Improvement Program for Rural Area, technical cooperation that ran from 2003 to 2005 and included the dispatch of volunteers to the country, and conducting the Rural Secondary Education Expansion Project, an ODA loan (8.935 billion yen) project that lasted from 2004 to 2011. Particularly worthy of note is that the pilot project for that technical cooperation reduced the drop-out rate while improving teachers' behavioral attitudes. Also, "bottom-up" style school management methods developed in Japan were implemented in the Emergency Education Program, demonstrating how Japanese support has been integrated into Morocco's educational policies. While further establishing the results of Japanese assistance provided so far, this project will at the same time promote and further spread that assistance throughout the country.

The project will also contribute to the policies of the Government of Japan, namely "human resource development" and "support for fair political process and government," presented within the Deauville Partnership[1] initiated by the G8 after the Arab Spring, and "creation of an inclusive society for growth" which is one of the areas of focus in the Yokohama Action Plan from the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICADV) held in July 2013. In addition, this project will contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the area of universal primary education.

Reference

1. Terms and Amount of Loan

Project title	Amount (million yen)	Annual interest rate (%)		Repayment period (years)	Grace period (years)	Procurement
		Project	Consulting services			
Basic Education Sector Support Project	8,899	0.25%		30	10	General untied

2. Project Summaries

Executing Agency

Ministry of National Education and Professional Training (Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Formation Professionnelle)
Address: Place Annasr, Bab rouah-Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco
Phone: +212-537-687-221, fax: +212-537-772-046

3. Planned Implementation Schedule

(i) Completion of project:

Program type financing: December 2013 – with completion of the disbursement

Project type financing: October 2016 – when the facilities are put into service

(ii) Issuing of letters of invitation for consulting services: No hiring of consultants is planned for this project.

(iii) Tender announcement of initial procurement package for international competitive bidding on project construction: No international competitive tendering is planned (all tendering is planned to be local competitive bidding)

Note

[1] A partnership launched at the G8 Deauville Summit in May 2011. The objectives include supporting Middle Eastern and North African countries in transitioning to democracy, and encouraging domestic reforms in areas such as employment and disparity.