

Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Egypt: Supporting the establishment of a high-quality, Japanese-style education system in the education and health sectors through study and training in Japan

On May 2, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a loan agreement with the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Cairo to provide a Japanese ODA loan of up to 10.192 billion yen for the Egypt-Japan Education Partnership (EJEP): Human Resource Development Project.

Targeting mainly the education and health sectors, the project will conduct study and training in Japan to promote human resource development in Egypt, which is key for reducing poverty and raising the standard of living. The loan funds will be utilized for lesson fees, living expenses, travel expenses and other costs required for the Egyptian students and trainees who come to Japan.

In Egypt, there is a strong tendency to focus on rote learning and examinations, particularly at the primary education level, and the Government of Egypt wishes to introduce a style of education that fosters a desire to learn and sociality based on tokubetsu katsudo ("special activities" for Japanese education) utilized in Japanese education, including the class meeting, classroom cleaning and the morning assembly. Secondary education also faces major challenges such as an excessive number of students per teacher, and inadequate practical skills and research capacity among students and researchers due to an inordinate emphasis on lectures.

In the health sector, the practical education provided by the education system for medical care workers and the skill improvement system for professionals in the workplace are insufficient, which result in medical workers with inadequate knowledge and technical skills. To address with this issue, providing training for medical care human resources including instructors is a top priority.

Finding solutions to the challenges of human resource development in the education and health sectors is a priority in Egypt toward comprehensive and sustainable growth. While approximately half of the country's total population of around 93 million people is under 25 years of age, the unemployment rate for those between 15 and 24 is 42 percent (2014, World Bank), and the capacity of young people must be improved in order to raise the employment rate.

To advance support toward solving these issues, the Governments of Japan and Egypt signed the Egypt-Japan Education Partnership in February 2016 with the objectives of strengthening the capacity of young people in Egypt and promoting peace, stability, development and prosperity. Japan has announced that at least 2,500 Egyptian students and trainees will be accepted over a five-year period, primarily in the education and health sectors.

Through this project, JICA will accept approximately 1,360 students and trainees, which is more than half of the targeted number under the partnership. After returning home, the students and trainees who participate in the project in the sectors of primary education, secondary education and health are expected to improve the human resource training system and methods of instruction in those respective sectors with the aim of promoting human resource development in Egypt.

1. Terms and Amount of Loan

Project title	Amount (million yen)	Annual interest rate (%)		Repayment period (years)	Grace period (years)	Procurement
		Project	Consulting services			
Egypt-Japan Education Partnership (EJEP): Human Resource Development Project	10,192	0.3	0.01	40	10	General untied

2. Executing Agency

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3. Planned Implementation Schedule

- (1) Completion of project: September 2024 – with the completion of all studies and training
- (2) Issuing of letters of invitation for consulting services (including supervision of Egyptian students and trainees): May 2017
- (3) Tender announcement of initial procurement package for international competitive bidding on project construction: No work in conjunction with bidding is planned for this project.



signing ceremony