

1 Background and Objective

Japan is in a position where it can provide Official Development Assistance (ODA) to underdeveloped nations in not only environmental field but in various other fields as well. It is very important, for contributing to the promotion of sustainable development in the world, to formulate a strategy to integrate the assistance in both environment and development. When formulating the strategy, one must pay close attention to the characteristics specific to the recipient country, such as socio-economic status, cultural heritage, or other vital factors, and must develop the most appropriate strategy to that country concerned. The aim of this study is to give necessary background information in developing the strategy for integrated assistance in environment and development. The study is also to give background information for Country Specific Assistance Plan for Arab Republic of Egypt, as one of the Japanese ODA recipient nations developed by the Government of Japan.

Egypt has faced numerous environmental problems including air pollution and water quality degradation, due partly from rapid industrialization and urbanization. The Government of Egypt, in response, has established the emission standards in 1994 with an enactment of *Law 4 for the Protection of the Environment*, and give Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) the authority to manage / monitors the compliance of the standards. In response to these efforts, Japan has been providing assistance in environmental administration by supporting Cairo Central Center (CCC) and Regional Branch Offices (RBOs). Yet, there are still lot of issues to be solved, including issues on solid waste, hazardous management and POPs.

It has been already 9 years since a similar study was carried out to collect information on environmental conditions / issues in Egypt in 1995. It is, therefore, necessary to gather and analyze latest environmental situation in Egypt.

To achieve the above mentioned objectives, the Study Team conducted interview surveys to relevant bodies, visited polluted sites to examine the actual conditions, analyzed existing documents to gather and understand the current environmental issues in Egypt, and collected information on environmental legislations / policies, and other necessary data to aid the formulation of strategies for Japanese cooperation for strengthening environmental management in the early 21st century.