

### **3 Profile of the Country**

#### **(1) General Information**

Country Name : Arab Republic of Egypt  
Area : 1,001,500 sq. km (about 2.65 times the size of Japan)  
Population : 69,200,000 (2003 est.)  
Capital : Cairo with a population of 6.8 million (in 1996)  
Language : Arabic  
Religion : Muslim (92%), Coptic Christian (6%)  
Date of independence : February 28 1922

#### **3.1 Geography and Land Use**

##### **(1) Geography**

###### **1) Location**

Egypt enjoys a unique, strategic location at the crossroads between Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Situated in the Northeastern corner of Africa, it is bound by the Mediterranean Sea from the North, the Red Sea, Palestine and Israel from the East, Libya from the West and the Sudan from the South.

###### **2) Topography**

The Nile, which traverses over 1,000 miles within Egypt, from Wadi Halfa in the South to the Mediterranean in the north, divides the country into four broad regions:

- The Nile Valley and the Delta, which occupy about 33,000 km<sup>2</sup> accounting for less than 4% of the total area of the country.
- The Western Desert occupying two thirds of the total area of Egypt, (671,000 km<sup>2</sup>).
- The Eastern Desert occupying about a quarter of the total area of Egypt, (225,000 km<sup>2</sup>).
- The Sinai Peninsula occupying about 61,000 km<sup>2</sup>.



## (2) Land Use and Natural Resources

- Cultivated Land: 7.4 million feddans out of a total land area of 238 million feddans.
- Water Resources: The River Nile is the main source of water. Rain and underground water are also used, although to a lesser extent.
- Natural Resources: Petroleum, natural gas, phosphate, manganese, iron, limestone, gypsum, talc, asbestos, plumbum, zinc spelter

## 3.2 Climate

Egypt has mainly two seasons: a mild winter from November to April and a hot summer from May to October. In the coastal regions, temperatures range between an average minimum of 14 °C in winter and an average maximum of 30 °C in summer. Temperatures vary widely in the inland desert areas, especially in summer, when they may range from 7 °C at night to 43 °C during the day. During winter, temperatures in the desert fluctuate less dramatically, but they can be as low as 0 °C at night and as high as 18 °C during the day. The average temperature increases moving southward from the Delta to the Sudanese border, where temperatures are similar to those of the open deserts to the east and west. At Aswan, in the south, June temperatures can be as low as 10 °C at night and as high as 41 °C during the day when the sky is clear.

Table 3.1: Average Temperature and Rainfall in North Egypt, Cairo

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Highs (°C)	20	22	21	26	33	34	36	35	33	28	25	20
Lows (°C)	10	12	11	14	18	21	24	24	22	18	14	12
Average rainfall (mm)	5	4	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	8

Source: Salongo Inc, Egypt, <http://www.salongo.jp/egypt/egypt.htm>