

Egypt-Japan Education Partnership “EJEP”

Empowerment of Egyptian Youth

Introduction of Japanese-Style Education

On the occasion of the official visit to Japan by H.E. Mr. Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, from 28 February to 2 March 2016, H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan and H.E. Mr. Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt announced their joint partnership on education: Egypt-Japan Education Partnership “EJEP” to empower Egyptian youth, as an important component in their endeavors to combat terrorism and extremism and to enhance peace, stability, development and prosperity.

This partnership has been realized based on the strong interest and commitment of Prime Minister Abe and President El-Sisi. The two leaders place a high priority on the cooperation in the area of education including early childhood, basic, technical and higher education, as well as scientific research, technology and innovation. The two leaders commit themselves to the implementation of the policy measures incorporated in the agreed upon partnership.

Under this partnership, the two governments will focus on the following fields.

1. Increasing the number of Egyptian students/trainees dispatched to Japan

During the past 50 years, more than 8,000 Egyptians studied or received training in Japan. After returning to Egypt, many assumed prominent positions such as cabinet ministers, professors, scientists and businesspersons. In recent years, approximately 200 Egyptians were annually sent to Japan for studying or training, on long and short-terms.

On the occasion of the visit of President El-Sisi to Japan, the two governments announced that at least 2,500 Egyptians, in particular students, researchers, teachers and government officials, especially in the fields of education and health, will be dispatched to Japan in the coming five years, whereby contributing to the realization of the Government of Egypt development and reform plans as well as its efforts to empower its promising youth. The Government of Japan recognized the importance of providing the necessary support to the Government of Egypt, through all possible means needed for that purpose including a Yen loan scholarship.

2. Introducing the Japanese-style education in Egypt

The Government of Egypt expressed strong interest in developing school activities, which address the ethics, discipline as well as collaborative spirits among Egyptian youth, through

introducing the essence of the Japanese-style education in Egypt including various school activities and school management, based on the Japanese experience and know-how such as “Tokubetsu Katsudo (Tokkatsu)”. The Government of Japan will support fully the efforts of the Egyptian Government.

Both sides also stressed the importance of expanding Japanese language education at various levels within the framework of this partnership.

3. Promotion of “Tokkatsu” in Egypt

“Tokubetsu Katsudo (Tokkatsu)” is an essential component in the Japanese education curriculum to achieve whole-child education which aims at a balanced development of social, emotional, physical and academic aspects of children, through various activities such as school events of culture and sports as well as interactive classroom discussion between teachers and children, for promoting active learning among children. The Government of Egypt expressed strong interest in introducing it in Egypt. At the request of the Government of Egypt, the Government of Japan will undertake to promote “Tokkatsu” at schools in Egypt.

4. Model schools to which the Japanese-style education is applied

The Government of Egypt will identify a number of existing schools in addition to the new schools to be established at the early childhood and basic education levels as well as a number of existing technical schools as the model schools to which the Japanese-style education is applied. The Government of Japan will support the model schools by dispatching the needed experts, volunteers and teachers and by providing equipment, where necessary. These model schools are identified by mutual consent.

5. Capacity building of teachers and instructors

Convinced that Education does not only mean transferring knowledge from teachers to students but also aims at individual character building, this partnership will be realized through human interaction between teachers and students. Bearing this in mind and sharing the recognition that it is important for teachers/trainers to better understand their mission and to continue the endeavor to further improve their capability, the Government of Egypt and the Government of Japan will enhance their cooperation in the area of capacity building of teachers/instructors. Egyptian teachers/trainers will be given training opportunities in Japan as well as in Egypt.

6. Improvement of school management and educational school activities

The Government of Japan will support the efforts of the Egyptian authorities including the Ministry of Education as well as the Educational Department of each governorate to improve school management and educational school activities and programs.

7. Promotion of physical education and music as school subjects in Egypt

The two governments stress the importance of physical education and music in particular, and that they should be treated as basic school subjects in the course of implementation of education in character building and acquiring disciplined spirits. The Government of Japan will support such efforts by the Egyptian side through dispatching volunteers who have professional teaching experience.

8. Promoting “learning through playing” practice at nurseries and kindergartens

During the past two decades, more than 70 JICA volunteers have been working in the field of early childhood development in Egypt, and building upon accumulated knowledge and experience. Japan and Egypt will accelerate nationwide dissemination of their practice for better child development by applying “learning through playing” practice in Egypt.

9. Cooperation in Technical Education

The Government of Japan and the Government of Egypt share the vision that promoting practical and effective technical education is imperative in order for the youth to obtain job opportunities, and to have a better life in the future, thereby contributing to the society and community. Cooperation to introduce the Japanese-style technical education will be conducted in collaboration with industries including Japanese companies in Egypt.

10. Policy targets and implementation

To implement the above-mentioned Japanese-style education programs, the Government of Egypt, in close consultation with the Government of Japan, will set policy targets in the area of education in terms of the introduction of Japanese-style education such as support for model schools, capacity building of teachers/instructors and improvement of school management and school activities. For that purpose, all possible means will be mobilized by both sides including the construction of Japanese-style schools through mutual consultations. The Government of Japan will consider possible means including a Yean loan for the necessary implementation of the EJEP.

11. Promotion of E-JUST

E-JUST (Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology) was established based upon the bilateral agreement concluded in 2009 between the Government of Egypt and the Government of Japan. E-JUST has become the cornerstone of the cooperation between the two countries. The Government of Japan has been providing various supports for E-JUST, including dispatching experts and professors on long or short terms, as well as providing E-JUST with necessary equipment for research and activities. Based upon such achievements and understanding both sides re-emphasized their commitment to support and strengthen E-JUST, including the construction of the new eco-friendly campus using Japanese technology by the Egyptian side, and establishment of the undergraduate programs of Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of International Business and Humanities, which are expected to open from the academic year 2017-2018, as well as the exchange of students and faculty members between the two countries.

12. Steering Committee on Egypt-Japan Education Partnership (EJEP)

The Government of Egypt and the Government of Japan established a joint Steering Committee for policy coordination, follow up and regular evaluation of the implementation of this Education partnership. Two Executive Committees were also set up under the Steering Committee, composed of the relevant high-ranking officials from both governments. The first Executive Committee oversees issues related to basic education and technical education such as preparation, coordination, implementation and follow-up of the components of basic education and technical education of this partnership. The second Executive Committee oversees the matters, including the Yen loan scholarship, related to the increased number of Egyptian students/trainees dispatched to Japan, such as the selection of Egyptian scholarships to Japan, including quota of sectorial categories, management of the entire process from recruitment, selection and preparation to dispatch students, and evaluation of the program and thereby take necessary decisions. The two governments agreed to hold the Steering Committee and Executive Committees regularly to discuss matters related to activities incorporated in this partnership and to ensure its smooth implementation based upon mutual consent.

(End)