# **VI.** Financial Evaluation

#### A. General

111. The purpose of the financial evaluation is to appraise the financial viability of the operating entity (SBDA) and the profitability of the Short-term Development Project itself. Projected financial statements are used for the former analysis and the financial internal rate of return (FIRR) based on the discount cash flow method is used for the latter.

112. The financial analysis is conducted on the port and the industrial sectors, and the urban and the related infrastructures sectors are excluded, because the former does not have a direct connection with the production activities and the management and operation in the latter will not be conducted by SBDA.

113. As for the port sector, SBDA is assumed to cover the planning, construction and management of the port facilities and port services including cargo handling and storage which the Red Sea Port Authority and the national companies (the Suez Mechanical Stevedoring Co. and the General Silos and Storage Co.) respectively take responsibility for at present. The financial situation of these authority and firms is appraised to be sound in general.

114. As for the industrial sector, SBDA will take responsibility for the planning, construction, sales and management of the industrial estate and the industrial free zone. These items are currently handled by GOFI, MODANC, and GAIFZ. Financial management by these entities, especially for the industrial estate, does not seem to be appropriate. The key issue is the lack of government funds which has caused cost increases through the utilization of bank loans, rising land sales prices due to the cost increase, increased unsold land due to the higher price level, and finally increased governmental subsidies to promote the land sales. To lead the industrial sector portion of the Short-term Development Plan to success, it is necessary to rearrange the financial management policy.

115. In other words, the government should spend its funds in a reasonable manner, and SBDA should manage and operate the Project with an entrepreneuerial sense to ensure the effective use of government and borrowed funds.

116. Funds necessary to execute this Short-term Development Project are presumed to be raised under the following conditions:

	Foreign Currency Portion	Local Currency Portion
Fund Raising	Borrowing	Government Funds
Loan Period	30 Years	
Grace Period	10 Years	Free from Loan Repayment
Interest Rate	4% per annum	and Interest Payment
Repayment of the Principal	Fixed Amount Repayment	

#### **B. Future Financial Performance**

117. Projected revenues of the port sector are based on the traffic forecast presented in this study and the existing port tariffs. However, some adjustment (an approximately 65% increase of the tarrifs in terms of Egyptian pounds) is made so that SBDA can gain the same amount of revenue in terms of foreign currency (US\$) under the changed L.E.-US\$ exchange rate (from 0.82 L.E./US\$ to 1.35 L.E./US\$). This adjustment has already been made by the Egyptian shipping agents who collect the port charges from the shipping companies and pay them to the Port Authorities and to the cargo handling and storage companies.

118. The sales price of the land in the industrial estate and the industrial free zone is set as L.E. 35 per square meter. Although the industrial free zone seems to give greater advantages to the enterprises which will locate there, no price differential is set because the industries in the free zone, the exportoriented industries, will enjoy essentially the same operating conditions as the enterprises in the industrial estate. This sales price of the factory land is reasonable because it covers the necessary land sales cost (L.E. 21.7 per square meter) and is also not too expensive in comparison with prices in other competitive areas such as 10th of Ramadan, 15th of May, Sadat City, 6th of October, New Ameriya and so on.

119. As for the future financial performance of the SBDA's port sector, the working ratio and the operating ratio fluctuate within a range of  $19.7\% \sim 30.6\%$  and  $26.2\% \sim 66.2\%$ , respectively. Except for two years, the return on net fixed assets will be over 7% ( $5.7\% \sim 62.8\%$ ), which is the standard usually used for appraising earning power. The debt service ratio will maintain a level far above 1.0 ( $4.0 \sim 31.8$ ) during the entire project life. These ratios are satisfactory and seem to be rather too good owing to the above-mentioned revenue adjustment. Even if the loan conditions become substantially worse (interest rate:  $4.0\% \rightarrow 8.5\%$ ), the financial viability of the SBDA's port sector will be maintained.

120. While, in the industrial sector, the land sales revenue will be gained during the ten years from 1989/90 to 1998/99 on the basis of six yearly installments, and thereafter SBDA's revenue will be comprised of only administrative charges. Accordingly, after 1999/2000, the net income and net operating income even before depreciation will become negative. However, this is not so serious an issue, because these deficits will be covered by the fund management income which will be generated from the deposit of the land sales revenue. In this case, financial indexes are not useful for the analysis, because they do not take the fund management income into account which the financial management of SBDA will deeply depend on. However, the soundness of the continuing operations, the earning power and the debt repayment ability are proved by the projected favorable cash flow balance. The SBDA's industrial sector would also be financially viable under the same worse loan conditions applied for the port sector.

121. Tables give the joint financial statements of both (port and industrial) sectors which show that SBDA's revenues will always exceed its expenditures throughout the project life. Even if the worse values of the financial indexes in the industrial sector are employed, the working ratio and the operating ratio fluctuate within a range of 16.8%  $\sim$  24.6% and 22.0%  $\sim$  52.2%, respectively. The return on net fixed assets always exceeds 7% (10.2%  $\sim$  45.5%) and the debt service ratio will be over 1.0 (3.5  $\sim$  31.8) throughout the study period. Also, the worse loan conditions would not seriously affect the financial status of SBDA. Accordingly, it is concluded that the financial viability of SBDA is guaranteed.

#### C. Financial Internal Rate of Return (FIRR)

122.

#### The estimated FIRR is summarized below:

						(Unit: %)
Sector	Pa	ort	Indu	istry	Ta	ital
Case	FIRR	L.L.	FIRR	L.L.	FIRR	L.L.
Cost Decrease by 10%	3.9		13.8		4,8	
Revenue Increase by 10%	3.8	(5.7)	13.3	(3.7)	4,6	(5.3)
Base Case	2.9	2.7	8.9	1.7	3.3	2.5
Cost Increase by 10%	1.9		4.2		2.1	
Revenue Decrease by 10%	1.8		3.7		2.0	

L.L. = Lower Limit = Weighted Average Annual Interest Rate for All the Project Funds Rate of L.L. in parentheses = in the case of an 8.5% interest rate on the foreign currency portion funds Rate of L.L. without parentheses = in the case of a 4.0% interest rate on the foreign currency portion funds.

The industrial sector project is very profitable, and a cost increase or revenue decrease of 10% would not damage its profitability even under the worse loan conditions. As for the port sector

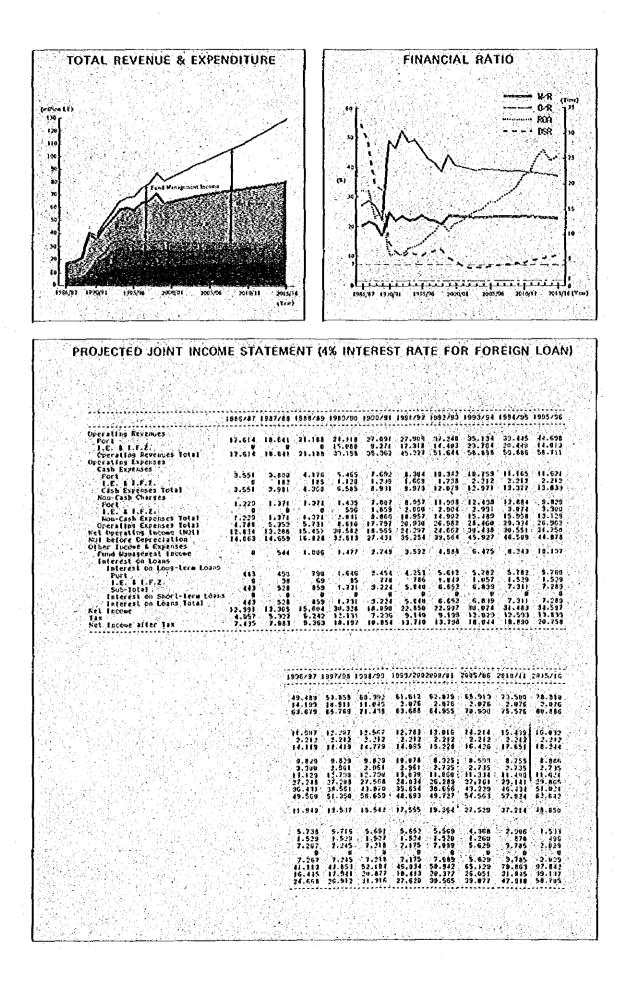
project, the FIRR of the base case exceeds the lower limit under the soft loan conditions. However, a 10% cost increase or revenue decrease would make this project financially unfeasible, and if the interest rate on the foreign currency portion funds rose to 8.5%, excessive cost reduction or revenue increase would be required to keep the project. Accordingly, SBDA should do its best to utilize soft loans and to increase revenues through the reasonable raise of tariffs based on the higher construction and operation costs of the new berths, especially the grain and coal berths, where the newest model of facilities and equipment are used.

Total situation is similar to that of the port sector because of its dominant share in the whole business scale.

### D. Overall Financial Evaluation

123. From the viewpoint of the financial viability of SBDA and the profitability of the Project itself, it is concluded that this Short-term Development Project is feasible. However, SBDA will be required to minimize costs and to maximize revenues in order to maintain a comfortable profit margin.

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## VII. Conclusions and Recommendations

#### A. Conclusions

124. The Plan relates to the Suez Canal Regional Development and the Sinai Regional Development. The main objective of the Plan is to provide adequate infrastructures for industries which will contribute to the decentralization of population and industry in Egypt, to promote rapid economic growth and to rectify the growing deficit of the country's balance of payments as well as to provide an adequate capacity for the ports of Suez to accommodate the traffic demand through the year 2005. The Plan, therefore, includes the following main components: (i) Ataqa Adabiya Port, Ataqa industrial estates, Adabiya industrial free zones, Ataqa new town, Ataqa fishery port and other related facilities, (ii) Ain Sukhna industrial port, industrial estates, new towns, Ras Sudr Port, and an industrual estate and related facilities.

125. The Short-term Development Project concentrates on the Ataga-Adabiya Area. The Project includes the following components; (i) Phase I of the Ataga commercial port development (ii) Phase I of the Adabiya commercial port development (iii) Ataga fishery port (iv) Phase I of the Ataga industrial estate (v) Phase I of the Adabiya industrial free zone (vi) Other related facilities including water supply system.

126. The total cost of the Project is estimated at L.E. 375 million of which L.E. 233.5 million (62 percent) is the foreign currency cost and L.E. 141.5 million is the local currency cost. The local currency cost is to be met using the government's own resources.

127. On the basis of readily quantifiable benefits, the EIRR of the project is estimated as 13.6 percent. The FIRR is estimated as 3.3 percent. Therefore, the Project is viable. There are no significant technical or environmental risks associated with the port development aspect of the Project. Industrial location, however, highly depends on well-managed administrative control, and therefore the industrial location aspect of the Project must be executed with the completed consensus of all related organizations and authorities after making adequate feasibility studies on the location of the proposed industries.

#### **B.** Recommendations

128. The following items are highly recommended for the smooth implementation of the Project:

129. As the entire Project will take a long time, the government should consider taking necessary measures to regulate land and sea area use and to control land prices to prevent random development and land speculation.

130. The related organizations should review and revise, if necessary, the implementation plan for infrastructural development in existing Suez, since it is closely related with the Project.

131. Since the Project consists of various infrastructures which are currently managed and operated by different authorities or agencies, the government should consider establishing a new institutional framework with the Suez Bay Coastal Area Development Authority (SBDA) as the central organ to lead the Project to success.

132. Since the effective operation & management of the port is an important prerequisite to attract export-oriented industries, cargo handling productivity should be improved and an effective management system should be developed.

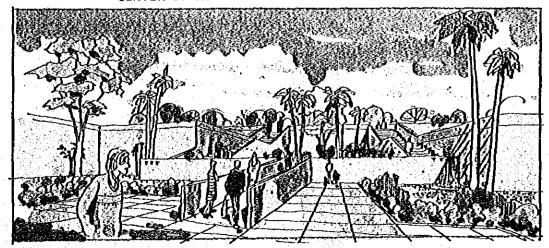
133. The government should consider making a review of the current institutional framework for the location of industries and taking necessary steps to give foreign companies incentives to locate in the industrial zones such as:

- Alleviation of exchange controls which are the most serious problem for foreign enterprises at present;
- Exemption or reduction of corporate income tax, fixed property tax and the individual income tax of the foreign employees at least for the first several years until the tenants' businesses are firming established;
- Establishment of a system to provide highly skilled Egyptian laborers, or subsidizing the enterprises for their cost in training Egyptian employees;
- Establishment of a sales promotion system under the close cooperation between SBDA and its tenants;
- Relaxation of restrictions on trade;
- Exemption or reduction of customs duties for all or part of exported and imported goods;
- Exemption from as many customs procedures as possible; and
- Permitting the tenants to sell their products not only in foreign markets but also in the local market to a certain extent so that domestic industrial activities will not stagnate.

134. As for the navigation control in the inner Bay of Suez, necessary arrangements should be made to comply with S.C.A and Red Sea Port Authority rules and regulations taking into consideration the future prospects of the Canal expansion scheme.

135. As for the industrial location in the proposed industrial estate and industrial free zone, it is recommended to conduct the study on the privatization of industries which are currently owned by public entitites for the more effective and costsaving operation as well as to consult a potential private investors' wishes to locate to determine the exact size and type of factories to be included within the national industrial plan.

136. It is also recommended to study and discuss among the related organizations about the roles of these organizations and necessary revision of the rules and regulations needed to realize the project and the proposed industrial location.



CENTER OF THE ADABIYA INDUSTRIAL FREE ZONE

JICE JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY