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It should be noted that these Egyptian perspectives on Canadian technical assistance are primarily dealing with the ISAWIP project. Egyptian managers working with Canadians on other projects (particularly the Electrical Authority Project) tended to be much more positive about the effectiveness of the Canadian experts. Perhaps the strongest point arising out of discussions with both Canadians and Egyptians on this issue of effectiveness is the need for a partnership approach to exchanging skills and knowledge. Generally speaking, there appears to have been very limited success in this regard. The need to build a foundation of trust and understanding between Canadians and Egyptians, although acknowledged by all as critical for development success, remains a challenge for both sides.

On Promoting Partnership

Participants in this Egypt study were asked about how CIDA might promote a more effective partnership with GOE and CEAs. This question evoked a variety of response and considerable consensus. Suggestions included the following:

- CIDA should work more closely with GOE to identify the real problems confronting Egypt in its development process and jointly design projects to meet these needs. More research should characterize the planning stage for project identification.
- Define more clearly and negotiate more carefully the roles, responsibilities, terms of reference, of all partners including monitoring, and evaluation procedures.
- Improve communication and team work between CIDA Headquarters and CIDA in Cairo.
- Educate (train) CEA staff on CIDA reporting requirements.
- Let the CEA manage the project and interfere less. Trust the CEA more.