

TRANSPORTATION

MARINE

Egypt has over 3,000 kilometres of navigable waterways dispersed between the Nile and the canals. The main port in Egypt is located at Alexandria and it has the largest water area of any Mediterranean harbour and handles three-quarters of the country's annual seaborne traffic, approximately 18 million tonnes excluding oil. Container capacity at Alexandria is approximately 120,000 TEU annually. Expansion of general and container facilities is proceeding at a new site, 6 kilometres to the west of the city. Damietta is a major new port in the Nile Delta, which has been operational since 1986. Damietta has four container berths and storage capacity for 125,000 TEU annually. A new container terminal at Port Said has opened recently and has a storage capacity of approximately 200,000 TEU annually. Port Said also has storage capacity for 100 reefer units. The Egyptian government is considering turning Port Said into a major trans-shipment terminal linking Mediterranean traffic to the large container ships serving the Far East. The public Fish Marketing Company maintains storage and freezing facilities adequate for dealing with seafood imports. However, Egyptian ports can become congested and delays may result.

AIR

The main international airports in Egypt are Cairo International Airport located at Heliopolis, and the airport at Alexandria. EgyptAir, the state owned airline, is the largest airline in the region and operates service to Europe and the United States. Recent privatisation measures have allowed several privately owned airlines to operate scheduled flights to major destinations.

ROADS

Egypt has a major road network which connects Cairo with Alexandria, Suez, Ismailia, other Delta towns, and with Aswan leading to the High Dam. Egypt has approximately 90,000 kilometres of roadways with only one-third paved. The Egyptian government has included roadway expansion in previous economic plans and the current five year plan calls for 376 kilometres of new roads, 355 kilometres widened and strengthened, and 339 kilometres are to be made into dual roadways.

RAILWAYS

The current five year plan of the Egyptian government has the aim of raising the railway's share of freight transport by 50 percent including domestic transport. These and other modernisation developments are expected to increase Egypt's potential for containerised transport from Egyptian ports to continental Africa. A 4.5 kilometre metro line opened in 1987 in Cairo between Ramses Square and Sayida Zaynab which helps complete a 42 kilometre regional line.