

Minister Praised LIFE-IWRM Project

H.E. the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI), Dr. Mahmoud Abu Zeid, recently praised the LIFE-Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Project, a USAID funded initiative within the Environment Office, for its significant contribution to the Irrigation Information System. The LIFE-IWRM



project provides technical assistance, training, commodities, and small grants to support decentralization of water management. The aim is to increase water use efficiency and productivity. This is achieved by working with the MWRI to expand decentralization efforts through the establishment of Integrated Water Management Districts (IWMDs), and formation of Branch Canal Water Users' Associations (BCWUAs).

His Excellency commended the project for its support of

information technology in an article on the "Establishment of a New Technological System for Monitoring Nile Water" appearing 1/19/05 in Egypt's foremost newspaper, El-Ahram. One project task is to support decision-making by improving access to data on water availability, allocation and quality. As part of this activity the project established monitoring devices at three irrigation pumping stations- Hebeil, Biada and Moala, located in the Luxor area. As a result information on flow can be sent instantly to a secondary receiver at Qena Irrigation Directorate. This ability to accurately measure the time of operation and the discharge from these main pumping stations on the Nile River Network is essential to the Telemetry Unit of the MWRI. In the article, Dr. Abou Zeid noted the success of this initiative in enhancing the performance of the Irrigation Information System in Upper Egypt.

