APE Profile

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Association for the Protection of the Environment (APE)
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The establishment and development of the association:

APE is a non-governmental organization founded in 1984 and registered under the number 3255, and has been reregistered as a central organization in 1994 under the number 263, working in the field of environment protection against pollution caused by domestic solid wastes in Cairo, and precisely in areas occupied by garbage collectors. APE aimed at developing this population deprived of basic services through the empowerment of women, children and young people by providing them with education, health care and a better economic and social environment.

- In 1986, APE started its activities by an organic fertilizers unit at Mokattam to recycle pigsties and organic wastes collected from the houses. This fertilizer would be used for agricultural purposes in the reclamation of desert lands.

- In 1987, APE established a development program for the poor and needy categories and a carpet and handicraft unit was opened in the association premises in order to attract the illiterate daughters and wives of the garbage collectors in order to teach them and to train them on making carpets and handicrafts.

- In 1988, this developmental activity has been improved in order to apply the new non traditional educational policies. Thus, their improved standards would also have its impact on the women's daily life skills such as reproductive and general health and social skills like communication through dialogue, decision-making, educational skills such as literacy, computer and foreign languages learning and economic skills like training on various professions and cultural skills such as excursions, and lectures. Carpet weaving and handicrafts have been developed according to the set objectives.

- In 1992, the educational unit was inaugurated, including:
    - Nursery from 6 months to 6 years old.
    - Education of children who didn't go to school.
    - Mother and child care.
    - Girls literacy classes for the preparatory level.

In the same year, APE declared the results of its project that has already started in the same year "Wastes separation from the sources" it has been applied in the districts of Manial, Deir el Malak, Maadi, Basateen and Noweiba. Efforts are deployed in order to apply it in the remaining areas in and out of Cairo.

- In 1993, a unit was opened for recycling the wastes in paper collected from schools and offices, applying the non traditional education policies.
- In 1994, APE formed a committee in Torah to set up a plan of work aiming at improving the living standard of the area population, in particular for the garbage collectors. The association presented a project to the Governor through which the creation and improvement of an area for the garbage collectors presently called Medinet el Wehda el Watania (formerly Tora) and in the same year the Governor authorized the project.
- In 1995, the Prime Minister issued a ministerial decree that legalized the existence of the city, thus, the inhabitants legalized their housing.
- In 1996, APE was reregistered under the number 263 in order to extend its services to the whole country though establishing branches in the different governorates. In the same year, APE opened a center for mother and child care in Torah to serve the area population in different medical fields, and held several training sessions for young girls and women to become health leaders.
- In 1997, APE opened a branch to extend its activities in Dahab city in south Sinai. which is the beginning of the use of intermediary stations to recycle garbage in the different governorates of Egypt.
- In 1998 was a year full of events; a geographical map of Torah was approved, Ape established a modern center for training and producing recycling machines and all wastes-related activities were moved from Torah to Kattamiah.
- In 1999, the fertilizers unit was also moved from Mokattam to Kattamiah.
- In 2000, productive workshops were created in Kattamiah in order to recycle the plastic wastes.
- In 2001, an echo garden was founded where old Egyptian trees were planted as date-tree has been planted in Mokattam in the place of the fertilizers unit that was transferred to Kattamiah.
- In 2005 a choir was established in APE from the boys and girls of the area with the assistance of a specialist from the Arab Music Institute.
- As of 1999 up to the present APE continued to inaugurate several projects in the development field such as Adolescent Girl Care, Reproductive Health Care, Hair Health Care, Hepatitis B and C prevention, Parents' Awareness in association with El Karma Company, Literacy Classes, Reinforcement Classes for Primary and Preparatory Levels, Literacy of Home Students, Towards a Better Life for Disabled Children, Scholarships Program, Towards a better Environment, Eye Disease

Anemia, TB Patients Treatment, Better Life for Handicapped, Early Detection of Diabetes, Scholarships to prevent students from dropping out, Baby Care Project, Better Environment Project, Early Detection of Breast Cancer, Hand in Hand Project to combat poverty in Haram City, Kidney Diseases and others.

- In 2009 Al Haram City branch was established which included A Day Care Center, Literacy Classes, Sorting of Garbage from the Source, Planting of Trees.

- In 2012 APE in cooperation with Lotus International Organization started to manufacture lamps from the garbage cans to provide electricity in the streets with solar energy.

- In 2015 APE made a sports court in cooperation with FIFA.

- In 2016 Katameya branch was closed down based on the request of the armed forces.

Association's main mission:

Promote environmentally safe solid waste management through empowering garbage collectors particularly women, children and youth to become technologically able to manage a viable system of household waste including recycling in Egypt through comprehensive development: health, education, social, economic and cultural programs to become agents of change for a better environment.

Objectives

APE's overall objective is to improve the lives of garbage collectors as individuals and as a community. APE combines its objective in serving the poor with an interest in protecting the environment, specifically with regards to household waste.

Through its support of the garbage collector communities, A.P.E. aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

- Design strategies to improve solid waste management practices across Egypt.
- Transfer the technology of solid waste management and advocate for solid waste management policy change across governorates in Egypt.
- Improve the standard of living among garbage collectors especially in the fields of health, standard of living, education, with a special emphasis on women and children.
- Create new employment opportunities for garbage collectors in the field of waste management and recycling.
- Provide training opportunities for garbage collectors and their families in education, health, crafts, and other areas.

Scope of work of APE:

Geographical scope:

The association is working as a central association covering the whole country (it can have branches in any area in Egypt).

Work areas:

1) The headquarters is in the garbage collectors' area in Mansheyet Nasser, in Mokattam (a population of 40 thousand persons).
2) The Developing and Promoting Unit in the garbage collector in Torah area, in front of Sakanat El Maadi on the ring road route (22 thousand persons).
3) Haram City for Cooperative Housing in October 6th City (15 thousand persons or 3 thousand families approximately) were moved from Establ Antar and Doweika by the government in cooperation with Orascom Inhabitants Company to avoid natural hazards such as rock falling in Doweika.

APE Awards:

- United Nations award for the environment in 1995.
- Dubai International award in the field of developing the standard of life, in 1998.
- Dubai International award in the field of paper recycling, in 2002.
- Development award for the best means of handling of solid waste in 2003.
- Dr. Samuel Habib award for social work distinction, in 2006.
- The best 100 association award in the world from Global Journal, in 2012.
- Recognition Certificates in several fields: education, recycling, environment, and exhibits.
- Lebanese Takreem Organization award in 2020 for permanent development.