

Kind of Tree-planting Activities in United Arab Emirates

PART 1 : Large scale afforestation and urban greening

(1) Purpose of afforestation

Based on the principle of the President Sheikh Zayed that "Profit gained by petroleum from the ground has to be returned to the soil", a part of the profit gained by selling petroleum is allocated to expand afforestation area. Projects can be classified into two kinds according to the purpose.

- Large scale afforestation ; Tree planting to protect roads or farms from wind and shifting sand.
- Urban greening ; Tree planting to improve living environment. Target spots are median strips of main roads, parks, road sides and public sectors.

Large scale afforestation projects have been carried out mostly in Abu Dhabi emirate and recently some projects have also being implemented in Dubai emirate. However, no large scale projects have been conducted in the northern emirates because there is no agency for large scale afforestation in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries which is in charge of the area. On the other hand, except for Abu Dhabi emirate, every emirate has gardening section and they have been operating greening projects in urban area of each emirate.



Large Scale Afforestation Urban Greening (Al Ain City)

(2) Present Achievement

In Abu Dhabi, a French consultant company initiated afforestation in 1969, for about 245ha along the Al Ain-Abu Dhabi road. After that, afforestation area has been expanded dramatically. In eastern region of Abu Dhabi, 29,200ha had been planted with trees by 1992. In western region, afforestation area was about 4,000ha in 1980. Due to active tree planting, 26,500ha, mainly in and around Liwa oasis and along main roads, had been completed by 1992. And it is said that in Dubai emirate, which recently started afforestation projects, around 3,000ha has been completed already.

