

Evaluation of Air Quality in Damietta Harbor Region

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Received: 9 July 2017 /Accepted: 2 Sept 2017

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Abstract

Ship emissions in port areas are dispersed mainly concerns sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), particulate matter, ... etc., in the atmosphere, affecting air quality and jeopardizing people's health and quality of life. This study aims to assess air quality of Damietta Harbor Region. Implementing continuous monitoring of major air pollutants (NO₂, SO₂, CO, O₃ and PM₁₀) were found in Damietta harbor by using Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (AAQMS) from January 2013 to December 2015. According to the obtained results, the annual mean levels of NO₂, SO₂, CO and O₃ in Damietta Port Area in 2013, 2014 and 2015 were 29.92, 41.50 and 29.12 µg/m³ of NO₂, 26.68, 27.69 and 24.83 µg/m³ of SO₂, 5.31, 2.29 and 6.23 mg/m³ of CO and 33.10, 41.00 and 39.43 µg/m³ of O₃, respectively. These results did not exceed the AQL as stipulated in the Egyptian Environmental Law 4/94 and its executive regulations (80, 60 µg/m³) for NO₂ and SO₂, and (10 mg/m³ for 8 hrs.) for CO, and (120 µg/m³ for 8 hrs.) for O₃. Whereas, the annual mean levels of PM₁₀ in Damietta Port Area were 83.56 and 72.32 µg/m³, in 2013 and 2015 respectively, found higher than AQL as stipulated in the Egyptian Environmental Law 4/94 and its executive regulations (70µg/m³).

Keywords: Damietta Port Area, Ship emissions, Gases, NO₂, SO₂, CO, O₃, PM₁₀.

1. Introduction

Human activities introduce numerous of chemical components into the atmospheric environments of urban areas through industrial wastes, traffic congestion and overcrowding in cities, etc. They contribute many environmental problems, such as photochemical smog and asthmatic disease. They influence also, on the composition of the atmosphere and on the

atmospheric fallout (**Matsumoto et al., 1980**).

Air pollution due to ship emissions mainly concerns sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and particulate matter. Ships at berth are also still responsible for air pollution in the port areas, mainly because of the use of engines for supplying auxiliary devices (**Schembari et al., 2012; Adamo et al., 2014**).

In recent years, environmental problems have become one of the most important topics on

the agenda at international forums on politics, economics and science. Outdoor air pollution originates from a variety of sources including residential and industrial gases combustion, a burgeoning transport sector, chemical releases from industry, outdoor burning of agricultural waste, and dust from construction, roads and deserts. Exposure to outdoor air pollutants (mainly respirable particles, ozone, and nitrogen dioxide) has also been associated with lung cancer, cardio-respiratory diseases and possibly low birth weight (Dockery *et al.*, 1993; Pope *et al.*, 2002).

Egypt has suffered greatly from its air pollution. The most effectively reduce this pollution remains unanswered for Cairo and other mega cities in the developing countries. This study aims to assess air quality in Damietta harbor region. To achieve this objective the assessment of Air Pollutants for study area was based on; Implementing concentrations of NO₂, SO₂, CO, O₃ and PM₁₀ emissions were measured continuously by ambient air quality monitoring analyzers station (AAQMS) in Damietta port area from January 2013 to December 2015.

2. Methodology

2.1 Background of Study Area

The Port is located on the northeastern coast of the Nile Delta, approx. 70 km west of Port Said, 250 km east of Alexandria. The Port of Damietta is strategically located on the international transport lane as well as for domestic supply to Egypt. The Damietta harbor was constructed in 1982 and is located about 9.7 km west of the Damietta Nile promontory with an area of approximately 11.8 million m², of which 3.9 million m² is water mass.

Damietta is a first class transshipment port, which can accommodate the new generation of large container vessels (> 6000 tons) due to the deep draft (14.5 m) and the modern stevedoring equipment at the port. In addition to this, vessels can enter and leave the port any time without restrictions, and vessels transiting the Suez Canal can use Damietta Port without any detours which can result in significant time savings.



Figure (1): Damietta Port Area

2.2 Activities in Damietta Port Area

Damietta Port consists of several berths areas, such as; Containers, General Cargo, Dry Bulk, Liquid Bulk, and Grains Terminal Berths, and SEGAS (Spanish Egyptian Gas Company) Terminal, UGDC (United Gas Derivatives Company) and Petrochemicals Holding Company (ECHEM) and Methanex Cooperation, a Canadian Private Sector Company, is operating stand-alone methanol plants beside Damietta Port, adding to El Rehab Damietta Silos and Storage (Flour Mill).

2.3 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (AAQMS)

Air pollutants (NO₂, SO₂, O₃, CO, and PM₁₀) and meteorological parameters (wind speed, wind direction, temperature, relative humidity and barometric pressure) had been monitored by using ambient air quality monitoring station (AAQMS) inside the territory of Damietta port. The concentrations of NO₂, SO₂, O₃ and PM₁₀ were expressed in µg/m³, whereas CO was expressed in mg/m³.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Evaluation of Gases, NO₂, SO₂, CO and O₃ in Ambient of Damietta Port Area:

Concentrations of NO₂, SO₂, CO and O₃ emissions were measured continuously by ambient air quality monitoring analyzers in

Damietta port area in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively (Table 1).

Table (1): Annual Mean Concentrations of NO₂, SO₂, CO and O₃ in 2013, 2014 and 2015

Year	NO ₂ (µg/m ³)	SO ₂ (µg/m ³)	CO (mg/m ³)	O ₃ (µg/m ³)
2013	29.92	26.68	5.31	33.10
2014	41.50	27.69	2.29	41.00
2015	29.12	24.83	6.23	39.43

3.1.1 Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)

The annual mean concentrations of NO₂ in Damietta Port Area in 2013, 2014 and 2015 were 29.92, 41.50 and 29.12 µg/m³, respectively (Fig. 2), which did not exceed the AQL as stipulated in the Egyptian Environmental Law 4/94 and its executive regulations (80 µg/m³).

It is observed from Fig. (3), the annual mean of NO₂ % in Damietta Port follow the order: (41%) > (30%) > (29%) in 2014, 2013, 2015 year, respectively. High NO₂ levels in year 2014 may be due to the high activities of shipping, goods transportation in the port area during this year.

The high level of Nitrogen dioxide concentrations in Damietta Port area were attributed to traffic (trucks and cars), operating cranes (as exhaust gas), shipping (hotelling and maneuvering) and partially may come from E-Methanex and MOPCO stacks. The results of this study were confirmed with previous researches (Mohamad *et al.*, 2015; Podrez, 2015; Tenaillau *et al.*, 2015).

3.1.2 Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)

The annual mean levels of SO₂ in Damietta Port Area in 2013, 2014 and 2015 were 26.68, 27.69 and 24.83 µg/m³, respectively (Fig. 4), which did not exceed the AQL as stipulated in the Egyptian Environmental Law 4/94 and its executive regulations (60 µg/m³).

It is observed from Fig. (5), the annual mean of SO₂ % in Damietta Port follow the order: (35%) > (34%) > (31%) in 2014, 2013 and 2015, respectively.

Sulfur dioxide concentrations in Damietta Port area may be attributed to traffic (trucks and cars), operating cranes (as exhaust gas), shipping (hotelling and maneuvering) and partially may come from E-Methanex stacks. The results were confirmed with previous researches (Mohamad *et al.*, 2015).

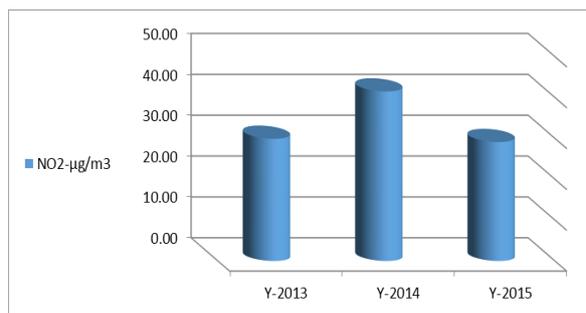


Figure (2): Annual Mean Concentrations of NO₂ in Damietta Port Area (2013 – 2015).

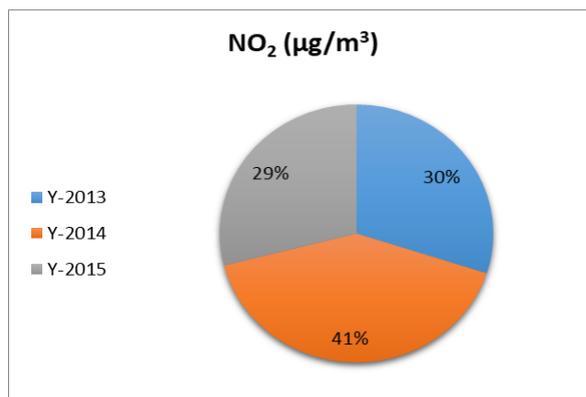


Figure (3): Annual Mean NO₂ % in Damietta Port Area (2013 – 2015).

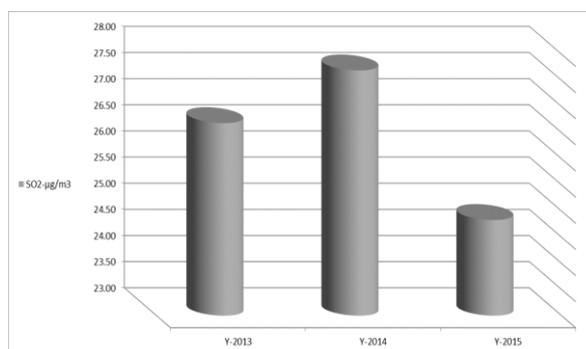


Figure (4): Annual Mean Concentrations of SO₂ in Damietta Port Area (2013 – 2015).

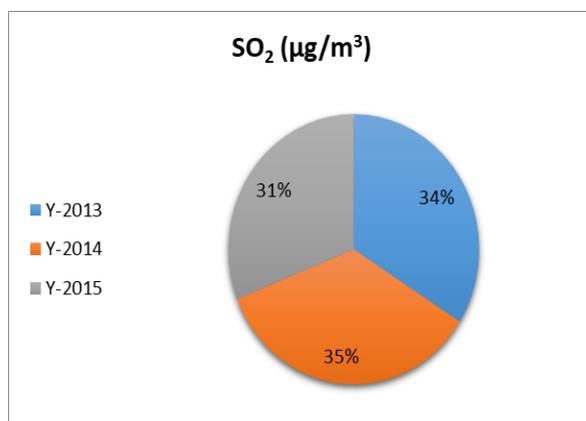


Figure (5): Annual Mean SO₂% in Damietta Port Area (2013 – 2015).

3.1.3 Carbon Monoxide (CO)

The annual mean levels of CO in Damietta Port Area in 2013, 2014 and 2015 were 5.31, 2.29 and 6.23 mg/m³, respectively (**Fig. 6**), which did not exceed the AQL as stipulated in the Egyptian Environmental Law 4/94 and its executive regulations (10 mg/m³ for 8 hrs.).

Carbon monoxide concentrations in Damietta Port area may be due to traffic trucks and cars, operating cranes as exhaust gas, shipping (hotelling and maneuvering) and partially may come from E-Methanex and MOPCO stacks. The results were confirmed with previous researches (**Mohamad et al., 2015**).

As shown in **Fig. (7)**, the observed annual mean of CO % in Damietta Port follow the order: (45%) > (38%) > (17%) in 2015, 2013, and 2014, respectively.

3.1.4 Ozone (O₃)

The annual mean levels of O₃ in Damietta Port Area in 2013, 2014 and 2015 were 33.10, 41.00 and 39.43 µg/m³, respectively (**Fig. 8**), which did not exceed the AQL as stipulated in the Egyptian Environmental Law 4/94 and its executive regulations (120 µg/m³ for 8 hrs.). Ozone concentrations in Damietta Port area were attributed to on-road-cars, trucks and buses. The results were confirmed with previous researches (**Mohamad et. al, 2015**).

As shown in **Fig. (9)**, the annual mean of O₃ % in Damietta Port follow the order: (36%) > (35%) > (29%) in 2014, 2015 and 2013, respectively.

3.2 Evaluation of PM₁₀ in Ambient Emissions of Damietta Port Area

Concentrations of PM₁₀ emissions were measured continuously by ambient air quality monitor in Damietta port area. The annual mean levels of PM₁₀ in Damietta Port Area in 2013, 2014 and 2015 were 83.56, 60.31 and 72.32µg/m³ respectively, (**Table 2 and Fig. 10**), annual mean levels in 2013 and 2015 were higher than AQL as stipulated in the Egyptian Environmental Law 4/94 and its executive regulations (70µg/m³).

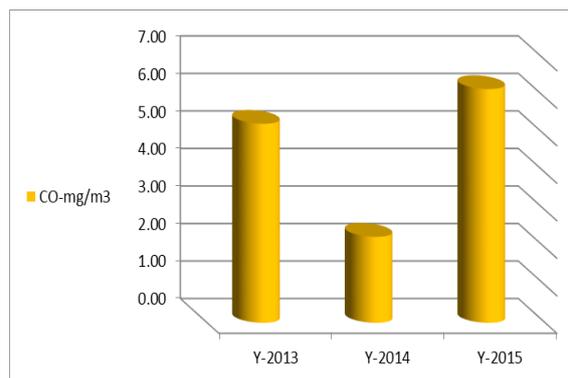


Figure (6): Annual Mean Concentrations of CO in Damietta Port Area (2013 – 2015).

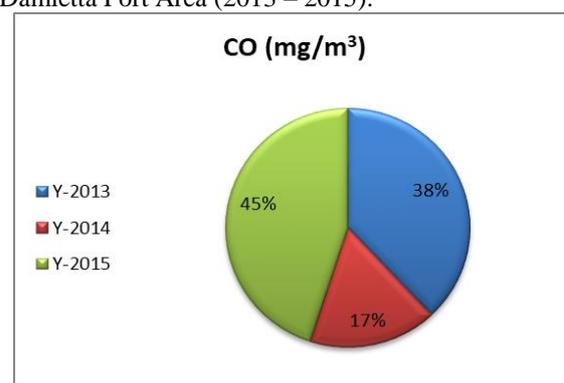


Figure (7): Annual Mean CO % in Damietta Port Area (2013 – 2015).

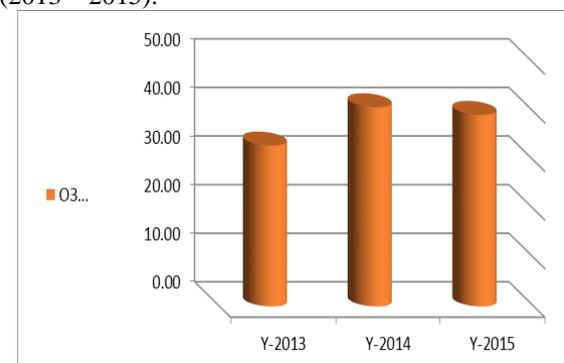


Figure (8): Annual Mean Concentrations of O₃ in Damietta Port Area (2013 – 2015)

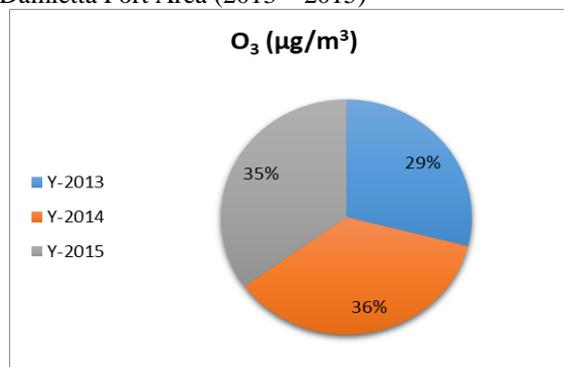


Figure (9): Annual Mean O₃% in Damietta Port Area (2013 – 2015)

It is observed from **Fig. (11)**, the annual mean of PM₁₀ % in Damietta Port follows the order: (39%) > (33%) > (28%) in 2013, 2015, and 2014 year, respectively.

PM₁₀ concentrations in Damietta Port area were attributed mainly to dust came from Dry Bulk Terminal Berths (handling of Fertilizers, Cement, Glass sand, ... etc), Grains Terminal Berths, movements of trucks on roads and partially may come from El-Rehab Flour Mill and MOPCO plant. The results were confirmed with previous researches (**Mohamad et al., 2015**).

Table (2): Annual Mean Concentrations of PM₁₀ in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Year	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³)
2013	83.56
2014	60.31
2015	72.32

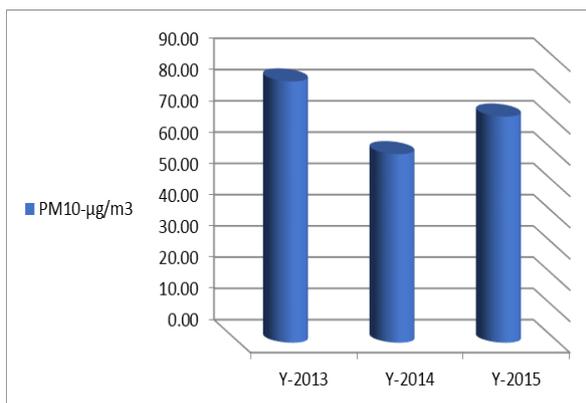


Figure (10): Annual Mean Concentrations of PM₁₀ in Damietta Port Area (2013 – 2015).

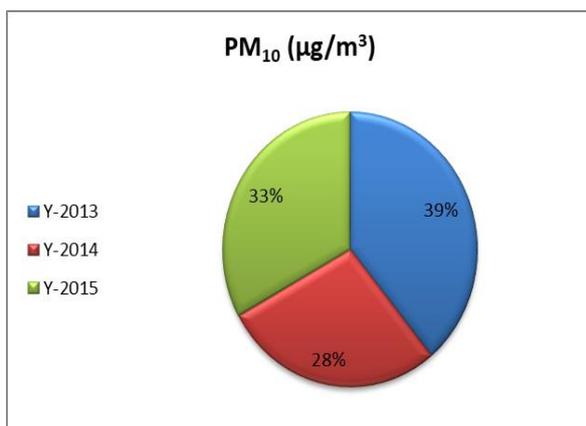


Figure (11): Annual Mean PM₁₀ % in Damietta Port Area (2013 – 2015).

3.3 Comparison between annual mean concentrations of measured gases in Damietta Port (NO₂, SO₂, CO and O₃) in 2013 –2015.

The annual mean concentration of measured gases in Damietta Port (NO₂, SO₂, CO and O₃) follows the order: CO > O₃> NO₂> SO₂ in 2013; CO > NO₂> O₃> SO₂ in 2014 and CO > O₃> NO₂> SO₂ in 2015.

Air pollution due to ship emissions mainly concerns sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and particulate matter. Besides that the European Union (EU) legislation enforces the use of a cleaner fuel in terms of sulfur content during ship hotelling longer than 2 hr. Ships at berth are also still responsible for air pollution in the port areas, mainly because of the use of engines for supplying auxiliary devices (**Adamo et al., 2014**).

Recent studies show the contribution of ship emissions on fine and ultrafine particles (**Healy et al., 2009; Donateo et al., 2014**). **Saxe and Larsen (2004)** focused their study on three Danish ports, highlighting a considerable contribution to NO₂ and PM₁₀ air concentrations, posing health problems to people living or working near the harbors (**Matthias et al., 2010**).

4. Conclusion

The measured values for NO₂, SO₂ and O₃ were well below the standard values provided by EEAA. Damietta City is located 8.5 km southeast of the existing Damietta Port. The prevailing wind is from the northwest which might provide moderate concentrations of NO₂, SO₂ and O₃ in this locality that blow most of the emitting pollutes toward the land downwind. The annual levels of CO were lower than AQL as recommended by EEAA. The levels of PM₁₀ for most periods were higher than AQL as recommended by Egyptian Environmental law 4/1994.

5. References

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الملخص العربي

عنوان البحث: تقييم جودة الهواء في منطقة ميناء دمياط

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تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تقييم نوعية الهواء في منطقة ميناء دمياط، حيث تم إجراء رصد مستمر لمكونات الهواء الرئيسية (ثاني أكسيد النيتروجين، ثاني أكسيد الكبريت، أول أكسيد الكربون، غاز الأوزون، الجسيمات الصلبة التي يقل حجمها عن 10 ميكرومتر) في ميناء دمياط باستخدام محطة الرصد لنوعية الهواء المحيط وذلك خلال الفترة من شهر يناير 2013 إلى شهر ديسمبر 2015. وقد أظهرت النتائج في الأعوام 2013 و 2014 و 2015 إن متوسط التركيزات السنوية في منطقة ميناء دمياط 29,92 و 41,50 و 29,12 ميكروجرام/م³ لغاز ثاني أكسيد النيتروجين، وبالنسبة ثاني أكسيد الكبريت كانت 26,68 و 27,69 و 24,83 ميكروجرام/م³، أما غاز أول أكسيد الكربون سجلت المتوسطات 5,31 و 2,29 و 6,23 ميلليجرام/م³، أما غاز الأوزون كانت 33,10 و 41,00 و 39,43 ميكروجرام/م³ على التوالي. وبالتالي تشير هذه الدراسة إلى أن تركيزات الغازات التي تم قياسها جميعاً لم تتجاوز الحدود المسموح بها كما هو منصوص عليه في قانون حماية البيئة المصري رقم 1994/4. وقد اتضح من خلال هذه الدراسة أن أعلى تركيز للأتربة العالقة التركيزات السنوية خلال (فترة الدراسة من 2013 - 2015) كانت 83,56 ميكروجرام/م³ في عام 2013م أي تزيد عن مواصفات قانون حماية البيئة المصري رقم 1994/4 (70 ميكروجرام/م³)، بينما كان متوسط التركيز السنوي في عام 2014م (60,31 ميكروجرام/م³). أقل من الحدود المسموح بها في القانون.