



*Representative Office of Japan to PNA*  
*Representative's Newsletter #3, January 2011*

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am pleased to send you the third Representative's Newsletter.

Below are the topics of the newsletter.

1. Visit to Israel and the Palestinian Authority by H.E. Mr. Yutaka Iimura, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for the Middle East
2. Visit of Dr. Salam Fayyad, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Palestinian Authority, to Japan
3. Japan's Stance on the Peace in the Middle East
4. Assistance to the Palestinians for the Realization of Peace in the Middle East
5. The Eighth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 8)

For inquiries, comments, and suggestions about this newsletter, please kindly refer to:

Tel: 02-2414120/1/2

Fax: 02-2413123

e-mail: [culture3@repjapan.ps](mailto:culture3@repjapan.ps)

Sincerely yours,

Naofumi HASHIMOTO  
Representative of Japan

1. Visit to Israel and the Palestinian Authority by H.E. Mr. Yutaka Iimura, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for the Middle East

H.E. Mr. Yutaka Iimura, Special Envoy of the Government of Japan for the Middle East, visited Israel and the Palestinian Authority on January 9th and 10th, 2011. Mr. Iimura had meetings with Israeli and Palestinian leaders including Palestinian President Dr. Mahmoud Abbas, Palestinian Prime Minister Dr. Salam Fayyad, H.E. Mr. Dan Meridor, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Intelligence Services and the Atomic Energy Commission of Israel, Special Advisor for Prime Minister Mr. Yitzhak Molcho, and his Palestinian counterpart Dr. Sa'eb Erakat. During his meetings with Israeli leaders, Mr. Iimura condemned the demolition of a part of the Shepherds's Hotel in East Jerusalem, which was occurred during his visit. At the same time, Mr. Iimura requested both sides to continue efforts for the progress of peace process. Regarding the demolition, H.E. Mr. Seiji Maehara, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, also issued a statement of condemnation.

The full text of the statement by Foreign Minister Maehara is available at [http://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2011/1/0111\\_04.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2011/1/0111_04.html)

2. Visit of Dr. Salam Fayyad, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Palestinian Authority, to Japan

Dr. Salam Fayyad, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Palestinian Authority, visited Japan from November 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 for the first time as Prime Minister. On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Naoto Kan, Prime Minister of Japan, held a meeting with Dr. Fayyad. During the meeting, Prime Minister Kan announced that Japan would continue assisting the Palestinian Authority's state-building efforts and extend assistance of approximately 100 million US dollars within this fiscal year. Prime Minister Kan also expressed an intention to continue working on the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" Initiative as a model of regional cooperation. Furthermore, he explained that Japan intends to expand the supporters for the Palestinian Authority's state-building, in cooperation with other East Asian countries.

Further information about the visit is available at

[http://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2010/11/1124\\_01.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2010/11/1124_01.html)

[http://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2010/11/1124\\_02.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2010/11/1124_02.html)

### 3. Japan's Stance on the Peace in the Middle East

On the occasion of the visit of Dr. Salam Fayyad to Japan, the Government of Japan issued its stance on the peace in the Middle East.

#### 1) Basic Stance

- Japan supports a two-state solution.
- The conflict between the Israeli and the Palestinian sides should be resolved only through negotiations.
- Japan will continue to extend economic assistance to the Palestinians and contribute to their state-building efforts.

#### 2) The Current Situation of the Palestinian Track and Japan's Stance

- Japan will not recognize any unilateral change by either party which may prejudice the final resolution.
- Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, should be fully frozen.
- Core issues such as border demarcation, the final status of Jerusalem, and the issue of refugees should be resolved through negotiations based on the 1967 lines.

#### 3) Assistance to the Palestinians

- Japan has so far provided assistance to the Palestinians that exceeds 1.1 billion US dollars since the Oslo Accords.
- Japan is determined to contribute to the capacity- and institution-building that is required to build a future, independent and viable Palestinian state.
- Japan wishes to continue to promote, in cooperation with the Palestinian Authority, Israel and Jordan, the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative that is aimed to establish a business model for regional cooperation.

The full text of Japan's stance is available at

[http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/middle\\_e/stance.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/middle_e/stance.html)

4. Assistance to the Palestinians for the Realization of Peace in the Middle East

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the Government of Japan decided to extend the assistance to the Palestinians equivalent to approximately 23.46 million dollars for the realization of the peace in the Middle East. This assistance consists of (1) supporting private companies for expanding job opportunities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, (2) supporting the people in the Gaza Strip suffering from severe economic and social situation, and (3) supporting the Palestinian refugees through UNRWA in health and education sectors.

For further details of the assistance, please refer to

[http://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2010/11/1130\\_01.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2010/11/1130_01.html)

5. The Eighth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 8): Japan Expresses Determination to Exert Leadership for the Growth of Global Economies

The Eighth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 8) was held in Brussels, Belgium, on October 4 and 5. In his remarks at a session on global economic governance, Mr. Naoto Kan, Prime Minister of Japan, Prime Minister Kan reiterated that the leaders of both Asian and European countries must exert leadership and make concerted efforts for economic growth. The Prime Minister also emphasized the need for Asia and Europe to play an active role in addressing global issues such as climate change. Prime Minister Kan concluded his intervention by saying that Japan would actively contribute to the activities of ASEM in areas such as exchanges in education and culture, through cooperation with the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and other means.

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