

MESSAGE FROM H.E. MR. FUMIO KISHIDA
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN
ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE
29 November 2014

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express anew, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, my sincere hope for the realization of peace in the Middle East wherein a Palestinian State and Israel can co-exist in peace and security.

Japan understands Palestinians' aspiration for state-building and supports a two-state solution through negotiations. It is necessary for both parties to act to enhance the mutual trust towards the resumption of negotiations. Israeli settlement activities are a violation of international law, and such activities clearly go against efforts by the international community towards resuming negotiations. Japan has repeatedly called on Israel to completely freeze its settlement activities.

The Government of Japan strongly expects that the division within Palestine will end under the leadership of President Abbas, while the new government, which was formed in June, makes further efforts to advance the Middle East peace process with Israel.

It is extremely regrettable that many civilians have lost their lives in the recent conflict in Gaza. In order to prevent the reoccurrence of such a tragedy and to achieve the reconstruction of Gaza through governance by the Palestinian Authority, it is necessary to consolidate the cease-fire. Japan will continue our cooperation in this regard.

Japan has provided assistance to the people of Palestine centering on humanitarian aid, state-building and reform, confidence building and economic self-sustainability. The assistance has totaled approximately 1.48 billion US dollars since 1993. Japan will accelerate its effort to activate the Jericho Agro Industrial Park, a flagship project of the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" initiative promoted through cooperation with Palestine, Jordan and Israel with the aim of the development of the private sector in Palestine.

In addition, the “Conference on Cooperation among East Asian countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD)” launched by Japan, intends to utilize the knowledge and experience of East Asian countries. Its second Ministerial Meeting was held in March this year in Indonesia.

Japan will actively promote further assistance to build an independent and viable Palestinian state in the future.

Japan will also remain actively engaged both politically and economically for the progress of the peace process in cooperation with the international community.