



March 7, 2016

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Launching Ceremony and Film Screening for Japanese-funded Project Implemented by Japanese NGO - Frontline**

Today, March 7, 2016, a movie screening for a film called "Wonder Stone – Gaza Sky" was held in the launching event of Frontline's (Japanese NGO) project for psychological care to children with the presence of Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the Palestinian Authority, and Ms. Namiko Maeda, the Acting Director of Frontline at the Representative Office of Japan to the PA in Ramallah.

The grant contract for this project "Psychosocial Care for the Children Suffering from Hearing Impairment and Living in the Danger Zone in Gaza Strip" was signed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Frontline in February 24, 2016 in Japan. Frontline received a grant of US\$ 251,367 to carry out the psychosocial care activities for the children in Rafah city in the Gaza Strip.

In her speech, Ms. Namiko Maeda mentioned that the aim of the project is to protect children from mental damage through carrying out creative workshops. She also emphasized on the importance of releasing children's outcome, such as cinema, to cultivate their self-confidence, and to raise the awareness of the effectiveness of the project.

In his speech, Mr. Okubo emphasized on Japan's firm commitment to enhancing the human security of Palestinians as well as on implementing the socioeconomic developmental projects that will lead to the empowerment of the Palestinian communities in the Gaza strip.

Since 1993 the Government of Japan has extended its Official Development Assistance (ODA) amounting to approximately \$1.7 billion to the Palestinian people. ODA projects through Japanese NGOs have started in the West Bank and Gaza since 2007.

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