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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Project Completion for the replacement of ice-making machinery at the ice factory for the fishermen in the Gaza Strip, Funded by Japan**

Today, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, visited Al-Tawfiq cooperative society for fishermen in the Gaza Strip to celebrate the completion of the project funded by the Government of Japan through Japan's **Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP)**.

The grant of US \$ 82,450 was extended to Al-Tawfiq cooperative society for fishermen in the Gaza Strip. It was used to install the Ice molds, Ice mold frames and flake ice machine in the ice factory of Al Tawfiq in order to provide cheap ice stably to the fishermen in the Gaza Strip. The most direct beneficiaries from the project are 3,325 fishermen's households who become possible to purchase the ice with a low and stable price.

In his speech, Mr. Okubo emphasized Japan's firm commitment of supporting Palestinian people from human security perspective as well as the importance of implementing social and economic development projects needed for Palestinian communities.

Since 1993 the Government of Japan has extended its official development assistance to approximately US\$1.86 billion, to the Palestinians. GGP projects have been formulated in collaboration with the Palestinian Authority through Ministry of Finance and Planning since 2010. (END)

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