

Speech of Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs, Representative of Japan to the P.A. Mr. Takeshi OKUBO

on the Celebration of the Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, Thursday 24.11.2016

It is an honor and privilege to welcome all of you today to celebrate the Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

Achieving peace and stability always requires collective effort, patience, and time. With this in mind about ten years ago, Japan began its initiatives in Jericho and its surrounding areas, investing a considerable amount of resources in order to promote regional cooperation.

Now, regional cooperation is gaining momentum with a Japanese initiative called “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity” which has been making remarkable progress. Proposed in 2006 by the then Prime Minister Mr. Koizumi in cooperation with Palestinians, Israelis, and Jordanians, it seeks to foster collaborative projects that promote regional cooperation for the prosperity of the region. One of the notable outcomes of this initiative is Jericho Industrial Park.

Now, our second initiative, the Regional Cooperation Program for the Agriculture Sector started last month with the first technical four-party meeting in Jordan. I strongly believe that this new program will promote the development of the agro-industry in Palestine and become increasingly important in bringing about the coexistence and the co-prosperity necessary for creating peace in the region.

Furthermore, we have started the “Corridor for Tourism” initiative to promote tourism in Palestine. In the near future we will be setting ground for the construction of the protective shelter for the mosaic floor of Hisham Palace in Jericho, which is one of the largest in the Middle East. It is our strong hope that these two corridors will eventually lead us to the realization of the two-state solution.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to confirm Japan’s firm commitment to further enhancing regional cooperation and consolidating peace and prosperity in the region.

Thank you for your attention and for being here with us today.