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PRESS RELEASE

Japan supports improvement of Fire Equipment in the West Bank

Ramallah, Ministry of Interior, Thursday 26/09/2024 - Minister of Interior H.E. Mr. Ziad Habelreeh and Mr. NAKASHIMA Yoichi, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, signed the Exchange of Notes regarding the grant assistance of approximately 8.7 million USD (1,208 million JPY) for "the Project for the Improvement of Fire Equipment in the West Bank" in the presence of Director General of Civil Defense MG Al-Abed Ibrahim Khalil and Mr. HOSHI Mitsutaka Chief Representative of JICA Palestine Office.

The grant aims to strengthen fire-fighting and rescue capabilities by providing new fire fighting systems to three governorates in the West Bank: Jenin, Tulkarem, Ramallah and Al-Bireh. This project will contribute to improving local capacities and reducing disaster risks.

The Minister of Interior expressed his deep gratitude to the government and the people of Japan for their continued support for the efforts to build a Palestinian state, and also thanked them for the projects provided to enhance the capabilities of civil defense in particular, which contributed significantly to improving field performance.

In this context, Ambassador Nakashima said: "Today, Japan is providing new support worth approximately 8.7 million USD, aimed at improving public governance and disaster risk mitigation. The main objective of this grant includes the provision of new fire fighting vehicles in the governorates of Jenin, Tulkarem, Ramallah and Al-Bireh so to enhance incident response and rescue capabilities."

Mr. Nakashima added: "The Japanese Government has a long history of promoting international cooperation and supporting humanitarian efforts around the world. Our participation in the fire fighting equipment improvement project in Palestine reflects our commitment to strengthening safety and emergency response capabilities, and these efforts will be expanded to include governorates facing significant challenges."

Japan has been providing assistance to key ministries both financially and technically, aiding in their preparations for statehood in alignment with the Palestinian national development plans. With this new assistance, Japan's total support since 1993 has exceeded 2.5 billion USD.