



*Representative Office of Japan to Palestine*

Abraj House, 8th Floor, 15 Tokyo Street, Al-Masyoun, Ramallah  
Tel: +970 (2) 298-3370/1 Fax: +970 (2) 298-3313  
repjapan@rm.mofa.go.jp www.ps.emb-japan.go.jp

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Completion Project for Rehabilitation of the Water  
Network in Al-Shawawrah,  
Funded by Japan**

Today, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, visited Al-Shawawrah in Bethlehem Governorate 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 \$80,498 was extended to Al-Shawawrah Village Council. It was used to replace 2,450m of old water pipelines with new underground galvanized steel pipes. The project aims at securing sufficient tap water supply for the residents through rehabilitating the damaged old water pipes. Upon the completion of this project, 2,743 residents and 490 students and teachers of two schools will benefit from the safe and improved water network.

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\$1.8 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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