



من الشعب الياباني
From the People of Japan

Representative Office of Japan to Palestine

Abraj House, 15 Tokyo Street, Ein Monjed, Ramallah

Tel. 02-2983370/1 Fax. 02-2983313 repjapan@rm.mofa.go.jp

PRESS RELEASE

Signing Ceremony for Exchange of Notes concerning Economic and Social Development Program

Feb 19th, Ramallah- Under the patronage and in the presence of Mr. TAKAGI Kei, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, H.E Mr. BISHARA Shukry Minister of Finance, and Mr. NAKASHIMA Yoichi, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, signed the Exchange of Notes regarding the **TWO grant assistance projects of approximately USD 15 million (JPY 2,006 million)** in total concerning Japanese economic and social cooperation.

The first grant aid project called **“Economic and Social Development Program”** is extended as part of international supports to reduce the burden on the public budget, and will constitute a financial source for the Palestinian treasury. With this grant, the PA will procure agricultural equipment and commodities critically needed for daily economic activities of the PA and Palestinian people. The fund accumulated from selling commodities procured with this grant will be utilized for the implementation of economic and social development projects in the Palestinian Territories, through close consultations between Japanese Government and PA.

The second grant aid project called **“The Project for the Improvement of Infectious Waste Management”** is extended as part of international supports to strengthen the infectious waste management system for collection, transport, sterilization and final disposal through installing the necessary equipment and materials for infectious waste management, thereby contributing to prevent the risk of waste-derived infection. These above-mentioned grant aid projects aim at strengthening friendly and cooperative relations between the Japanese people and the Palestinian people.

H.E Mr. BISHARA Shukry, Minister of Finance expressed his appreciation to the Government of Japan and the Japanese people for their continuous support to Palestine at all levels, which contributes to strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries. He added that this grant is provided for the benefit of the Palestinian People, managed by the Ministry of Finance to support the implementation of developmental projects in Palestine.

For his part, Mr. TAKAGI, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan expressed his appreciation to H.E Mr. BISHARA Shukry, Minister of Finance for their commitment to materializing Japan's assistance in Palestine. “I am glad that Japan can directly support the Palestinian Authority and help our friends in distress, hoping that Japan's assistance will contribute to the development of the Palestinian economy and the achievement of self-reliance.”

Japan has been providing assistance for the key ministries both financially and technically, in their preparation for statehood in line with Palestinian national development plans. With the new assistance, Japan's total assistance since 1993 exceeded USD 2.3 billion. End.