



***Representative Office of Japan to Palestine***

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Signing Ceremony with Rafat Village Council  
for “The Project for the Expansion of Rafat Secondary Boys School”**

A grant contract for the Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) was signed today between Mr. ARAIKE Katsuhiko, Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, and Mr. Shafie Shehadeh, Mayor of Rafat Village Council (Salfit Governorate) at the Representative Office of Japan to Palestine in Ramallah, for an amount of 149,788 USD.

With this grant, Rafat Village Council will construct four additional classrooms, covering a total area of 174 m<sup>2</sup> in total, at Rafat Secondary Boys School in Rafat Village. This initiative seeks to improve the educational and health conditions for students currently studying at overcrowded classrooms. The project will benefit a total of 350 students and 23 teachers, by providing them with a suitable educational environment.

Mr. ARAIKE Katsuhiko congratulated the representatives of the Rafat Village Council and wished them success in the project. He reiterated Japan’s firm commitment to supporting the Palestinian people from a human security perspective and emphasized the importance of implementing social and economic development projects that address the needs of Palestinian communities.

Since 1993, the Government of Japan has extended approximately 2.6 billion USD in official development assistance to the Palestinian people. GGP projects have been formulated in collaboration with the Palestinian Authority since 2010.

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