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**PRESS RELEASE**

September 26, 2016

***Grant Signing Ceremonies for Two GGP Projects in Palestine, Funded by Japan***

Grant Contracts for two **Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP)** were signed today by Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to the PA, and representatives of Yatma and Beit Imrin Village Councils at the Representative Office of Japan in Ramallah for a total amount of US$ 166,260.

Yatma Village Council received a grant of US$ 83,260 that they will use the funds to replace total 8km of the existing electricity cables underground with ABC cable of 95mm² and 50mm². This project's objective is to improve the electricity provision and the residential environment in the city for about 3,400 residents (600 households).

The US$ 83,000 granted for Beit Imrin Village Council will be used to extend total 3.6km of 2 inch and 1inch pipe for water network in Beit Imrin. This project's objective is to secure sufficient tap water supply for about 350 residents (50 households) who currently suffer from inadequate water supply and quality.

Mr. Okubo congratulated Yatma and Beit Imrin Village Councils and wished them success in their projects. He 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 amounting to approximately $1.7 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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Ambassador Takeshi Okubo with Yatma Village Council Representative

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Ambassador Takeshi Okubo with Beit Imrin Village Council Representative