Representative Office of Japan to Palestine

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PRESS RELEASE

Japan Signs Two Grant Agreements Contributing to Palestinian Recovery Efforts

Ramallah, Monday 17/02/2025 - Mr. ARAIKE Katsuhiko, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan to Palestine, and H.E. Dr. Wael Zakout, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation signed the two grant agreements in support of recovery and reconstruction efforts in Palestine. The signing ceremony was attended by H.E Dr. Sami Hijjawi, Minister of Local Government, H.E. Dr. Majed Abu Ramadan, Minister of Health, and H.E. Dr. Ziad Al-Mimi, Chairman of the Palestinian Water Authority.

The two grant agreements includes a new grant assistance of approximately 13.3 million USD (1,850.02 million JPY) for "the Programme for Emergency Recovery", and an additional amount of around 1.6 million USD (227 million JPY) for the existing grant assistance of the Project for the Improvement of Infectious Waste Management" with a new project budget of approximately 9.1 million USD (1,263 million JPY).

The grant assistance of "the Programme for Emergency Recovery" aims to procure the materials and equipment necessary for emergency recovery in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, rebuilding people's lives, and strengthening local services, thus contributing to the recovery and the reconstruction of Palestine. This project will provide the equipment for waste management as well as for the restoration and reconstruction of destroyed water infrastructure, thereby ensuring the safety and security of the people in Palestine. In addition, it will enhance the medical services necessary for Palestinians to rebuild their lives in both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The additional amount allocated to the grant assistance of "Improvement of Infectious Waste Management" aims to build on the positive momentum generated by the ongoing activities, through the enhancement of infectious waste management capacity and contribution to preventing the spread of infection from waste through the procurement of vehicles, sterilization equipment, and heavy machinery necessary for collection, transportation and disposal of infectious waste in the West Bank.

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Minister Zakout conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to the government and people of Japan for their unwavering support in building the Palestinian state. He also expressed appreciation for the projects they have provided, which are closely aligned with Gaza's relief and recovery initiatives, as well as the Palestinian National Program for Development and Reform.

The Minister of Local Government Dr. Sami Hijjawi emphasized the importance of the grant in supporting solid waste management, especially in the Gaza Strip, to address the challenges caused by widespread destruction and the proliferation of informal dumpsites. He also stressed the role of the grant in enhancing environmental and public health sustainability, which positively impacts the role of joint service councils in restoring their capacity for effective and safe management, highlighting the urgent need for international support to address resource shortages and health risks.

For his part, Minister of Health Dr. Majed Abu Ramadan emphasized the significance of Japanese support in the critical conditions of the Palestinian healthcare sector. He also conveyed the Ministry of Health's gratitude to the Japanese government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for their ongoing support.

Dr. Ziad Al-Mimi, Chairman of the Palestinian Water Authority, praised Japanese support for the water and sanitation sector in Palestine through the provision of necessary materials for emergency interventions and the rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure in Gaza and the West Bank. He affirmed that this support contributes to strengthening recovery efforts and improving living conditions for Palestinian people.

Ambassador ARAIKE said: "Our significant contribution today is vital for supporting activities that are not only essential but also considered a prerequisite for promoting relief, early recovery, and the reconstruction of economic activities and public services of Palestine. These efforts play a critical role in stabilizing the region, fostering long-term recovery, and ensuring that the people of Palestine have the necessary resources and infrastructure to rebuild their lives and communities."

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 2.6 billion USD.