Representative Office of Japan to Palestine

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PRESS RELEASE

Japan and Palestine Commence Another Grant Programme for Emergency Recovery

Ramallah, Sunday, 15 February, 2026—Mr. ARAIKE Katsuhiko, Ambassador for the Palestinian Affairs and the Representative of Japan to Palestine, and Dr. Estephan A. Salameh, Minister of Finance and Planning for the Palestinian Authority, met at the ceremony for the Exchange of Notes concerning a grant of 4.1 billion Japanese Yen (or approximately USD 27.3 million) for the Programme for Emergency Recovery (Phase 2).

The ceremony was graced by the presence of H.E. the Minister of Health, Dr. Maged Abu Ramadan, H.E. the Minister of Local Government, Dr. Sami Hijjawi, H.E the Minister of Housing and Public Works Eng. Ahed Bseiso, H.E. the Chairperson of the Palestinian Water Authority, Dr. Ziad Al-Mimi; and H.E the Chairperson of the Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority, Eng. Ayman Ismael.

This grant programme, to be managed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), builds on the preceding programme of February 2025 and addresses five key development challenges in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, namely, (1) waste management, (2) electricity supply, (3) healthcare service provision, (4) water supply and sewerage service, and (5) energy.

Ambassador Araike, in reference to Japan's advocacy for the Humanitarian–Development–Peace nexus, reiterated that mid-to long-term development challenges must be coped with and the nation-building efforts through the Palestinian institutions must advance, even while humanitarian crises are unfolding. Ambassador Araike went on to express Japan's firm belief in the importance of engaging all levels of local authorities in Palestine in project management and long-term development planning, especially when the world is watching

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how Gaza's reconstruction proceeds on the back of the ceasefire, so that they can roll out the plans as soon as the emergency phase is over.

Minister Salameh expressed his sincere gratitude to the government and people of Japan for their opportunity to uplift Palestinian livelihoods through bilateral cooperation, and, alongside other high-ranking representatives of agencies, committed to making the most of Japan's steadfast support for Palestine.

Japan's Official Development Assistance for Palestine since 1993 in the form of finance and technical cooperation amounts to around USD 2.8 billion. This new grant programme comprises Japan' cooperation package for Palestine (2026–2027) at the scale of JPY 25 billion (USD 167 million), announced last December, which aims to enable life-saving humanitarian assistance, early recovery, and nation-building efforts in Palestine.