Representative Office of Japan to Palestine

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March 18th, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

Japan Provides Grant for Palestine's First Cultural Grassroots Project Financed by the Government of Japan

On March 18, 2026, Mr. ARAIKE Katsuhiko, Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs and the Representative of Japan to Palestine, signed a grant contract for the Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Project (GCGP) titled "The Project for the Renovation of the Radio Studio and the Improvement of Program Production Equipment" with the Palestinian recipient organization, The Cultural Forum Center, located in Beit Anan and represented by Mr. Hussam Sheikh. The total grant amounts to USD 49,721. This project will be the first GCGP to be implemented in Palestine.

In the northwestern Jerusalem Governorate, approximately 70,000 residents across 16 villages lack local media outlets addressing their unique cultural and educational needs. Existing facilities, built in 2015, have deteriorated, with faulty mixing consoles, insufficient soundproofing, and limited professional equipment, which reduces programming quality.

The project will upgrade one 40m^2 radio studio with soundproofing and essential broadcasting equipment, including two cameras, a computer, a gimbal, a moonlight, and an integrated production studio with 14 types of equipment (21 units). These improvements will enhance local broadcasting, support educational initiatives, enrich cultural programming, and strengthen community cohesion.

Ambassador Araike expressed his hope that this first GCGP project in Palestine will significantly enhance cultural and educational opportunities for the residents of the region. He emphasized that, while Palestine communities face difficult circumstances, it is precisely in such challenging times that support for culture -

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alongside basic needs – is crucial for fostering resilience, preserving identity, and strengthening community bonds. He wished The Cultural Forum Center smooth implementation and successful completion of the project.

Grant assistance for Cultural Grassroots Project (GCGP) is meant to facilitate cultural exchanges and deepen friendship and mutual understanding between Japan and developing countries by providing non-profit organizations of those countries with support for procurement of equipment and construction of facilities to promote culture and higher education. (END)