

Press Release

Amman, 23 January 2011

1. The Government of Japan has decided to extend an additional contribution to of 10 million UD dollars to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)'s General Fund. Notes verbales to this effect were exchanged on Sunday, January 23, 2011 at the UNRWA Women's Programme Centre in Jabal el-Hussein Camp between H.E. Mr. Tetsuo Shioguchi, Ambassador of Japan and Mr. Filippo Grandi, Commissioner-General of UNRWA.
2. Japan is very much concerned about the impact of UNRWA's serious financial crisis and in order to ensure that UNRWA provides necessary service to the people in need, the Government of Japan has decided to make additional contribution to the General Fund. The grant will be used for UNRWA's operation in the West Bank and Gaza. Japan sincerely hopes that this Grant will contribute to alleviating the hardship of the Palestine refugees.
3. Japan's assistance to the Palestinian refugees through UNRWA, which began in 1953, has amounted to approximately 600 million US dollars including Food Aid. Assistance to the Palestine refugees through UNRWA has been one of the pillars of Japan's peace efforts in the region. The Government of Japan will continue to support UNRWA's activities in partnership with donor countries as well as host governments.
4. Japan regards the problem of Palestine Refugees as one of the core issues of the Middle East peace process. Japan will continue to support the area of education and primary health care because we have the strong belief that the Palestinian children and youth hold the responsibility for the future of Palestine in their hands. Their participation in the creation of a society that



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gives them hope for their future will contribute to the establishment of a viable Palestinian state. In this regard, Japan will continue to contribute to the Middle East peace and support the Palestinians so that the region can achieve peace and economic prosperity as soon as possible.

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