

Speech by H. E. Mr. Tetsuo Shioguchi
Ambassador of Japan to Jordan
At the Ground-Breaking Ceremony of
The Project for Improvement of the Water Supply
for the Zarqa District Phase II
May 26, 2009.

His Excellency Eng. Raed Abu Al Saud, Minister of Water and Irrigation

His Excellency Eng. Munir Oweis, Secretary General of Water Authority

Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I am very pleased and honored to be here today at the Ground-Breaking Ceremony of the “Project for Improvement of the Water Supply for the Zarqa District Phase II”.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to His Excellency Eng. Raed Abu Al Saud, Minister of Water and Irrigation, for hosting today’s ceremony and for his presence here this morning.

The Government of Japan has implemented various projects in the Kingdom by extending technical and financial support to help our Jordanian friends to achieve a better standard of living through sustainable development. Due to its shortage and scarcity, water is a serious problem which Jordan is facing and is a most challenging issue to all nations around the world. The Government of Japan has specifically addressed this important issue as a basis not only for the well-being of human life and health but also for the conservation of the ecosystem and all economic activities.

I fully recognize the difficulties that Jordan has been facing to tackle the severe imbalance between demand and supply of water caused by not only the increasing population of Jordan but also by its other industrial needs and its unique geographical features as well.

In response to Jordan's efforts, Japan decided to extend a grant aid in August, 2008, which was worth One billion One hundred and Ninety Two Million Japanese Yen (¥ 1,192,000,000), approximately Thirteen Million Jordan dinars (JD 13,000,000) as part of the Project.

The total amount of the entire project is about two Billion and Three Hundred Seventy One Million Japanese Yen (¥ 2,371,000,000), approximately Twenty Five Million US Dollars (US\$ 25,000,000).

This project will contribute to the improvement of water supply conditions and will increase the actual water availability through reduction in the amount of leakage by distributing water at an appropriate water supply pressure and through optimum water distribution management in north of Zarqa city, Hashmeyer and Sukhna municipalities.

I am confident that this project will be an important foundation for achieving sustainable socio-economic development through realizing stable water supply in Jordan. Furthermore, it will successfully contribute to the Kingdom's efforts to improve the living conditions of the people under the initiative of His Majesty King Abdullah II, 'Decent living for decent life'.

His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein concluded a successful visit to Japan in April with a view to enhancing bilateral relationship.

In this context, I would like to reiterate the critical importance of this year that marks the 10th anniversary of His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein ascension to the throne, the 20th anniversary of the enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, the 50th anniversary of the marriage of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan, and the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Jordan.

In closing, I wish the Government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan further development and prosperity. I hope the project will be remembered by our Jordanian friends as a token of the friendship and goodwill between Jordan and Japan.

Thank you