Speech by Mr. Tetsuo Shioguchi Ambassador of Japan to Jordan At the Signing Ceremony of the Grant Contract for the Project for Empowering the Local Gommittee for the Mentally and Physically Disabled in Ghor Al Mazraa, On February 16, 2010

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Ms. Valentina Qussisiya, Director-General of the Jordan River Foundation,

Members of the Jordan River Foundation,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

السلام عليكم ( 、アッサラーム アライクム ( アッサラーム アライクム) أنا سعيد بأن أكون هذا اليوم ( 、アナ サイード ビアン アクーナ フナ アルヨウム) أنا إسمي شيو غوتشي، ( 、アナ イスミ シオグチ) وأنا السفير الياباني في الأردن، ( 、アナ アッサフィール ヤーバーニ フィー ル・オルドン)

It is a great pleasure to sign, on behalf of the Government of Japan, the grant contract of the Project for Empowering the Local Committee for the Mentally and Physically Disabled in Ghor Al Mazraa.

Under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects, the sum of <u>Seventy Five thousand</u> <u>Eighteen US Dollars (US\$75,018), equivalent toFifty</u> <u>Thousand One Hundred Thirteen Jordan Dinar (53,113JD)</u> will be granted to the Jordan River Foundation.

The Foundation has been empowering individuals and local communities through its programs since 1995 and supported the people with disabilities in cooperation with the Higher Council for the Affairs of Persons with Disabilities since last year.

Today, I am truly pleased to work closely together with the

Foundation in the field of supporting the people with disabilities here.

Japan has been promoting diplomacy with an emphasis on the perspective of human security. Human security is to endeavor to empower people and societies through NGOs and other civil societies so that individuals can enjoy self sufficient lives. This is a why we decided to provide assistance to this field.

The total amount of Japanese economic cooperation extended to the people in Jordan for the last decades including the projects in the field of human security, is more than 3 Billion US dollars (US\$ 3,000,000,000), more than Two Billion Jordan Dinar (2,000,000,000 JD). We would like to make further efforts to help Jordan's people so that Jordan could achieve its aspirations in improving the living standards of its people. I hope this assistance would further promote the existing significant partnership between our two countries.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to the staff of the Foundation for their dedication to serve people who are in need of external support as well as to mitigate the harsh living condition of people in Jordan.

In closing, I wish to commend the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for its continuous endeavors to improve the lives of its people. Let us continue to build the bonds of friendship and goodwill through cooperation and mutual respect for each other.