

**MESSAGE FROM H.E. MR. MOTEGI TOSHIMITSU  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF  
SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE**

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express, once again, on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, my sincere hope for the realization of peace in the Middle East at the earliest possible date when an independent Palestinian state and Israel can co-exist in peace and security.

Japan understands the Palestinians' longstanding aspirations for statehood and supports a two-state solution to be achieved through negotiations. To end the chain of hatred that has gripped the region, parties concerned must face each other in earnest and seek a breakthrough. The international community stands ready to support them by creating an atmosphere conducive to negotiations. To this end, Japan will continue to help the parties build confidence and offer assistance for building a future Palestinian state while improving the situation in Gaza.

The Jericho Agro-Industrial Park, a flagship project of the "Corridor for Peace and Prosperity" Initiative, has continued now for more than 10 years and the number of participating companies has been increasing year by year. A total of 15 Palestinian companies have begun operations in the Park thus far, creating jobs for Palestinians and contributing to their wellbeing. Japan will keep working to attract more companies for JAIP, especially in the fields of logistics and IT.

Japan is supporting efforts to build a future independent and viable Palestinian state. In this context, Japan has launched the "Conference on Cooperation among East Asian countries for the Palestinian Development (CEAPAD)" in order to utilize the experience of East Asian countries for the development of Palestine. CEAPAD has become a forum where participants share knowledge through substantive discussions. Japan will continue supporting Palestine together with other East Asian countries.

Japan also assists Palestine through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). This year, Japan has already disbursed around 32 million US dollars to UNRWA. I recently announced additional assistance of around 11 million US dollars for education, water and sanitation, and food at the

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Ministerial meeting held during the United Nations High-Level Week.

The Middle East peace process remains a top priority for the international community. Lasting peace and stability in the region cannot be realized without finding a solution to this issue. Japan will remain actively engaged both politically and economically to support progress in the peace process in cooperation with international partners.