



Press Release

The Government of Japan through UNDP/PAPP Launch Emergency Employment Generation Programmes in the Gaza Strip worth \$US 1.7 Million

Jerusalem, 5th February 2003. In their attempt to respond to the pressing needs of the unemployed in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), the Government of Japan through the United Nations Development Programme / Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP) allocated approximately \$US 1.7 million for emergency employment generation programmes in the Gaza Strip.

“At this difficult time, this emergency grant seeks to create job opportunities in the Gaza strip where unemployment rates are increasing drastically,” stated Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Head of the Representative Office of Japan to the Palestinian Authority.

The Japan grant will support several construction and infrastructure development projects in the cities of Gaza, Rafah, Khan Younis and Beit Hanoun, where \$US800,000 are allocated to Gaza city and \$US300,000 for each of the other above mentioned cities. Part of the project will focus on the repair and enhancement of water supply networks, construction of roads and sidewalks, rehabilitation of buildings and the Market area in Al-shuja'ieh in Gaza city. As for the areas of Rafah, Khan Younis and Beit Hanoun, the focus will be given to the rehabilitation and restoration of the cities' infrastructure, buildings and houses.

To date, Japan's financial assistance during the past years to the Palestinian people, through UNDP/PAPP, has exceeded \$US200 million. Japan's continuous support to the development process in the oPt and remote areas in particular, targeted a number of sectors including health, (building hospitals, clinics etc.), water and environment, infrastructure development, and education (building schools and playgrounds).

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