

“WHAT’ S NEW” from the Embassy of Japan in Luxembourg

### **Japan supports Middle East peace process**

Prime Minister of Japan Yukio Hatoyama has told Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas that his government supports an early resumption of the Middle East peace process. They met in Tokyo on 8 February 2010.

([http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/middle\\_e/palestine/1002\\_jprelease.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/middle_e/palestine/1002_jprelease.html))

Dr. Hatoyama stressed the need for Israel to freeze all settlement activities, while called upon the Palestinians to continue its measures for cessation of violence.

Both sides shared the view that the development of the Palestinian private sector is essential to realise a viable economy in the Palestinian territories. Thus they decided to work together on a regional initiative of “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity/an Agro-Industrial Park in Jericho,” and hold a working-level technical meeting with the other two players of this project, namely Israel and Jordan, in March this year.

Prime Minister Hatoyama said that he wishes to work together with East Asian countries to contribute to peace in the Middle East.

### **PKO Mission in Haiti to Assist Reconstruction Work**

Japanese government has begun to dispatch a Ground Self-Defense Force mission of about 350 members in the framework of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

On 25 January State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Koichi Takemasa, who was attending the Ministerial Conference on Haiti in Montreal, announced that the Japanese government would provide assistance worth approximately 70 million US\$ for Haiti.

<http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/latin/haiti/disaster2010/index.html>

### **Afghanistan: Reintegration of ex-Taliban insurgents into the society**

Japanese State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Koichi Takemasa has announced that the government of Japan will contribute to a fund to be established for reintegration efforts up to 50 million US\$ on the occasion of the Conference in London on 28 January 2010. The Hatoyama administration has already announced in November 2009 that Japan will provide assistance for Afghanistan up to 5 billion US\$ within about five years from 2009.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email to [toshiharu.tarui@mofa.go.jp](mailto:toshiharu.tarui@mofa.go.jp) or call 46 41 51 34, the Embassy of Japan in Luxembourg.

