

The Second Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries
for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD II)
Jakarta, 1 March 2014

JOINT STATEMENT

“EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES PARTNERSHIP FOR PALESTINE”

We, the Ministers, and high ranking officials from countries in East Asia and Palestine, as well as representatives of countries and international organizations involved to the Middle East Peace Process and the Palestine development, met in Jakarta, on 1st of March 2014, to participate in the 2nd Conference on Cooperation among East Asia Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD).

We highlighted the statement of the President of the Republic of Indonesia to continue Indonesia's support for Palestine National Development, and struggle to be a sovereign country, as well as a full member of the United Nations. This conference aims to renew the continuous commitment to support Palestine as to ensure the Palestinians to be capable of providing essential services to their people.

We further highlighted the statement of the Prime Minister of Palestine, to reaffirm that CEAPAD epitomizes the very nature of all our aspirations regarding the building of all Palestinian state. The conference should be consider as a journey together that recognizes the importance of Palestinian mobility, supporting the development of our capacity and enhancing our ability to participate within the ever-changing economic global landscape. Trough CEAPAD we will continue to build partnership across economic and political spheres, exchange knowledge. At the end, the Prime Minister expresses his hope that this combined efforts will ensure a better future for the Palestinian people.

During the meeting we:

Reiterate the commitment of East Asian Countries and international organizations to support Palestine and the ongoing Middle East Peace Process, through supporting the development of Palestine, including capacity development and reinvigorating business environment towards the realization of the two-state solution based on the relevant UN resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Emphasize CEAPAD as a forum to exchange experiences, encourage support for Palestinians, including Palestinian refugees, and to add value to the already existing initiatives and processes aimed at assisting Palestinian development.

Recall the result of the first meeting of CEAPAD in Tokyo on 14 February 2013, in which the participants of the Meeting recognized East Asian countries' political and economic standing and potential, and therefore can strengthen constructive role, and consider having regular

consultations among them including their aid agencies to mobilize more effective assistance to Palestinians, through:

- Emphasizing the role of the private sector in the Palestinian economic development;
- Encouraging future cooperation through the existing Trilateral Cooperation to implement further multi-faceted capacity development efforts in Palestine;
- Considering some measures that can be carried out, namely: to ensure Palestinian national ownership of all capacity building programs undertaken, to identify capacities and experiences that East Asian countries can feasibly offer, to ensure coordination between the Palestine and international actors in assisting Palestinian development, and to ensure sustainability of the impacts of the programs.

And hereby:

1. Welcome the holding of Aid Coordination Meeting and Private Sector Promotion Meeting, and recognize the importance of the attached outcome documents (ANNEX 1).
2. Welcome the sharing of knowledge and experiences in East Asian economic, institutional, and social development to help the state building effort of Palestine in accordance with the national priorities.
3. Wish to respond to other needs of the Palestinians in the areas of, for instance, institution building, community development, and financial support.
4. Welcome the contribution in providing the human resources development programs in the areas that are relevant to the experiences and capacities of East Asian countries, and in line with the Palestine National Development Plan. The list of human resources development programs for Palestine with target areas is attached. (ANNEX 2)
5. Welcome Japan, Indonesia and Islamic Development Bank (IDB)'s pledge on the programs for promoting private sectors in Palestine (ANNEX 3), and encourage East Asian countries and international organizations to provide programs in this regard.
6. Highlight that the amount of the pledges by participating countries and international organizations to support Palestinian development since CEAPAD I has reached 210 million U.S. dollars in total.

7. Appreciate Indonesia's initiative to start promoting Private sectors development in Palestine on five sectors: Tourism, Light Manufacturing, Agriculture, ICT, and Infrastructure (based on Palestinian National Development Plan), through holding Business Forum and Trade Expo on 1 – 2 March 2014, which provide opportunities to the business network making and exchanges of business missions between Palestine and East Asian countries. In this regard, the Participants acknowledge the involvement and contribution of Palestine Private Sectors, East Asian countries and international organizations to the Business Forum and Trade Expo.
8. Appreciate continuous efforts to implement the trilateral cooperation, bearing in mind the priority areas of assistance in support of human resource development for Palestine indicated in the ANNEX 2, between Japan and Indonesia, Japan and Malaysia, and Japan and Singapore. The Participants also welcome the new projects in the trilateral cooperations; 1) Indonesia and Thailand, 2) Japan and Indonesia, 3) Japan and Malaysia and 4) Japan and Thailand.
9. Welcome IDB, Japan International Cooperation Agency and Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development, in establishing a mechanism for the CEAPAD capacity building programs, in addition to other existing mechanisms.
10. Encourage greater engagement of Civil Society/NGOs of the East Asian Countries, and call for the next host of CEAPAD 3 to invite them in a CEAPAD meeting, to share their experience and give contribution to assist Palestine.
11. Hold working-level meetings among interested countries, in particular the future host of the CEAPAD related meetings, on an ad-hoc basis to follow up measures decided upon and items raised in the previous meeting, as well as to prepare for the future CEAPAD meetings.
12. Invite wider partnership with international organizations which are involved in the independency and self-sufficiency of Palestine and Middle East Peace Process and to support the cooperation with international initiatives including small-speedy grassroots projects targeting on Palestinian communities and the Palestinian Economic Initiative by the Quartet office. In this regard, the participants appreciate Japan's initial commitment of 20 million US dollars for the grassroots projects.

The participants reaffirm that CEAPAD meeting will be a forum to discuss, to exchange experiences, and to add value to the already existing initiatives and processes that have been undertaken by countries in East Asia in assisting Palestinian development. Moreover, CEAPAD will serve as an effective tool to strengthen development cooperation among East Asian countries to support Palestinians, including Palestinian refugees.

The Participants express gratitude to Indonesia for hosting the 2nd CEAPAD.

ANNEX I

Outcome Document in support of human resource development for Palestine

CEAPAD aid coordination meeting

1 The participants confirmed, against the backdrop of the recent progress in the Middle East Peace Process, their strong determination to contribute to achieving peace through the realization of the “two-state solution” based on the relevant UN resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative in realizing sustainable economic and social development of Palestine. In this regard, the participants emphasized that the development of the CEAPAD enables its participants to play an even more important role in the development of Palestine.

2 The participants expressed their views that the CEAPAD participants would be able to contribute to supporting the Palestinian state-building efforts by sharing their experiences and lessons of their economic development in the past few decades. In this regard, the CEAPAD participants encourage other countries to participate in the CEAPAD and to enhance the effectiveness of their assistance to Palestine.

3 In particular, the participants consider cooperation among East Asian countries as a useful tool to support Palestine in the field of human resource development. The participants expressed their willingness to continue sharing their good practices through aid coordination meetings and programs aiming at achieving more effective and efficient cooperation among the participants. In addition, the participants highly appreciated the efforts made for the bilateral, trilateral and multilateral cooperation for Palestine by the participants in the past.

4 The participants agreed that CEAPAD aid coordination meeting could function as a forum/platform to coordinate assistance among the participants in human resource development for Palestine through matching Palestine’s needs for assistance with the potential resources of the CEAPAD participants. The aid coordination meeting also facilitates participants to maximize the synergistic effects of their assistance as well as to avoid the duplication of projects among participants.

5 The participants welcomed the initiative by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to develop the CEAPAD coordination mechanism in support of technical cooperation for capacity development in Palestine, in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development (MOPAD) and the participants.

6 The participants welcomed Palestine’s presentation of the list of priorities in human resource development assistance to the meeting. In response, the CEAPAD participants, taking into

consideration the strength and comparative advantage of each participant's assistance toward Palestine, expressed their commitment to make the utmost efforts to develop assistance projects in accordance with Palestine's priorities, including the support to Palestinian refugees identified in cooperation with UNRWA.

7 The participants agreed to make an utmost effort to set a target number of capacity development activities in support of human resource development in Palestine. The target number set by the participants will be submitted to the 2nd meeting of the CEAPAD in 2014 in Indonesia.

8 The participants expressed the importance of holding regular CEAPAD aid coordination meetings to facilitate new assistance to Palestine and to review the progress of each participant's assistance under the framework of the CEAPAD.

This forum adds value to, and honors, the existing mechanisms that are currently in place between Palestine and the participants.

(END)

Outcome Document in support of human resource development for Palestine

Indicated priority areas of assistance

Sector	Country
Water Sector	Japan, Indonesia
Tourism and Antiquities	Japan, Thailand
Agriculture	Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia
Local Governance	Japan, Korea
Economic Sector (including SMEs)	Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia
Vocational Training	Thailand
Finance	Japan, Malaysia
Education	Singapore
ICT	Indonesia, Korea

****other sectors will be added as the countries express their possibility of extending assistance.*

- The above divided sectors are open to the CEAPAD participants. Members can join or leave the groups according to their own assistance policy.
- *The coordination in each group will be made through a focal point country to be decided in due course.*

December 3, 2013, Tokyo

1. Background

- (a) The first meeting of "Conference on the Cooperation among East Asian countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD)" was held in Tokyo on February 13-14, 2013 in order to share the need of Palestine, as well as the experience of the Asian economic development and mobilize resources of the participating countries.
- (b) The political environment has seen some development since the last meeting, as the direct negotiations between Israel and Palestine resumed on July 29, 2013. While hope for a final status agreement has increased, a stable fiscal condition, strong economy, trade access, and equitable development are necessary in order to achieve a Palestinian sovereign State. A number of new international initiatives are being discussed, and some new donor efforts have been taking shape, since resumption of the peace talks.
- (c) CEAPAD Private Sector Promotion Meeting was convened against those backgrounds on Dec 2 and 3, 2013 in Tokyo. The purpose of the meeting was to find ways and means to strengthen the Palestinian economy and its private sector, as well as build and enhance business relations between Palestine and other CEAPAD participants.
- (d) Participation of India to this Private Sector Promotion Meeting was warmly welcomed by Palestine and other CEAPAD participants, and it is welcome to participate in future CEAPAD meetings.
- (e) Representatives from the private sectors also participated in the meeting, and have enriched the discussions. Representatives from the government of Australia, Norway, the US, the Office of the Quartet Representative also participated as special guests.

2. Business environment in Palestine

- (a) The representative of Palestine elaborated on the economic situation in Palestine, highlighting the current severe fiscal crisis, high unemployment ratio and slow growth of GDP. To overcome these difficulties, three strategic economic objectives were explained: (i) Diversify the economy; (ii) Develop an enabling business and investment environment; and (iii) Enable and empower institutions to facilitate economic development and regulate markets.
- (b) The representative of Palestine presented the progress that has been made by the Palestinian government to meet the abovementioned three objectives.
- (c) The representative of Palestine highlighted the restrictions for foreign investments in Palestine, especially in Area C and East Jerusalem, due to the Israeli occupation. The representative, however, also pointed out the tremendous potential available for economic development and private investments in Palestine if the Israeli restrictions were to be lifted, and specific enablers put in place. The current political environment and resumed peace talks will hopefully pave the way for windows of opportunities in the future.

3. Summary of discussions

- (a) The participants underlined the needs to support Palestinian state-building efforts, which must be accompanied by sound fiscal situation, diversified economy, trade-competitive private sector and capable human resources.
- (b) The participants expressed their intention to help Palestine in the development of its private sector and to promote investment and trade between Palestine and other CEAPAD participants. Stronger business relations between them are beneficial and desirable for both sides.
- (c) The participants shared the views on the usefulness of engaging in the following measures for the benefit of Palestine
- to explore the potential for business opportunities, both investment and trade
 - to find ways and means to facilitate private sector businesses
 - to study possible financial incentives to induce investment
 - to help build Palestinian human and institutional capacity for business promotion
 - to help expand Palestinian private sector' international networks and its access to international markets
 - to support Palestinian women entrepreneurship
- (d) The representative of Palestine pointed out that tourism, agriculture, ICT, and light manufacturing can be targeted sectors which have high potential for development, at least for short/mid-term.
- (e) The participants have expressed their intention to explore potential to cooperate with and/or support relevant ministries, organizations, agencies, institutions and initiatives for this purpose. Chamber of Commerce, PIPA (Palestinian Investment Promotion Agencies), PIEFZA (Palestinian Industrial Estates and Free Zone Authority), PALTRADE and UNRWA are among those.

4. Future efforts

The participants confirm that the followings are possible actions for strengthening the Palestinian private sector and enhancing economic relations between Asia and Palestine.

(a) Capacity Building

Through capacity building measures including training programs, Asian participants will endeavor to share with Palestine the experiences, lessons and know-how of their economic and fiscal policies for private sector development. In view of the need to advance the CEAPAD agenda, the participants welcome the proposal of the joint initiative moved by the Palestinian Ministry of Planning, JICA and IDB to provide this alliance with a multilateral mechanism to enable delivery of efficient and effective development assistance to Palestine. The proposed CEAPAD mechanism, in addition to the existing mechanism, is expected to pull together tremendous resources and expertise of the CEAPAD participating countries governments, development institutions as well as private and civil-society entities, and from other regional and international partners, and channel such resources to address priority needs in Palestinian human development.

(b) Enhancing Asia-Palestine economic relations

- The CEAPAD participants will endeavor to organize events for facilitating trade, such as a trade fair, in their own countries.
- The CEAPAD participants intend to hold workshops to explore business chances and to find ways and means to facilitate businesses. The MoPAD (Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development), MoNE (Ministry of National Economy), PMA (Palestinian Monetary Authority), PIPA, Palestinian Chamber of Commerce, are among the relevant agencies that will be included in such seminars. All efforts to engage the relevant Palestinian agencies will be carried out through the MoPAD.
- Indonesia informed that the government of Indonesia will hold a CEAPAD business meeting and Expo on the sidelines of the 2nd CEAPAD Meeting next March 2014.
- The Palestinian officials in charge of foreign investment will be dispatched to Asian countries to induce investment from Asia to Palestine with the support from the receiving countries.
- IDB will consider supporting measures to induce investment and marketing activities in Palestine.
- The CEAPAD will explore the possibility of launching a mechanism to facilitate investment and transfer of technology from Asia to Palestine.
- The CEAPAD participants will consider cooperation with ongoing initiatives stimulating Palestinian economy, including the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP), through encouraging trade, investment and assistance.
- The CEAPAD participants will consider possible concrete steps to develop Palestinian private sector's international networks with East Asian business communities.

(c) Cooperation with international community

The CEAPAD will coordinate with international community's efforts for Palestinian economic development such as the "Palestinian Economic Initiative" and "High Impact Micro-Infrastructure Initiative".

(d) Follow-up and 2nd CEAPAD ministerial meeting in Indonesia

- The CEAPAD participants will review the progress of the above efforts and explore further measures to be taken for promotion of the Palestinian private sector through working-level conferences.
- The discussion in this Private Sector Promotion Meeting will be reflected in the upcoming 2nd CEAPAD ministerial meeting in Indonesia.

(end)

ANNEX II

List of Human Resources Development Program

Indicated Priority of Assistance

No	Sector	Country	Program
1.	Water	Japan	- Project for capacity strengthening for non-revenue water - Technical assistance and capacity building project for the Jericho sanitation project
2.	Tourism and Antiquities	Indonesia	- Training Course on Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites
		Japan	- Project for sustainable tourism development through public-private partnership
		Thailand	- Triangular Cooperation Project with Japan for Jericho's tourism development
3.	Agriculture	Indonesia	- Triangular Cooperation Project with Japan
		Japan	- Project on improved extension for value-added agriculture in Jordan River Rift Valley - Capacity building project for agriculture promotion - Capacity building project in agricultural research and development
		Thailand	- N/A
		Malaysia	- Breeding programs for sheep breeds and crosses under field condition
4.	Local Governance	Japan	- Project for improvement of local finance system
5.	Economic Sector (including SMEs, Light Manufacturing)	Indonesia	- Training Program on Business and Technology Incubator Management
		Japan	- Project for institutional strengthening of the management & services of the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park - Project for institutional strengthening of business development services for SMEs - Capacity building project for SMEs promotion
		Thailand	- N/A
		Malaysia	- Small and Medium Enterprises Management -

6.	Vocational Training	Japan	- Capacity building in fire-fighting and rescue techniques
		Thailand	- N/A
		Korea	- The Project for the Establishment of Jenin Industrial Secondary School - The Project for the Establishment of Kufr Ni'ma Industrial Secondary School
7.	Finance	Malaysia	- Tax Auditing - Measuring the Performance of Supreme Audit Institution - Monetary sector (any)
8.	Education	Singapore	- Capacity building programmes such as vocational education pedagogy and leadership development for educators
9.		Brunei	- Capacity Building
10.	Public Administration	Singapore	- Sharing of experience in anti-corruption strategies
11.	ICT	Indonesia	- Information Technology Workshop for SME's
		Korea	- The Project for Establishment of An-Najah IT Institute of Excellence - The Project for the Establishment of a Smart Building and ICT Center in Ramallah
12.	Infrastructure	Indonesia	- Training on Project Cycle
		Japan	- Project for capacity development on solid waste management - Capacity building project in electricity

ANNEX III

Private Sector Development Program

No	Country	Program
1.	Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- CEAPAD Business Meeting and Trade Expo, 1 – 2 March 2014- Assistance to participate in Indonesia Trade Expo, 2014
2.	Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Assistance for Palestinian companies to participate in the international food and beverage exhibition (FOODEX JAPAN) in March 2014- Follow-up of assistance for exports of Palestinian skin-care products to Japan- Dispatch of an official mission from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) to Palestine (Feb, 2014) and its follow-up- Program for regional tourism promotion (March 2014)- 4th Japan-Arab economic forum (incl. Palestine)
3.	Islamic Development Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Organize thematic workshops involving NGOs, civil society and private sectors for developing exchange program and twinning arrangements benefiting from expertise available from CEAPAD participating countries.