

Co-Chairs' Summary
3rd Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) of the Conference on
Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian
Development (CEAPAD)

On July 4th, 2019, the 3rd Senior Official's Meeting (SOM) of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development (CEAPAD) was held in Ramallah Palestine, under the co-chairpersonship of Japan and Palestine.

The participants welcomed the first holding of the CEAPAD SOM in Palestine, and expressed a clear message that they will continue to assist Palestine under the new cabinet of Prime Minister H.E.Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh, even under circumstances where the political and economic situation surrounding Palestine is becoming more difficult than before. They expressed their appreciation to the Council of Ministers headed by Prime Minister H.E. Dr. Mohammad Shtayyeh, the Prime Minister, for providing the support needed for the CEAPAD Secretariat within the Prime Minister's Office and strengthening its functions, in addition to enhancing cooperation with the CEAPAD Participating countries.

The participants reaffirmed the significance of CEAPAD to date, including this SOM. CEAPAD is an effort to assist in the economic development of Palestine, utilizing the knowledge and experience of East Asian countries which achieved remarkable development over the past several decades of arduous times. They expressed their unchanging stance to contribute to the realization of Middle East Peace through two-state solution.

The Participants welcomed the holding of the "Trade Day" events including the business event in Jericho, the Hebron Tour and signing of Memorandum between the Chamber of Commerce in Indonesia

and the Chamber of Commerce in Palestine, held on July 3rd and 4th, and the participation of private sector business representatives from Indonesia. They expressed the hope that these events would lead to the strengthening of business relationships between Palestine and Asian countries. The participants also held a tour of the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park (JAIP), through which they welcomed the operation of 15 Palestinian private companies in JAIP, and emphasized the importance of incorporating the vitality of the private sector into the development of Palestine. They expressed the expectation that they will bring up CEAPAD to a new dimension through upgrading CEAPAD such as strengthening partnerships with the private sector henceforth.

The participants reviewed achievements in various fields of Palestinian development since CEAPAD III held in Bangkok in June 2018 in accordance with the Joint Statement adopted thereof and expressed their wish to extend their support for increasing the number and sectors of the capacity building programmes.

The participants reaffirmed the importance of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for the core role it plays in assistance to Palestinian refugees, and expressed the determination that they will continue to support UNRWA.

The participants thanked the Office of the Quartet for their endeavors in enabling the business event held this time. The participants expressed the hope for upgrading CEAPAD through synergies between the “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity” initiative and CEAPAD, not only through business relationships, but also through future academic, and civil society exchanges between CEAPAD participant countries and the vitalization of the “Tourism Corridor”, among others.

- End -