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FACT SHEET

NATO/JAPAN COOPERATION IN AFGHANISTAN

Background

In January 2007, the former Japanese Prime Minister made a historic address to NATO's North Atlantic Council (NAC), during which he pledged to enhance concrete co-operation between Japan and NATO, with a particular focus on Afghanistan. This initiative was very warmly received by the NAC, particularly in the context of the decisions taken at the Riga Summit to enhance meaningfully concrete relations with key Contact Countries, like Japan. In March 2007, this led to the finalization of a framework within which Japan will provide up to 2 billion yen (around USD20 million) of financial support for humanitarian projects in Afghanistan, particularly in the areas of primary healthcare and education, to be proposed by ISAF Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) through the Senior Civilian Representative's Office. In a further step, the Japanese Embassy in Kabul has now added a new staff member who will be devoted full-time to assisting in the screening of potential projects and the administration of those approved.

Guiding Principles

Funding is made available through the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Projects (GAGP) scheme.

- In principle, projects should be in the area of primary education, vocational training, health and medical care, or water and sanitation, which promote the achievement of human security.
- Projects will be proposed by ISAF PRTs through the SCR Office and approved by the Japanese authorities, but must then be implemented by NGOs or local government authorities which control their own budget, meaning that projects cannot be implemented directly by PRT staffs.
- The geographical area for assistance projects is decided on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the priorities of the Government of Japan and NATO, with a view to strengthening the objectives of the Afghanistan Compact and the Afghan National Development Strategy while avoiding duplication of effort.
- According to the guidelines for the GAGP, the amount per project is under 10 million yen (around USD90,000) in principle. Larger projects can be

considered up to a maximum amount of 100 million yen (around USD900,000) as appropriate.

- Under the condition that mutually suitable projects are identified, it is possible for Japan to provide up to two billion yen of assistance in the course of several years.

Projects Funded to Date (as of 22 November 2007)

To date, three projects proposed by the PRT based in Chaghcharan and two proposed by the PRT based in Mazar e-Sharif have been funded through this framework:

Project for Female Literacy	USD80,486	Ghor Province
Project for Vocational Training	USD79,963	Ghor Province
Project for the Eradication of Tuberculosis	USD85,820	Ghor Province
Construction of Kokjar Girls Secondary School	USD85,910	Samangan Province
Construction of Joi Zhouwandon Girls Secondary School	USD85,818	Samangan Province
Construction of Karta-I mamurem Girls Primary School	USD85,994	Samangan Province
Construction of Aybak Centre Secondary School	USD86,581	Samangan Province
Construction of Koshk Primary School	USD85,765	Ghor Province
Construction of Aigal Middle School	USD85,765	Ghor Province
Construction of Nawe Dangak Middle School	USD90,017	Ghor Province
Total Funding to Date	USD852,119	

A further 23 projects have so far been proposed by ISAF PRTs in Ghor, Panjshir, Samangan, Badakshan, Paktya, Badgis, Herat, Laghman, Parwan, Kunduz and Baghlan Provinces, and their eligibility is currently being considered by the Japanese authorities.

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