

JAPAN LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS OF PEACE BY SUPPORTING GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST LANDMINES

Multi-million dollar contribution will aid mine action in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Sudan

NEW YORK, New York, March 18, 2010— As a part of the assistance package to Afghanistan and African countries, today, Japan contributed US\$ 18,305,000 to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. During 2009, Japan was the third largest donor to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action, which the United Nations Mine Action Service manages.

“Our work contributes to the foundation of peace and development in affected countries,” says Max Kerley the Director of the United Nations Mine Action Service. “We are grateful for Japan’s contribution and it exemplifies how Japan is a leading partner in our global efforts,” he adds.

The funds contributed by the Government of Japan will enable the implementation of two projects in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The projects will increase human security and focus on priority areas including farmland, water sources, grazing areas, dwellings, schools, local travel routes and remote villages to decrease the threat posed by mines and explosive remnants of war.

In Somalia and Sudan, the contribution will support projects to remove explosive remnants of war that obstruct the development of humanitarian and socio-economic activities and prohibit local populations from enjoying freedom of movement. These projects are clear examples of how mine action realizes the Millennium Development Goals.

Japan is one of the most important partners of UNMAS and according to the Government of Japan they have provided more than 400 million US dollars to mine action programmes and activities around the world. Japan chose Somalia and Sudan to demonstrate its continuing commitment to peace and development in Africa.

The United Nations Mine Action Service is located in the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

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