



Embassy of Japan in Lebanon

1 October, 2018

Press Release

The Embassy of Japan Organizes a Mine Awareness Seminar with LMAC and Jammal Trust Bank

Lebanese Mine Action Centre (LMAC), in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan in Lebanon and Jammal Trust Bank, organized a Mine Awareness Seminar on October 1st, 2018 at The Phoenicia Hotel Beirut.

The Japanese Government has been supporting mine action operations in Lebanon since 2001. Since 2015 only, and through the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Program (GGP), Japan has provided around USD 4 million to help local and international NGOS carry mine clearance activities in the southern and northern parts of the country, including the Blue Line region.

Mine risk education activities and awareness campaigns are essential pillars to mine action operations. Throughout the years, many civilians from the host and refugee communities in Lebanon have got injured or even lost their lives unaware of the dangers associated with landmines and explosive remnants of wars, left behind from several armed conflicts. The livelihoods of thousands of Lebanese have also been affected by their inability to exploit their cleared lands that were once contaminated territories.

The seminar aimed not only to underline the various activities of the key players involved in the mine action scene in Lebanon, but also helped shed some light on mine contaminated areas that most residents and refugees are unaware of their existence. The event's various panels and presentations also intended to promote the lucrative and sustainable use of the released lands.

In his speech, H.E. Mr. Matahiro Yamaguchi, Ambassador of Japan to Lebanon said "despite the urgency and significant importance of the clearance operations, I strongly believe that mine action remains incomplete without awareness activities". He also added that supporting the owners of the cleared fields to develop income-generating activities, through workshops or microfinance programs is a necessity for the local socio-economic development. The Ambassador also praised LMAC for their efforts in coordinating the various mine action activities, and thanked Jammal Trust Bank for sponsoring the event. He also reiterated Japan's support to Lebanon in reaching its goal of becoming free of mines and cluster munitions.