



Embassy of Japan in Lebanon

28 February 2019

## **Press Release**

### **Japan Supports Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve**

The Embassy of Japan supports the forest fires prevention efforts in Jabal Moussa Biosphere Reserve, in order to help preserve the wildlife and nature, and provide a safer environment for the residents of the villages surrounding the reserve.

To fund the project, on February 28, 2019, H.E. Mr. Matahiro Yamaguchi, Ambassador of Japan to Lebanon signed a grant contract with Mr. Pierre Doumet, President of the Association of the Protection of Jabal Moussa (APJM), a local NGO that was founded for the conservation of the biodiversity and the preservation of the cultural heritage in the area.

Through the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Program (GGP), the Embassy is providing a grant of USD 63,402 for the procurement of firefighting kits and equipment, and training for the early response teams. In addition, fuel breaks will be created and a water provision system will be installed throughout the reserve to assist these teams in preventing the spread of fire.

The funding will allow the Association to continue their mission in preserving the nature, and benefit around 28,000 residents and annual visitors.