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From the People of Japan

Embassy of Japan in Lebanon

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## **Press Release**

### **The Japanese Ambassador Attends the Inauguration Ceremony of a Project for Supporting Border Management**

The Government of Japan provided \$1,000,000 USD for the project of “Support to the Government of Lebanon in Addressing Security and Humanitarian Border Management Challenges at Masnaa Border Crossing Point”, implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The project was in collaboration with The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, The Ministry of Public Health, and the Directorate General of General Security.

On the occasion of the completion of the project, on July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019, Mr. Matahiro Yamaguchi, Ambassador of Japan to Lebanon, attended an inauguration ceremony at Masnaa, in the presence of the Director General of General Security in Lebanon, Major General Abbas Ibrahim, UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Mr. Jan Kubis, and the Regional Director for Middle East and North Africa at IOM, Mrs. Carmela Godeau. Through this project, the border crossing point was supplied with advanced equipment to enable Lebanese officials to manage the border more efficiently. This was accompanied with the organization of training programs that covered various fields, such as modern migration and humanitarian border management, aimed at building the capacities of border officials. Additionally, the Japanese funding contributed to the establishment of a medical clinic at the border, to provide emergency health care to passengers and migrants when needed.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Yamaguchi highlighted the importance of the project in preventing illegal activities taking place at the Masnaa Border Crossing Point, and in strengthening border management in conformity with human rights. The Ambassador also reiterated Japan’s continued commitment to help maintain Lebanon’s security and stability, despite regional turmoils and conflicts, through the implementation of various projects across the country.