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**Japan’s New Grant Assistance to Iraq**

 On behalf of the Government of Japan, H.E. Mr. Yoji Muto, State Minister for Foreign Affairs participated in the Pledging Conference in Support of Iraq in Washington D.C which was held on July 20, 2016.

 In his statement at the conference, H.E. Mr. Muto announced that Japan has decided to provide additional 10 million US dollars for Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization (FFIS) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) to deal with the ongoing serious humanitarian crisis in Iraq. This is additional to around 100 million US dollars that Japan already provided this year for humanitarian and stabilization assistance via international organizations. Furthermore, he emphasized that Japan intends to maintain the same level of assistance extended to Iraq in 2016 throughout 2017 and 2018, with the recognition that seamless assistance to Iraq is vital to the stabilization of Iraq.

 Mr. Muto also said at the Conference “Iraq is a country that stands on the frontline for addressing the most serious problem the international community is currently tackling, and I am convinced that it is of great significance that we get together here today. Iraq is, however, not able to continue working that hard indefinitely, and we, the international community, must support the people and the Government of Iraq in order not to lose or slow the momentum.”

(End)