



Afghanistan



آغاز نو - نوی پیل
Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme



UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE
MISSION

JAPAN GIVES NEARLY US\$30 MILLION EXTRA TO ASSURE THE SUCCESS OF AFGHANISTAN'S NEW BEGINNINGS PROGRAMME

3 March, 2005; Kabul Afghanistan: Japanese Ambassador to Afghanistan, Mr Norihiro Okuda, and the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme, Ms Ameerah Haq, conducted an official document signing on Thursday to formalize an agreement that adds US\$28.8 million to Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP).

ANBP works closely with the Government of Afghanistan and in particular the Ministry of Defence. The ceremony was observed by the Minister of Defence for Afghanistan, Rahim Wardak, and senior officials of ANBP.

One of UNDP Afghanistan's largest projects, ANBP has been disarming members of the Afghan Military Forces since October 2003 and helping them to make the transition back to normal civilian life. To date, ANBP has processed more than 42 000 AMF soldiers and successfully supported their efforts to become productive citizens of Afghanistan.

The new funding brings Japan's total contribution to the UN backed Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration programme to more than 90 million dollars. The funds provided by Japan will be used to provide the training and support that former soldiers need to reintegrate into society.

The reintegration of former AMF soldiers is seen as one of the most important measures to ensure continued peace and stability in Afghanistan.

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