

Malaysia and Japan launch postgraduate programme for Palestine students

By BERNAMA© 30 JULY 2026 02:44 PM



KUALA LUMPUR—Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) today signed an agreement to provide postgraduate education in engineering, science, and technology for Palestinian students under a six-year initiative starting October this year. The initiative, which will run until April 2032, is expected to benefit between 15 and 20 Palestinian students.

Under the agreement, JICA will fund the scholarships, while UTM and its Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIT) will provide research supervision, laboratory access, and academic support. Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir said the rebuilding of Palestine must extend beyond restoring physical infrastructure to focus on developing human capital through higher education. "The rebuilding of Palestine must not focus only on physical structures. It must also include the building of human capacity, he said in a speech read by Higher Education deputy director-general (Academic and Research) Prof Dr Zainal Amin Ayub. Zambry said education was key to producing the engineers, researchers, educators, planners, and leaders needed to support Palestine's long-term recovery. He said higher education institutions had a crucial role in equipping Palestinians with the skills needed to rebuild infrastructure, restore essential services, manage resources, and develop sustainable solutions. He added that the strategic partnership would enable Palestinian students to pursue postgraduate studies and research at UTM MJIT, reflecting the shared commitment of Malaysia and Japan to use education to address global challenges. "Humanitarian assistance addresses the needs of today, and education builds the strength needed for tomorrow, Zambry said. Earlier, UTM Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Mohd Shafry Mohd Rahim said the initiative extended the long-standing partnership between UTM and Japan toward supporting Palestine through education and capacity building. Meanwhile, JICA President Dr Akihiko Tanaka described the agreement as an investment in Palestine's future, noting that human capital development was as vital as rebuilding physical infrastructure. The agreement was signed during the launch of the "Malaysia-Japan Strategic Partnership: Engineering a Resilient Palestine" programme here. Also present were Palestinian Ambassador to Malaysia Jihad Fouad Alqdra and Japanese Ambassador to Malaysia Shikata Noriyuki.



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