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Japan Funds Humanitarian Demining in Sri Lanka

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Japan Funds Humanitarian Demining in Sri Lanka

Ambassador of Japan Kunio Takahashi recently extended a grant valued at US\$650,000 (70 million rupees)¹ to support the Government of Sri Lanka's humanitarian-demining efforts in northern Sri Lanka. The Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (*Fondation Suisse de Déminage*) facilitated the grant. Intended to further the efforts of achieving a mine-free Sri Lanka, the agreement was signed by Takahashi and FSD on 30 September 2011 at the Embassy of Japan in Colombo.²

The landmines and unexploded ordnance in Sri Lanka are predominantly the result of the war between the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil Tigers separatist organization, which was defeated in May 2009.³ According to the *Landmine & Cluster Munition Monitor*, a total of 38 casualties in 2009 were due to mine/explosive remnants of war, with six people killed and 32 injured.⁴ The demining project will help an estimated 5,000 people in the Vavuniya and Mannar districts access safe land and resume their livelihood activities. The project will also help provide employment opportunities to more than 100 residents in the area.¹ ↗

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Endnotes

1. Conversion made 1 October 2011.
2. "Japan extended US\$ 780,000 grant for demining in the North." *News.lk*, 1 October 2011. <http://www.news.lk/news/sri-lanka/351-japan-extended-us-780000-grant-for-demining-in-the-north>. Accessed 13 October 2011.

3. Bhalla, Nita. "Sri Lanka's women deminers clean up legacy of Asia's longest war." *Swissinfo*, 23 September 2011. http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/news/international/Sri_Lankas_women_deminers_clean_up_legacy_of_Aσίας_longest_war.html?cid=31199490. Accessed 17 October 2011.
4. "Sri Lanka." *Landmine & Cluster Munition Monitor*. http://www.the-monitor.org/index.php/cp/display/region_profiles/theme/1358. Accessed 4 November 2011.

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