

The 2nd Japan-Iraq Joint Conference on Healthcare Sector	Venue	Project Manager	Date of Implementation
	Royal Park Hotel	Tsuji	July 3, 2013

Aim | To strengthen cooperative relations between Iraq and Japan in the healthcare field

Overview | On September 26, 2012, the 1st Japan-Iraq Joint Conference on Healthcare Sector was held in Baghdad, based on the Japan-Iraq Joint Economic Committee, which was held in Tokyo in May 2012 and included active exchanges in regard to cooperation between Japan and Iraq in the healthcare sector. In the conference, the two countries agreed to maintain continuing cooperative ties in the healthcare sector, and subsequently held the 2nd Japan-Iraq Joint Conference on Healthcare Sector in July 3, 2013, with successful results. With a shared objective to promote even greater cooperation in the implementation of healthcare projects, a total of 100 members from various institutions and organizations attended the conference, including members from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan, Ministry of Health of Iraq, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan Cooperation Center for the Middle East (JCCME), Japan Iraq Medical Association (JIMA), and private Japanese companies.

1. In the conference, Japan and Iraq confirmed their mutual agreement to further cooperate in addressing the following two issues based on the Iraqi side's description of the current status and prospects for future projects in the healthcare sector in Iraq, and the Japanese side's proposal for future cooperation.

(a) Framework for establishment of a Japan-Iraq Medical Cooperation Center

To increase opportunities for high advanced medical training and to promote exchanges among medical professionals, the two countries reconfirmed the importance of establishing the Japan-Iraq Medical Cooperation Center in Iraq, which was proposed by International Total Engineering Corporation at the 1st Japan-Iraq Joint Conference on Healthcare Sector held in 2012. The Japanese side expressed its intent to examine the possibility of conducting a feasibility study that would be required before construction of the center could begin, and the Iraqi side announced its readiness to offer its utmost cooperation to the study. The Japanese side also indicated its intention to direct its efforts toward provide training by Japanese physicians.

(b) Procurement and maintenance of medical equipment and materials, medical institution management, and related medical services in Iraq

The Iraqi side expressed its desire to apply Japan's experience, technologies and expertise to the healthcare sector in Iraq, and the Japanese side expressed its strong will to satisfy the needs of the Iraqi side. The Iraqi side also reaffirmed its intention to improve the business environment and investment opportunities in Iraq, such as by opening liaison offices for Japanese companies, accelerating the process of approval and authorization for importing and utilizing Japanese medical equipment and products, and providing the necessary support to ensure safety. The two countries confirmed the importance of medical equipment maintenance in Iraq, and welcomed actions for improvement of this aspect, including measures to strengthen the presence of Japanese companies in the Middle East.

2. Japan and Iraq agreed to promote both public and private communication from the perspective of strengthening bilateral exchanges in the healthcare sector, and to follow up on the progress of cooperation projects that are reported to the abovementioned Japan-Iraq Joint Economic Committee. They also renewed their awareness of the significance of making preparations for the 3rd joint conference scheduled to be held in 2014, as part of the follow-up process and as a means for promoting further dialogue and exchanging views on future cooperation between the public and private sectors of the two countries.

Result Achievement | Through this conference, Japan and Iraq reconfirmed the importance of the two issues mentioned above, as well as of the necessity of further strengthening the cooperative relationship between the two countries in the future.

