



SPEECH
For UNDP/PAPP Special Representative
Mr. Jens Toyberg-Frandzen

Speaking event:	Inauguration Ceremony of Burqin Girl's School KOICA (I) – Support to the Palestinian Education System
Date and time:	Wednesday, 18.04.2007; 11:00 – 14:00
Venue:	Burqin Girl's School / Burqin - Jenin
Participants/audience:	Minister of Education, Governor of Jenin, Korean Ambassador, Municipality representative, Local Community
Length of speech:	5 minutes
Context of speech:	opening remarks, no question and answer session
Draft prepared by:	Communications Unit

Dear friends, ladies and gentlemen

It is a great honour to be invited here to share in the official opening of the new Burqin Girl's School. It is right that we should be together to celebrate a school, because nothing can be more important for us than the education of our children. It is in the rural areas – here in Burqin as in other parts of the West Bank, that our youth are most deprived of educational opportunities.

UNDP has laid great emphasis on the development of human resources. We have today achieved a diversified and advanced education and training infrastructure.

This project intended to consolidate prior support provided by the South Korean Government to the Palestinian Authority in the education sector and further contribute to enabling MOE achieve the priority objectives of the Five Year Education Development Plan.

Phase one of the project included the construction of a 12-classroom girls school. The school consisted, in addition to the classrooms, Physics, Technology and Computer laboratories, teachers' facilities, administrative facilities and toilet units at the cost of US\$ 518,000. The second phase included playgrounds and external works at the cost of US\$ 67,000.

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Your efforts and enthusiasm, the Korean's support, the efficiency of the engineers and the guidance of the Ministry of Education have made this education facility possible. As a result, today the community in Burqin village will have a fine school for its young girls. Now it is up to the community – parents, teachers, and pupils to make it work and produce the leaders of tomorrow.

I wish you all the best.

Thank you.