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Israeli, Jordanian officials signing historic agreement on water trade

Bringing a historic deal to fruition, Israeli and Jordanian government officials on Thursday afternoon are signing a bilateral agreement to exchange water and jointly funnel Red Sea brines to the shrinking Dead Sea. The full-fledged agreement, which is being signed on the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea on Thursday afternoon, is the result of a memorandum of understanding signed among Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian officials on December 9, 2013 in Washington, D.C. According to Thursday's agreement, Jordan and Israel will share the potable water produced by a future desalination plant in Aqaba, from which salty brines will be piped to the Dead Sea. In return for its portion of the desalinated water in the South, Israel will be doubling its sales of Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee) water to Jordan on the countries' northern border. "In Washington, we just declared that we are going to sign an agreement," Maya Eldar, an advisor to Shalom on the project, told The Jerusalem Post on Thursday, over the phone from the signing ceremony. "This is a real agreement that is going to make sure the cooperation and relationship between Israel and Jordan is going to last."