

Speech of H. E. Mr. Masafumi KUROKI
Ambassador of Japan
At the Launching Ceremony
on the Application of the Civil Code
(on December 21st , 2011 at Peace Palace)

- H. E. Dr. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in Charge of the Council of Ministers, High Representative of Samdech Akka Maha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia,
- H. E. Mr. Ang Vong Vathana, Minister of Justice,
- Professor Akio MORISHIMA, Chairperson of the Supporting Group on the Civil Code,
- Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend the launching ceremony on the application of the Civil Code.

First of all, I would like to express my congratulations to the Royal Government of Cambodia on the application of the Civil Code with high presence of H. E. Dr. Sok An.

Since the peace agreement of 1991, the Royal Government of Cambodia has made tremendous efforts for the peace, stability and development of the country. The establishment of the governance has been one of the most important pillars in the process of the reconstruction and the development of Cambodia.

The Government of Japan has been providing its assistance for the drafting of the Civil Code, the Civil Procedure Code and other related laws since 1999 in order to assist the Cambodian Government to protect the rights of the Cambodian people and to promote sound economic development. In addition to the drafting of these laws, Japan has provided the training for the

capacity development of the judges and prosecutors of Royal Academy for Judicial Professions since 2005 and the lawyers of the Bar Association from 2007 to 2010.

Concerning Japanese cooperation, I would like to highlight two points,

First point is the Japanese approach of cooperation. In the modernization process of Japan which started in 1868, Japan implemented fundamental legal reforms. We introduced laws and judicial system from abroad to Japan but selectively so that new laws and legal systems would be consistent with the existing systems, customs and traditions of the Japanese society. When providing assistance to Cambodia, we took the same approach. In stead of applying automatically Japanese Civil Code to Cambodia, Japanese experts and Cambodian counterparts worked together in drafting the new Civil Code by taking into full consideration of the customs and traditions of Cambodian society.

Second point is the importance of the application of laws and the capacity development of legal professionals.

Drafting of laws itself is an important step but the laws should be applied properly. For effective application of the laws, it is indispensable to disseminate the new laws and train the legal professionals who apply them. Although the on-going projects will finish in 2012, the Government of Japan will start a new project from 2012 to continue its cooperation for the training of the judges, prosecutors and lawyers in order to ensure the smooth application of the Civil Code, Civil Procedure Code and related laws. New project of the capacity building will be extended to the Ministry of Justice, the Royal Academy for Judicial Professions, the Bar Association and the Royal University of Laws and Economics.

The Civil Code is a basic and fundamental law for the

people's life. It also stipulates basic rules for the rights and obligations concerning economic activities. I hope that the new Civil Code will be fully respected by all the Cambodian people and contribute to the promotion of the rule of law in Cambodia.

Lastly, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the people who were involved in the drafting of the Civil Code, both on the Cambodian and Japanese sides, for their ardent efforts. And I hope that this cooperation will further contribute to the friendly relations between Japan and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Thank you for your attention.