



**Speech by H.E. Mr. Yuji KUMAMARU**  
**Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan**  
**To the Kingdom of Cambodia**  
**On the Occasion of the Exchange of Notes Signing Ceremony**  
**17 November 2014**

- His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,
- Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to sign the Exchange of Notes of Japan's ODA Project for Improvement of the National Road No. 1 Urban Section.

National Road No. 1 is an important road in Cambodia and it also constitutes a vital part of the regional road network of the Asian Highways connecting Phnom Penh and Ho Chi Minh City.

The Government of Japan has been providing the grant aids to the Royal Government of Cambodia for the improvement of National Road No. 1 since 2005. Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3 of the Project were already completed.

The Stage 4 of the Project was signed in Tokyo December last year during the official visit of Prime Minister HUN Sen to Japan. The today's Exchange of Notes is related to the additional fund of 251 million yen or around 2.31 million US dollar to add to this Stage 4 for the improvement of the urban section of the National Road No. 1 near the Monivong Bridge.

The Neak Loeung Bridge over the Mekong River on the National Road No. 1 is now under construction with the Japanese Grant Aid and is expected to be completed by March 2015. Including the Neak Loeung Bridge, the Government of Japan's Grant Aid extended to the Royal Government of Cambodia for the improvement of the National Road No. 1 is worth 21.6 billion yen (¥21,600,000,000) in total or around 221 million US dollars.

I strongly hope that the improvement of National Road No. 1, along with the completion of the Neak Loeung Bridge, will greatly contribute to the better connectivity facilitating the movement of people and the transportation of goods not only in Cambodia but also in the Mekong region.

I wish the project be completed with great success and for the great benefit of many Cambodian people.

Thank you