

Remarks by Mr. HIGUCHI Yoshihiro,
Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission,
Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the Inauguration Ceremony of the General Medical Care Ward
in Cheung Prey Referral Hospital in Kompong Cham Province
20 November, 2014

- H.E. Dr. Mam Bunheng, Minister of Health of the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia,
- H.E. Lun Lim Thai, Governor of Kompong Cham Province,
- Dr. Kim Soupirun, Director of Kompong Cham Province Health Department,
- Mr. Chay Vansy, Governor of Cheung Prey District,
- Mr. Heung Thol, Director of Cheung Prey operational District,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor and an immense pleasure for me to attend this auspicious ceremony today on behalf of the Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of Cambodia, with the high presence of the Minister of Health of the Cambodian Royal Government, H.E. Dr. Mam Bunheng. The participation of the Minister of Health in this ceremony clearly witnesses the importance that the Royal Government attaches to the cooperation with Japan in the health sector and I am very much pleased to see that.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the people who have contributed to the preparation and the implementation of this project, as well as those who worked hard to organize today's wonderful ceremony. Our special appreciation also goes to Japan Heart, a Japanese NGO, which have been providing technical assistance to this Hospital since several years.

Health sector is one of the priorities of Japanese Government's cooperation with Cambodia. In accordance with the National Strategic Development Plan, we have been providing support to provincial referral hospitals so that local residents, in particular vulnerable people, can get better access to necessary medical service.

This project, which amounts to \$116,950, aims to construct a new general medical care ward in the Hospital. As the Hospital has been suffering a chronic shortage of hospital beds, the newly-built ward will allow local patients to receive better medical treatment in a safer and more attentive environment. This project is also expected to upgrade overall health and medical conditions in the region and thus promote the human security of the vulnerable population, the primary objective of Japan's Grass-Roots Grant Assistance scheme.

Japan already provided a grant aid of approximately 900 thousand USD to this Cheung Prey Referral Hospital in 2012 for installing medical equipment. We sincerely hope that while benefiting from these two Japanese projects, the Hospital will further expand health service delivery in Kompong Cham Province so that an increasing number of local residents will benefit from better medical services provided by the Hospital. I would also like to ask the Hospital to ensure an appropriate management and maintenance in good condition of the building as well as the equipment so that our cooperation will be beneficial over a long period of time.

Last but not least, I sincerely hope that the newly opened medical ward, which is a symbol of warm friendship of the Government of Japan and the people of Japan toward Cambodia and Cambodian people, will effectively function and help local people enjoy better access to better medical service, and thus, the cordial and warm friendly relations existing between the two countries will be further strengthened.

Thank you for your attention.