

**Speech by H.E. Mr. KUMAMARUYuji,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan  
To the Kingdom of Cambodia  
At the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects  
November 21, 2014**

- Mr. Ngy Set, Director of Battambang Provincial Department of Education, Youth and Sport
- Mr. Ung Pola, Executive Director of Cambodian Organization for Children and Development
- Mr. Mr. Sarun Thong, Executive Director of Vocational Training for the Alleviation of Poverty and Social Development
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to hold a signing ceremony today for three grant contracts of the Grass-Roots Human Security Project, which are “The Project for Constructing a School Building at Beung Thong Primary School, Bavel District, Battambang Province”, “The Project for Constructing a School Building at Toul Krous Primary School, Veal Veng District, Pursat Province” and “The Project for Constructing a School Building at Beung Thnot Primary School, Bakan District, Pursat Province”.

These projects for which contracts were signed today aim to improve educational environment for students and teachers in respective project areas. I believe that improvement of the education sector holds a key for the future development of Cambodia. It is critically important to invest in the sector with a long-term perspective. The education sector is one of the high priorities of the Cambodian Government. The sector is also a priority sector of Japanese assistance to Cambodia. In fact, Japan has been vigorously supporting Cambodia’s education sector over two decades by constructing school buildings and providing training to teachers.

The first grant, which amounts to \$88,034, is provided to Battambang Provincial Department of Education, Youth and Sport for the construction of a school building with sanitation facilities and the

installation of necessary furniture at Beung Thong Primary School, Bavel District, Battambang Province. With this project, over 300 primary school students will be able to enjoy studying in the safe and comfortable classrooms.

The second grant, which amounts to \$86,005, is provided to the Cambodian Organization for Children and Development for the construction of a school building with sanitation facilities and the installation of school furniture at Toul Krous Primary School, Veal Veng District, Pursat Province. This project is expected to improve educational environment for around 140 primary students with new classrooms.

The third grant, which amounts to \$98,838, is provided to the Vocational Training for the Alleviation of Poverty and Social Development for the construction of a school building with sanitation facilities and the installation of necessary furniture at Beung Thnot Primary School, Bakan District, Pursat Province. This project is expected to provide safe and comfortable educational environment for around 430 students who are currently using the dilapidated school buildings.

The construction works of these projects will start soon and is expected to complete within one year. Although there might be some difficulties to continue the work during the rainy season, I am hopeful that these projects will be implemented smoothly.

Last but not least, I strongly hope that the facilities constructed by these projects will be maintained properly so that they are maintained for many years and bring benefit to as many students and teachers as possible. I also hope that these projects can help strengthening the friendly relations existing between Japanese and Cambodian people.

Thank you.