

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

- H.E. Mr. PICH Veasna,
Director of Technical Service Center for Irrigation and Meteorology
- Mr. OUM Vibol , Director of Kampong Cham
Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology
- Mr. BUN Huor,
Director of Takeo Provincial Department of Water Resources and
Meteorology
- Mr. KIM Savouth, Director of Svay Rieng
Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology
- Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to hold a signing ceremony today for three Grass-Roots Human Security Projects, which are “The Project for Rehabilitating Canal Trapang Kandalin Kampong Cham Province”, “The Project for Rehabilitating Derm Thkov Irrigation System in Takeo Province” and “The Project for Rehabilitating Thlork Kambot Irrigation System in Svay Rieng Province”.

These projects for which contracts were just signed today aim to assist the development of the agriculture sector. I understand that the agriculture sector is priority for Cambodia’s development. As you are all aware, agriculture is the largest sector in Cambodia which accommodates over 60% of the working population and I believe the development of the sector holds a key for poverty reduction and income generation in rural areas.

The first project, which amounts to USD 103,024, is to expand irrigated areas in the Chamkar Leu District, Kampong Cham Province. Project components include the rehabilitation of 3,000 m embankment, a check structure, the construction of 2 check structures and 2 intake structures. About 2,182 people are expected to gain a constant access to irrigation water after the completion of the project.

The second project, which amounts to USD 101,355, aims to expand irrigated areas in the Kirivong District, Takeo Province. Project components include the rehabilitation of 360m embankment and 1,290m secondly canal, and the construction of 15m spillway, an outlet structure and an intake structure. About 3,025 people are expected to gain a constant access to irrigation water after the completion of the project.

The third project, which amounts to USD 102,063, aims to expand irrigated areas in the Chantrea District, Svay Rieng Province. Project components include the rehabilitation of 1,350m of embankment. About 1,790 people are expected to gain a constant access to irrigation water after the completion of the project.

The Government of Japan has been assisting the efforts of the Cambodian people by supporting various development projects. The projects in the agriculture sector include the rehabilitation of irrigation systems and transfer of cultivation technology. The present three projects are in line with Japan's assistance strategy towards Cambodia and fit in the philosophy of the Grass-Roots Human Security Grant scheme which is designed to promote the human security of the vulnerable population.

I am hopeful that the three projects will be implemented smoothly and maintained properly so that it can benefit to as many as many local residents as possible can benefit from the projects.

Last but not least, I sincerely hope that the projects will further strengthen the friendly relations existing between the Japanese and Cambodian people.

Thank you for your attention.