

**Speech by H.E. Mr. KUMAMARUYuji,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan
To the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for the Japanese NGO's Projects,
'The Project for Capacity Building on Demining for CMAC'
December 11, 2014**

- H.E. Mr. Oum Phumro, Deputy Director General of CMAC
- Ms. Hiromi Fuchikami, Resident Representative, JMAS Cambodia,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to hold a signing ceremony today for the grant contract signing for Japanese NGO's project, "The Project for Capacity Building on Explosive Remnants of War for CMAC".

As we all know, it has been said that there are millions of un-cleared explosive remnants of war in Cambodia. Such mines and unexploded bombs are large obstacle factor for development of Cambodia. Removing these remnants is essential process in order to promote social and economic infrastructure and agricultural development.

With long term effort, numbers of victims caused by mines and unexploded bombs has been decreasing. The Government of Japan has been supporting Cambodia's efforts through the grant assistance and technical cooperation. However, as it can be seen the fact that 111 people had become victims of mine and unexploded bombs in 2013, it is desired to establish a system for expanding the effects of technical transfer to CMAC, the core organization of mine and unexploded bombs cleaning in Cambodia.

Having such situation, since 2002, JMAS has been implementing the project in 13 provinces through our ODA scheme, the grant assistance for Japanese NGO's project in cooperation with CMAC. JMAS has achieved successful performance and has contributed to peace and development of Cambodia, in technical transfer along with mine and unexploded bombs clearance over a past decade.

Government of Japan provides approximately 50 million yen for JMAS project. I understand that JMAS will complete the mine and unexploded bombs clearance project in all provinces and conduct education program of capacity building aiming at improvement efficiency of ERW teamwork including instructors. In this project, it is expected that this project will be able to accelerate the unexploded bombs clearance in order to meet the objectives which was set by Cambodian government to be achieved by 2019.

Furthermore, since more ERW explosion case has been reported as the land development work is promoted in Cambodia, they will conduct technical transfer for searching the deeper layer of land. We expect that the project will be able to avoid explosive accidents happening in recent years during construction work used by heavy construction machines.

I am hoping this project will be able to improve capacity development of CMAC along with the freedom of remnants for 1,745,000 people in the community, stability of their life and improvement of living environment and further development of the community after clearance of unexploded bombs.

Last but not least, the grant assistance for Japanese NGO is provided for economic and social development projects which directly impacts on people at grass root level. We would like to express our respect for people who has been working for mine and unexploded bombs clearance in a harsh working environment and hoping this project will directly benefit to people in the community and help strengthening the friendly relations existing between Japanese and Cambodian people.

Thank you.