

**Speech by Mr. WADA Takayuki,
Second Secretary, Economic & ODA Section,
Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of Cambodia**

**On the occasion of the inauguration Ceremony for the Project for Constructing School Buildings
at Yutethoar Primary School and Samnang Preah Srey Primary School in Bavel District,
Battambang Province, February 6, 2014**

- Venerable monks,
- H. E. Mr. NGOUN Rotanak, deputy Governor of Battambang Province,
- Excellencies, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend today's inauguration ceremony for the Project for Constructing School Buildings at Yutethoar Primary School and Samnang Preah Srey Primary School, with the presence of H. E. Mr. NGOUN Rotanak, deputy Governor of Battambang Province. First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Provincial Department of Education, Youth & Sport and its staff for holding this ceremony.

For the past two decades since the end of civil war, Cambodia has made strenuous efforts for its reconstruction and development, and it has reached a point where its economic growth rate is one of the highest even in the fast growing ASEAN region. Also in the field of education, both quantity and quality have been continuously improving year by year.

I would like to commend the effort that the Cambodian Government deployed to improve the education sector. The Government of Japan as well, understanding the importance of the education for achieving sustainable development, has been supporting Cambodia's efforts through the construction of schools and the training of teachers.

In Cambodia, currently there are around 6,900 primary schools, among which 75% are operating on a two shift basis. In addition, a part of these schools have become obsolete and need to be rebuilt for the safety of school children.

I was briefed that the students at Yutethoar Primary School and Samnang Preah Srey Primary School had to study in overcrowded classrooms because of the lack of the classrooms. Moreover, some school buildings have been damaged by strong wind and heavy rain.

Now that this new school building with 6 classrooms and sanitation facility at Yutethoar Primary School and one new school building with 4 classrooms and sanitation facility at Samnang Preah Srey Primary School was completed, all the students have become able to study at safe and comfortable classrooms.

I am hopeful that the students of Yutethoar Primary School and Samnang Preah Srey Primary School will enjoy studying under the improved environment and will maintain the school building properly as a symbol of the friendship between Japan and the Kingdom of Cambodia for many years to come.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the people who have contributed to the smooth implementation of the project. I strongly hope that this cooperation will further strengthen the friendly relations between the Cambodian and Japanese people.

Thank you very much for your attention.