

Speech by Mr. UZAWA Kazuhiro
Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan
at the Inauguration Ceremony
of Facilities for Rural Development in Kampong Cham Commune
at Sambo District, Kratie Province,
February 25, 2014

- Venerable monks,
- Mr. HOEUR Siyem, Deputy Governor of Kratie province,
- Mr. LIM Cheavhav ,
Director of Kratie Provincial Department of Rural Development,
- Mr. HENG Sotha , Governor of Sambo District,
- Mr. OR Channy ,
Executive Director of Cambodia Rural Development (CRDT),
- Excellencies, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure for me to attend today's ceremony for the inauguration of Facilities for Rural Development in Kampong Cham Commune at Sambo District in Kratie Province, with the high presence of Mr. HOEUR Siyem, Deputy Governor of Kratie Province. First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the CRDT and the local residents who arranged today's ceremony.

The Government of Japan, understanding the importance of the agriculture sector for economic and social development in Cambodia, has been assisting the efforts of the Cambodian Government through measures such as improvement of the infrastructure in rural areas and strengthening water resources management.

Providing safe water has been a priority of Japan's cooperation to Cambodia, and in fact, various water treatment projects have been implemented in urban areas as well as in rural areas. In Kratie province, a project for Constructing small-scale water treatment facility and to install 3,000m of water distribution pipes at Koh Pdao village, and an agricultural water distribution facility, two water tanks and 1,200m of canals at Sampin village, Kampong Cham Commune, Sambo District is currently being conducted.

I heard that the constructing Facilities for Rural Development would benefit over 2,000 local farmers and residents in Koh Pdao and Sampin Village to provide safe drinking water as well as agricultural water from Mekong River. I was also informed that agricultural trainings were provided to local farmers living in 7 nearby villages of Kampong Cham Commune to improve their agricultural productivity. This project will also enable the people living at the conservation areas of Irrawaddy Dolphin not to live on the gill net fishing which might hurt Irrawaddy Dolphin, but to make a living by agriculture.

In addition, maintenance committees of these Facilities for Rural Development were organized by villagers at each village supported by the CRDT. I am hopeful that these committees will maintain Facilities for Rural Development in proper manner so that the beneficiaries could use them in good condition.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the people who have contributed to the smooth implementation of the projects.

I strongly hope that these Facilities for Rural Development will become a symbol of the friendship between the two countries and further strengthen the friendly relations between the Japanese and Cambodian people.

Thank you very much for your attention.