

**Speech by Dr. IIZUKA Tomohiro
Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan
at the Inauguration Ceremony
of Drainage System at O'tavao area, Pailin Province,
March 5, 2014**

- Venerable Monks,
- H.E. Y Chhean, Governor of Pailin province,
- Excellencies, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure for me to attend today's ceremony for the inauguration of Drainage System at O'tavao area in Pailin Province, with the high presence of H.E. Mr. YChhean, Governor of Pailin Province. First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Pailin Provincial Department of Rural Development , the local residents who arranged today's ceremony.

Flood protection has been a priority of Japan's cooperation to Cambodia, and in fact, various improving drainage system projects have been implemented in urban areas as well as in rural areas. In Pailin Province, a project for constructing 3 vented causeways and 14 culverts along an agricultural road at O'tavao area is currently conducted.

I heard that the construction of Drainage System at O'tavao area would benefit over 3,000 people living in 5 villages who have easier access to commune office, provincial hospital, and primary school. It is also expected that project will contribute to revitalizing the local economy through the annual tourists of approximately 60, 000 people to the blue mountain water resort in O'tavao area.

I am hopeful that Pailin Provincial Department of Rural Development will maintain drainage system in proper manner so that the beneficiaries could continue to use it 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 this drainage system 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.