

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  
24 March, 2014

H.E. Mr. PICH Veasna ,  
Director of Technical Service Center for Irrigation and Meteorology  
Mr. LONG Phalkun,  
Director of Battambang Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology  
Mr. NUON Kresna,  
Director of Siem Reap Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology  
Mr. PHENG Kea, Executive Director of Rain Water Cambodia  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to hold a signing ceremony of three Grass-Roots Human Security Projects, which are “The Project for Rehabilitating Canal Mok Buon in Battambang Province”, “The Project for Rehabilitating Canal SC7 in Siem Reap Province” and “The Project for Improving Sanitary Facilities at 6 Primary School in Kang Meas and Batheay District, Kampong Cham Province”.

These projects whose contracts were signed today aim to assist the development of the agriculture and the hygiene sectors. I understand that these sectors are priorities for Cambodia’s development. As you are all aware, agriculture is the largest sector in Cambodia which absorbs 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 health and hygiene sector is also critically important for sustainable development in Cambodia and in particular, the improvement of school hygiene is most proper investment for future generations.

The first project, which amounts to USD 114,268, is to expand irrigated areas in the Thmo Kol District, Battambang Province. Project components include the rehabilitation of 850 m of secondly canal, and the construction of 1,050m of tertiary canal and 3 intake structures. About 80 households are expected to gain a constant access to irrigation water.

The second project, which amounts to USD 121,578, aims to expand irrigated areas in the Pouk District, Siem Reap Province. Project components include the rehabilitation of 3,700m of secondly canal, and the construction of a bank protection, a concrete bridge and 10 culverts. About 1,600 households are expected to gain a constant access to irrigation water.

The third project, which amounts to USD 28,656, aims to improve sanitary facilities at 6 primary schools in Kang Meas and Batheay District, Kampong Cham Province. Project components include the construction of 6 rain water tanks, 5 hand washing stations, 6 drinking water fountains, 10 toilets, and the improvement of 11 toilets. About 2,400 students and teachers are expected to benefit from the project with improved sanitary facilities.

The Government of Japan has been assisting the efforts of the Cambodian people by supporting various development projects. The projects in the agriculture and the health sectors include the rehabilitation of irrigation systems, the transfer of cultivation technology, the refurbishment of hospitals and clinics and the human resources development of medical personnel. 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 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 peoples.

Thank you for your attention.