

Speech by H.E. Mr. Yuji KUMAMARU,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan  
to the Kingdom of Cambodia

On the Occasion of the Completion Ceremony of the  
“Project for replacement and expansion of water distribution systems in Provincial  
Capitals of Pursat, Battambang and Sihanoukville” and the Ground Breaking  
Ceremony of the

“Project for expansion of water supply systems in Kampong Cham and Battambang”

16<sup>th</sup> June, 2014

- Excellency Mr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Industry and Handicraft,
- Excellency Mr. Chan Sophal Governor of Battambang Province,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend today’s completion and ground breaking ceremonies with the high presence of Mr. Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Industry and Handicraft.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Minister and all those who attend this ceremony.

Today, I am happy to witness the beginning of this Water Supply Project which will contribute to the welfare of the population of these two Provincial Capitals, namely Battambang and Kampong Cham.

Access to safe water is one of the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals, which contribute to the improvement of living and health conditions and to the poverty reduction of the population. Accordingly, Japan has been providing its assistance for the improvement of water supply systems in Cambodia since 1990s.

Major projects include the construction of water treatment plants in Phnom Penh and Siam Reap as well as the technical cooperation for water supply authorities in those cities are implemented by the Government of Japan. Concerning the provincial capitals, access to safe water is still very low due to the deteriorated water treatment plants as well as old and insufficient distribution pipelines. After the completion of the “Project for replacement and expansion of water distribution systems in Provincial Capitals of Pursat, Battambang and Sihanoukville” the pipelines in those cities will be fully improved.

The Government of Japan has decided to provide its grant aid of 3.35 billion Japanese Yen, equivalent to approximately 32.4 million US dollars, which is intended to build new water treatment plant in Battambang and Kampong Cham. Battambang has a safe water access of only 31 percent while Kampong Cham has 33 percent. Upon the completion of the project, the water supply facilities in Battambang and Kampong Cham will be expanded and water supply ratio in both cities is aims to increase to 84 percent by the year 2019.

I hope that the Project will be implemented smoothly and successfully with the target date of mid of 2016 and contribute to the improvement of living conditions of the population around.

Last but not least, I sincerely hope that the support from the people and the Government of Japan will further strengthen the friendly ties existing between Japan and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Thank you for your attention.