

**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 Building at Takeo Lower
Secondary School in Kampong Trabaek District, Prey Veng Province,
August 12, 2014**

- Venerable Monks,
- H.E. Mr. IM Koch, Secretary of State, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport,
- Mr. Long Phat, Deputy Provincial Governor of Prey Veng
- Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend today's inauguration ceremony for the Project for Constructing School Building at Takeo Lower Secondary School, with the presence of H.E. Mr. IM Koch, Secretary of State, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and Mr. Long Phat, Deputy Provincial Governor of Prey Veng. First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and our special attention should go to Japan Team of Young Human Power (JHP) for taking an active coordination and implementation.

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. Understanding the importance of the education for achieving sustainable development, the Government of Japan has been supporting Cambodia's efforts through the construction of schools and the training of teachers.

As I understood, 42 students at Takeo Lower Secondary School had to study in unsafe classrooms due to deteriorated school buildings and lack of classrooms. Next semester, about 120 students including those who study at another school will start learning at this new school.

Now that this new elevated school building with 4 classrooms and sanitation facilities were completed as the 3rd school built by Japan's Kusanone grant in Prey Veng province. All students have become able to study at safe and comfortable classrooms especially in the rainy season.

I am hopeful that the students of Takeo Lower Secondary School will be able to study under the improved environment and will maintain the school building properly as a symbol of the friendship between the Kingdom of Cambodia and Japan for many years to come.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all the people who have contributed to the project implementation and the school construction. It is my sincere hope that this cooperation will further strengthen the friendly relations between Cambodian and Japanese people.

Thank you very much for your attention.