

**Speech by Mr. WADA Takayuki,
Secretary, Economic & ODA Section,
Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of Cambodia on the occasion of
the inauguration ceremony for the Project for Construction and Repairing Project for Junior
High School and Primary School in Kampot Province,
September 30, 2014**

- Venerable Monks,
- H.E. Mr. Khoy Kunhour, Governor of Kampot Province
- Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend today's inauguration ceremony for the project for "Construction and Repairing Project for Junior High School and Primary School in Kampot Province", with the presence of H.E. Khoy Kunhour, Governor of Kampot Province. First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and Association of School Aid in Cambodia (ASAC) for their cooperation in implementing this project.

Ensuring access to primary education is one of the immediate objectives for government of Cambodia. I would like to commend the commitment and efforts that the Cambodian Government deployed to improve the education sector. Understanding the importance of the education for achieving development of human resources, the Government of Japan has been supporting Cambodia's efforts through the construction of schools and the training of teachers since 1990s.

As I understood, over 600 students had to study in unsafe classrooms due to lack of school buildings. Next semester, about 400 primary school students will start learning at a renovated school building and 300 lower secondary school students will start learning at two new school buildings with 8 classrooms and 4 room toilets. In addition, a library will be open not only for students but also for people at Kom Nob village. This project enables to provide large number of primary and lower secondary school students a safe and comfortable learning environment and reading opportunities.

At my first visit for preliminary survey to see the situation of this village, there were no electric power cables and shops furthermore a lot of children were suffering from shortage of classrooms. By the time of my last visit for monitoring, the village had gained access to electric power lines and some shops had started business. Today, new schools are about to open with warm welcome by such a large number of participants to the ceremony. I'm delighted to have seen the rapid development of this village during my visits within a year and sincerely hope that the development will improve people's quality of life.

I am hopeful that all the students of Toul Pchek will be able to complete their 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.