

**Congratulatory remarks by Ambassador Yuji KUMAMARU,
at the awarding ceremony
of the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation
to H.E. Dr. Om Romny, Director General of ITC
(15 December 2015)**

-H. E. Dr. Om Romny, Director General of the Institute of Technology of Cambodia,

First of all, I would like to sincerely congratulate you on your awarding of the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation.

On this significant occasion, allow me to briefly introduce Dr. Romny's tremendous achievements to you all.

Dr. Om Romny received a Japanese Government scholarship and went to Japan in 1993. At that time, he was one of the pioneer students in Cambodia who won a scholarship from the Government of Japan.

During his 7-year-study at the Hokkaido University and the Kitami Institute of Technology of Japan, Dr. Romny, not only successfully obtained both a Master's degree and a PhD. in the field of electrical and electronics engineering, he also conducted numerous researches in cooperation with Japanese researchers. Through such researches, he published in various publications, many theses and articles, which were pioneering achievements in the Japan-Cambodia academic cooperation.

After finishing his studies in Japan, Dr. Romny came back to Cambodia in 2002. Soon after, in 2003, he was appointed as Deputy Director General at ITC.

Since he took office as the Director General of ITC in 2008, he has been engaged in active academic exchanges with major universities and institutes in Japan and has made a tremendous contribution to the promotion of the Japan-Cambodia youth and academic cooperation.

Under his initiative, ITC signed exchange agreements with many Japanese universities and institutes such as the Kochi Institute of Technology in 2008, Tokai University in 2009, Kochi University and Kanazawa University in 2011, Kyushu University and Nihon Fukushi University in 2012 and so on.

In addition, ITC has conducted numerous collaborative researches and activities with the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Hokkaido University, Keio University and so on. Furthermore, under his initiative, ITC has been conducting collaborative researches with Japanese companies as well, such as Nippon Koei Co., Ltd. and the Chugoku Electric Power Co., Inc.

Dr. Romny, through his large network within the Japanese society, found many scholarship opportunities for ITC students from Japan including Minebea Co., Ltd., Sumitomo Foundation, and Ebara Foundation. Those students who once studied with those scholarships are now working as the indispensable engineers in Japanese companies or factories in Cambodia and actively supporting their business activities.

Dr. Romny has also been supporting the Embassy of Japan in its efforts to recruit Government scholarship students from Cambodia to study in Japan. Dr. Romny, in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan, has hosted numerous explanatory sessions about the Japanese Government Scholarship at ITC.

Furthermore, he and his ITC staff have been conducting supplementary lectures for the applicants for the scholarship since 2011, which has enabled more and more ITC students to pass the scholarship exams and obtain opportunities to study in Japan. As a result, the number of successful Cambodia candidates of the Japanese Government scholarship continues increasing year by year.

- Dr. Om Romny, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The relations between Japan and Cambodia have been rapidly expanding and becoming more comprehensive in these past few years. In fact, in addition to the traditionally strong political relations and economic cooperation, relatively new areas, such as investments, youth exchanges, sports and cultural cooperation have been flourishing recently.

In such circumstances, I sincerely hope that all of us here will learn from Dr. Romny's distinguished service of many years in promoting our bilateral relations, and that we will cooperate with each other to further strengthen the ties of friendship which currently exist between our countries.

Lastly, I would once again like to express my deep appreciation to you, Dr. Romny, for your tremendous contributions of many years to both Japan and Cambodia. I also thank all of you here for joining tonight to celebrate Dr. Romny's receiving such an important award.

Thank you.