

**Speech by H.E. Mr. KUMAMARUYuji,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan
To the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects
December 18, 2015**

- Mr. Som Saro Director of Siem Reap Department of Education, Youth and Sport,
- Mr. Chhoeuy Channa, Director of Banteay Meanchey Provincial Office of Education, Youth and Sport,
- Mr. Patrick Seger, Country Director, Samaritan's Purse International Relief,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to hold a signing ceremony today for three grant contracts of the Grass-Roots Human Security Projects, which are “The Project for Constructing School Building at Keo Poa Lower Secondary School in Puok District, Siem Reap Province” and “The Project for Constructing School Building at Kelek Lower Secondary School in Mongkol Borey District, Banteay Meanchey Province” and “The Project for Constructing School Buildings at Khleung Por Primary School and Taduol Primary School in Svay Chek District, Banteay Meanchey Province”.

These projects for which contracts were signed just now aim to improve educational environment for students and teachers in respective project areas. I believe that improvement of the education sector holds a key for the future development of Cambodia. The education sector is one of the high priorities of the Cambodian Government. In fact, Japan has been vigorously supporting Cambodia's education sector over two decades by constructing school buildings and providing capacity development for teachers.

The first grant project, which amounts to \$ 52,400, provides Siem Reap Provincial Department of Education, Youth and Sport with a school building with installation of necessary furniture and sanitation facility at Keo Por Lower Secondary School. This project is the 3rd KUSANONE education project in Siem Reap Province. Upon completion of this project, over 230 lower secondary school students will be able to study in classrooms with fewer students and comfortable learning environment.

The second grant project, which amounts to \$ 67,631, provides to Banteay Meanchey Provincial Department of Education, Youth and Sport with a school building with sanitation facility at Kelek Lower Secondary School. This project is expected to benefit over 280 students, enabling them to have classes within their own school compound.

The third project which amounts to \$ 89,104 provides Samaritan's Purse International Relief with financial support for the construction of two school buildings at Khleng Por primary school and Taduol primary school in Banteay Meanchey Province. These schools are located in remote areas and the students are now forced to use old wooden school building. Upon completion of this project, over 280 students will be able to study in safer and more comfortable classrooms.

Lastly, I strongly hope that the facilities constructed by these projects will be maintained properly so that they can be used for many years and bring benefits to as many students and teachers as possible. I also hope that these projects will help strengthening the friendly relations existing between Japanese and Cambodian people.

Thank you.