

Speech by H.E. Mr. Yuji KUMAMARU,
Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia
at the *Networking and Farewell Reception*
for the Government of Japan Scholarship Students
March 26, 2015

Good evening.

First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you all for attending tonight's reception. My special thanks go to H.E. Dr. Pit Chamnan for your presence tonight and for your Ministry's valuable support.

The Government of Japan has been providing scholarships to Cambodians to study in Japan since 1992. More than 920 Cambodian youths went to Japan to study through various schemes of Japanese Government. One of the scholarship schemes, "Monbukagakusho Scholarship", is provided by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan. Under this scheme, over 570 Cambodian students have been invited to Japan for study so far. There are seven categories in the scheme; namely "Research Students", "Undergraduate Students", "College of Technology Students", "Specialized Training College Students", "Young Leaders Program (YLP)", "Japanese Studies Students", and "Teacher Training students". There is another important scheme. It is "Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)" scheme. JICA carries out this scheme and invites young officials of the National Government and of Local Governments of Cambodia to study in Japan. There are more than 320 such students so far.

We are glad that, the Japanese Government Scholarships have become very popular in Cambodia. This year, there were more than 1,300 Cambodian applicants for the four categories of “Monbukagakusho” scholarship scheme. Tonight’s 38 new scholarship recipients are the winners of scholarship in these categories. The figure 1,300 is almost double of last year’s. Tonight’s scholarship recipients survived stiff competition in Cambodia, as well as additional competition with overseas candidates. I applaud every one of you for great effort you made to win the scholarship.

I am convinced that the Japanese academic environment, will offer scholarship recipients a great opportunity to acquire the expertise and knowledge that will become a great asset for your future. I would like each and every one of the scholarship students to be very ambitious about acquiring these skills and expertise in Japan. I have no doubt that you will be surprised in the future to see how much you will benefit from your study and experience in Japan. I hope members of JAC (Japan Alumni of Cambodia) will vouch for that.

Speaking of the relationship between our two countries, we have lately seen a rapid expansion and deepening of relations. Our two countries have indeed achieved dramatic progress and development of bilateral relations in recent years both in public and private sectors including business, culture, academic, people-to-people exchange and so on. In such a situation, people who have studied in Japan will be expected to play more important role and they are expected to be leaders in their chosen fields. I also have a high expectation of you to act as a strong bridge of friendship between our two countries.

Tonight, we have many kinds of guests. We have former scholarship students, JAC. From the Japanese community, we have people both from the Japanese Association and from the Japanese Business Association. It would be my greatest pleasure if this reception offers you all a good opportunity to know each other and to network with each other.

On this occasion, once again, I would also like to extend my deep appreciation to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, for its continued support of the scholarship program including your support in the selection of scholarship students. I also thank JAC for your contribution in the selection process.

Lastly, I wish all of the 38 new scholarship recipients, great success in your studies and good health in Japan. I also wish all the best to all the others who are so kind to come to this reception tonight.

Thank you.

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