

Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of Cambodia

**Speech by H.E. Mr. KUMAMARU Yuji
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan
to the Kingdom of Cambodia
at the Inauguration and Handover Ceremony
of Forestry Administration building,
May 5, 2015**

- H.E. Dr. Mam Annot, Secretary of State of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,
- H.E. Dr. Chea Sam Ang, Acting Director General of Forestry Administration
- Excellencies, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen ;

It is a great pleasure for me to attend today's ceremony for inauguration and the Handover of Forestry Administration building. I would like to thank the presence and support of H.E. Dr. Mam Annot, Secretary of State of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all the people who work for the successful implementation of REDD+ activities in Cambodia.

The importance of climate change issue is increasing in the international community because of its serious impacts on the environment, economic activities and, most importantly, on people's lives. In the context of Cambodia, protection of its rich tropical forests that greatly contributes to absorbing CO₂ is beneficial not only for Cambodia but also for global efforts to tackle the climate change.

It is for this reason that the Government of Japan provides its financial and technical assistance to Cambodia for the protection of the environment, in particular, for the protection and the management of its rich tropical forests, and the implementation of REDD+. The Government of Japan is also addressing the climate change issues in the context of the Mekong region cooperation by promoting an initiative titled “A Decade toward the Green Mekong” in order to mitigate the impacts of the climate change in the Mekong region.

In the framework of the assistance to dealing with the climate change, the Government of Japan has provided a grand aid amounting to 900 million Japanese Yen equivalent to about USD 11 million for the establishment of an effective monitoring system of forests under REDD+ strategy in Cambodia. Under this Project, we provide facilities and equipments to the Department of Forestry Administration and also launch technical cooperation in surveillance and control of illegal logging, as well as strengthening dissemination activities for local people in forest protection, reforestation and collection of forest data.

I hope that these facilities and equipment, together with technical cooperation will contribute to the enforcement of the Forest Law and the protection of the forests against illegal logging and illegal occupation. I also hope that Japanese cooperation will promote the REDD+ strategy by reducing greenhouse gases and improving the CO2 absorption capacity of the forests in Cambodia.

Today, we hand over the Forestry Administration building which

consists of REDD center and 5 Demonstration Activity Project Headquarters to improve the work place environment of Forestry Administration's REDD+ related activities and demonstration activities for forest preservation. I hope that these facilities will be utilized in full and in an appropriate manner so that Government's policies of forest preservation and management will be implemented and the related laws will be fully enforced.

I would like to appreciate the commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia, particularly of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, to strengthen the implementation of its forestry policies and to join strenuously to the efforts of the international community to fight against the climate change.

Lastly, I sincerely hope that this cooperation project will further strengthen the friendly relations between Japan and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Thank you very much.