

**Speech by Mr. WADA Takayuki,
Second Secretary, Economic & ODA Section,
Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of Cambodia**

On the occasion of the inauguration Ceremony of the Project for Constructing a School Building at Toul Krous Primary School in Veal Veng District, Pursat Province, July 20, 2015

- Venerable Monks,
- H.E. Mr. Mok Ra, Vice Governor of Pursat Province,
- Mr. Sourng Sophy, Director of Pursat Provincial Department of Education, Youth and Sport,
- Ms. Koy Phallany, Chairperson of the Board of Director, Cambodian Organization for Children and Development (COCD)
- Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend today's inauguration ceremony of the Project for Constructing School Buildings at Toul Krous Primary School, with the presence of H.E. Mr. Mok Ra, Vice Governor of Pursat Province, and Mr. Sourng Sophy, Director of Pursat Provincial Department of Education, Youth and Sport. First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and my special appreciation should go to the COCD for taking active initiatives and implementation of the project.

I would like to reiterate the Cambodia has been making strenuous effort to improve the education sector since end of the civil war. Understanding the importance of the education for achieving sustainable development, the government of Japan has been supporting through various schemes including Grass Roots Grant Assistance projects. This school marks the 9th primary school built by the Kusanone project in Pursat province.

I heard that about 140 students at Toul Krous Primary School had to study in overcrowded or outside of the classrooms and grade 6 students were studying at distant primary school because of the lack of the classrooms. It is notable that on this ground where used to be a mine field, but now this new school building with 6 classrooms and sanitation facility were completed for the students at Toul Krous Primary School.

I am grateful that the students of Toul Krous Primary School are able to study at this safe and comfortable educational building and maintain the school building properly as a symbol of the friendship between the Kingdom of Cambodia and Japan for many years to come.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the people who have contributed to the smooth implementation of the project. I strongly hope that this cooperation will further strengthen the friendly relations between the Cambodian and Japanese people.

Thank you very much for your attention.