

**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 Beung Thnot Primary School in Bakan District, Pursat Province, July 21, 2015**

- Venerable Monks,
- H.E. Mr. Heang Si Ne, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport,
- H.E. Mr. Mok Ra, Vice Governor of Pursat Province,
- Mr. Sourng Sophy, Director of Pursat Provincial Department of Education, Youth and Sport,
- Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend today's inauguration ceremony for the Project for Constructing a School Building at Beung Thnot Primary School, with the presence of H.E. Mr. Heang Si Ne, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport and H.E. Mr. Mok Ra, Vice Governor of Pursat Province. 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 VAPSD for taking active initiatives and implementation of the project.

Ensuring access to primary education is very important for all the students in Cambodia, in order to build up their educational path to secondary education. I would like to express my sincere respect to the commitment and efforts by the Cambodian Government to improve the education sector. Understanding the importance of improving the educational environment for achieving development of human resources, the government of Japan has been supporting Cambodia's efforts through the construction of school buildings and training of teachers since 1990s.

VAPSD has been actively contributing to the school construction in Pursat province and this school is the 5<sup>th</sup> primary school built by Grass Roots Grant Assistance projects. As I heard that about 430 students at Beung Thnot Primary School had to study in very old school building or at outside due to shortage of classrooms. This project provides a school building with 6 classrooms with school furniture, a toilet and a water tank. I have already been informed that 50 students have entered after completion of the school.

I hope that the students of Beung Thnot Primary School are able to study at this safe and comfortable learning 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.