

**Speech by Mr. MATSUMOTO Izumi,
Second Secretary, Economic & ODA Section,
Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of Cambodia
at the Inauguration Ceremony of the Project for Constructing School Building at Kelek
Lower Secondary School in Mongkol Borey District, Banteay Meanchey Province,
December 2, 2016**

- Venerable monks
- Her Excellency Ms. Pok Nady, Vice Governor of Banteay Meanchey Province
- Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend today's inauguration ceremony of the Project for Constructing School Building at Kelek Lower Secondary School, in the presence of Her Excellency Ms. Pok Nady, Vice Governor of Banteay Meanchey Province. First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Department of Education, Youth and Sport for successfully completing this project and organizing today's ceremony.

I would like to emphasize that Cambodia has been making a great effort to improve the education sector in recent years. Understanding the importance of education to achieve sustainable development, the Government of Japan has been supporting Cambodia through various schemes including Grass Roots Grant Assistance (Kusanone programme). This project marks the 5th one implemented through the Kusanone programme in Banteay Meanchey province.

I heard that 282 students at the school had to study in an unsafe and unstable learning environment. This project provides them with a school building with 5 rooms with school furniture, and a toilet with 4 rooms.

I am delighted to see that the students at Kelek Lower Secondary School are able to study in this safe and comfortable building. I hope the school building will be maintained properly as a symbol of 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 relationship between the Cambodian and Japanese people.

Thank you very much for your attention.