

**Speech by H.E. Mr. KUMAMARU Yuji,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan
To the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony
for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects
10 March, 2016**

- Mr. Uch Hing, Director of Technical Service Center for Irrigation and Meteorology, Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology
- Mr. Long Phalkun, Director of Battambang Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology
- Mr. Poeung Tryda, Director of Preah Vihear Provincial Department of Agriculture
- Mr. Kim Savouth, Director of Svay Rieng Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology
- Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to hold a signing ceremony today for three Grass-Roots Human Security Projects, which are “The Project for Rehabilitation of Yo Thea Canal Irrigation System in Battambang Province”, “The Project for Constructing Agricultural Cooperative Centers in Preah Vihear Province” and “The Project for Rehabilitation of Tumnub Lok Canal Irrigation System in Svay Rieng Province”.

The first project, which amounts to USD 89,392, intends to expand irrigated areas in Thma Kol District, Battambang Province. Project components include rehabilitation of 1,400 meter canal, construction of intake structure and check structure. About 700 people are expected to gain a constant access to irrigation water after completion of the project.

The second project, which amounts to USD 84,662, assists the Provincial Department of Agriculture for constructing agricultural cooperative centers in Preah Vihear. With this project, 3 agricultural cooperative centers will be built for 3 respective agricultural

cooperatives and agricultural machines like tractors, rice mills, a soybean mill, a rice bed dryer will be provided. About 880 people will be benefited through agricultural cooperatives.

The third project, which amounts to USD 89,601, intends to expand irrigated areas in Kampong Ro District, Svay Rieng Province. Project components include rehabilitation of 1,420 meter canal and cross regulator. About 1,670 people are expected to gain a constant access to irrigation water after completion of the project.

The Government of Japan has been assisting the efforts of the Cambodian people by supporting various development projects. The projects in the agriculture sector include the rehabilitation of irrigation systems and promoting agricultural cooperatives. The present three projects are in line with Japan's assistance strategy towards Cambodia and fit in the philosophy of the Grass-Roots Human Security Grant scheme which is designed to promote the human security of the vulnerable population.

I hope that these three projects for which we signed grant contracts today will be implemented smoothly and effectively by our partners. I hope that the facilities to be built through these projects, be maintained in good condition so that they can benefit many local people for many years to come.

Lastly, I hope that the projects will further strengthen the friendly relations existing between the Japanese and Cambodian peoples.

Thank you