

**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
28 March, 2016**

- H.E. Vat Pa Ra Nine, Deputy Governor of Oddar Meanchey Province
- Mr. Sang Bunthen, Director of Otdar Meanchey Provincial Department of Public Works and Transport
- Mr. Sam Leangtry, Director of Preah Vihear Provincial Department of Public Works and Transport
- Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to hold a signing ceremony today for two Grass-Roots Human Security Projects, which are “The Project for Constructing Dangtong Bridge in Samraong District, Otdar Meanchey Province” and “The Project for Road Improvement in Chhaeb Pi Commune, Chhaeb District, Preah Vihear Province”.

In the first project, grant assistance which amounts to USD 90,350, is provided to Otdar Meanchey Provincial Department of Public Works and Transport, for constructing a new 15m concrete bridge in Samraong District, Otdar Meanchey Province. This project is expected to benefit nearly 3,400 people in the region. I hope that the new bridge will contribute to revitalizing the local economy through better access to schools, hospitals, markets and other regions.

The second grant, which amounts to USD 87,471, is provided to Preah Vihear Provincial Department of Public Works and Transport, for constructing a 4,000m laterite road with 6 culverts in Preah Vihear Province. This project is expected to improve access of nearly 3,200 people to important facilities such as schools, hospitals and markets.

The transportation sector is vital for well-being of the Cambodian people. The Government of Japan understands the importance of this sector and has been assisting the efforts of the Cambodian government and people in the sector through financial and technical assistance, including grass-roots human security projects.

I hope that these two projects for which we signed grant contracts today will be implemented smoothly and effectively by our partners, Otdar Meanchey Provincial Department of Public Works and Transport and Preah Vihear Provincial Department of Public Works and Transport. I hope these projects, after completion, will be maintained properly so that they can benefit as many local people as possible.

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

Thank you