

Regional Seminar on Full and Effective Operationalization of ARMAC: Enhancing Regional Efforts in Addressing ERW through Integrated Approach

On 22 and 23 April, Mr. Kenichi BESSHO, Charge d'Affaires ad interim attended to the ARMAC (ASEAN Regional Mine Action Center) Regional Seminar in Siem Reap which was hosted by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia.



**REGIONAL SEMINAR ON FULL AND EFFECTIVE
OPERATIONALIZATION OF ARMAC: ENHANCING REGIONAL
EFFORTS IN ADDRESSING ERW THROUGH INTEGRATED APPROACH**
22-23 April 2019, Siem Reap, Cambodia



This seminar was funded by Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund(JAIF). All ASEAN Member States(AMS), ASEAN Secretariat and more than 10 related stakeholders attended this seminar and they discussed on Progress and Development of ARMAC, Experiences and Best Practices in Addressing ERW, Enhancing Regional Efforts through Integrated Approach, and ARMAC's Full Operationalization.



In this seminar, Mr. Kenichi BESSHO, Charge d'Affaires ad interim made an opening remark that Japan has been consistently working with Cambodia in the demining sector for a long time and it was delightful to witness that Cambodia was now playing an important role to contribute to peace, stability and development in the region and across the



world, with its experience and expertise on mine clearance. And also he said he was confident that this seminar would provide a valuable opportunity for AMS and all the other stakeholders to consider and discuss on more effective operationalization of ARMAC.

(ARMAC Regional Seminar on Apr.22, 2019)

- H.E. Mr. KAN Pharidh, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia
- H.E. Mr. Norng Sakal, Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- Mr. PIN Prakad, Deputy Governor of Siem Reap Province
- Mr. LY Panharith, Executive Director of ARMAC
- Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to be given this opportunity to attend this opening ceremony of the Regional Seminar on Full and Effective Operationalization of ARMAC. We highly commend Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Royal Government of Cambodia for organizing this seminar.

Cambodia has made great efforts since the early 1990s to clear its land of mines, which is critically important for reconstruction and rural development, as well as stability in the country. Through its continued and longstanding engagement in cooperation with international partners, Cambodia has gained a lot of useful experiences and skills.

Now, good progress in the country is regarded as a good model of

international cooperation.

Japan, for its part, has been consistently working with Cambodia since 1998 in the demining sector through its support to Cambodia including financial contribution, provision of equipment and dispatching of experts. Total amount of funding is approximately 165 million USD. I would also like to highlight the contribution made by the Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS), which started its operations in Cambodia in 2003 and is still working on the ground together with Cambodian experts.

I'm very pleased to witness that Cambodia is now playing an important role to contribute to peace, stability and development in the region and across the world, with its experience and expertise on mine clearance. It is also worth noting that Cambodia is keenly expanding its role of South-South Cooperation and UN peace keeping operations.

Since ARMAC was inaugurated in Cambodia in 2016, it has provided valuable inputs through seminars and workshops about mine actions. We commend ARMAC's contribution to raising awareness on the danger of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and sharing knowledge of mine actions and best practices for addressing Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in the region.

We also commend all ASEAN Member States' efforts to promote peace building cooperation and to enhance cooperation to share best practices in the region. In this conjunction, we highly value Cambodia's leading role in promoting regional cooperation through ARMAC.

I'm confident that this seminar will provide a valuable opportunity for ASEAN Member States and all the other stakeholders to consider and discuss on more effective operationalization of ARMAC. Japan is proud to support this seminar by funding through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

To conclude, I would like to reiterate Japan's ongoing commitment to regional peace and stability. I wish the seminar great success in promoting regional cooperation in mine action, and I hope to see ARMAC's role as a platform for regional partnership enhanced.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.