

Speech by H.E. Mr. MIKMI Masahiro  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan  
to the Kingdom of Cambodia

At the Signing Ceremony of the Exchange of Notes

October 17th, 2019

- H. E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport
- Ms. Francesca Erdelmann, Representative and Country Director, World Food Programme Cambodia,
- Excellencies, Distinguished Guest,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me together with the representative of WFP to sign today the Exchange of Notes on Grant Assistance for the Food Assistance Programme.

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to H. E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron, Minister, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, for his participation in this ceremony.

In this programme, the Japanese Government will provide a Grant Assistance of three hundred and fifty million Japanese Yen (¥350,000,000), equivalent to about 3.2 million USD. That will be used to purchase an approximately 415 metric tons of canned fish to be used for breakfasts of school children in the most vulnerable communities through WFP.

Cambodia's economy has grown significantly over the past years and the poverty rate has decreased dramatically. However, especially in the rural areas, a significant portion of the population still suffer from undernutrition because they lack access to sufficient and various food.

Under such circumstances, by providing canned fish for the WFP's School Feeding Programme, Japan's assistance will contribute to improving not only children's health but also their access to school education. I sincerely hope that our assistance will be effectively used to secure a better future for children.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the work of WFP Cambodia, which has been making great efforts to improve the situation for over 20 years. I thank the WFP.

I hope that this project will further strengthen the friendly relations existing between the Japanese and Cambodian peoples.

Thank you.