

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Opening Ceremony for Official Use of Spien TSUBASA (TSUBASA Bridge) Constructed under Japanese Grant Aid**

Phnom Penh, Friday, April 3, 2015

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport of the Kingdom of Cambodia will organize **the Opening Ceremony for Official Use of Spien TSUBASA (TSUBASA Bridge)**, presided over by **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and **Samdech Kittipritthbindit** and Representative of Government of Japan. The Ceremony will be on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2015 starting from 8:00 AM, at the Project site (western site of the Mekong River), Kandal province (about 60 Km from Phnom Penh through NR.1).

**Spien TSUBASA** is constructed under Japanese grant aid of “The Project for Construction of Neak Loeung Bridge” which is implemented as a response to the Royal Government’s request for the urgent grant aid for construction of the Bridge with the length of 2,215 m and its approach road with the length of 3,100 m. It costs **119.4 million Japanese Yen (E/N amount) equivalent to 127million USD** (1USD = 94 Japanese Yen, exchange rate of 2010 when the Grant Agreement was concluded).

**Spien TSUBASA** will link not only NR.1 at both sides of the Mekong River, but also all countries in the region. It will make the road have enough capacity to support transportation in the region and to meet the policy on the connection of the ASEAN Highways or GMS Highways. It is expected to significantly contribute to promoting economic growth/changes and livelihood development of citizens living along the road through internal integration, and regional and global integration. The road and bridge play as a part of Asia and ASEAN Highway 1, which could grab the opportunity to increase revenue from the competition, trade, tourism, industry, agriculture, health, security, job opportunity etc. Furthermore, after the completion of the bridge, the travel time and transportation cost will be significantly reduced, which provide huge benefits to people and business activities not only for those living along the road and bridge, but also for all Cambodian people and ASEAN countries.

In addition, Japanese government has been providing grant aids for construction of NR.1 from Phnom Penh to Neak Loeung, which three stages (Stage 1, 2, & 3) were already completed and the remaining Stage 4 (4 km) will start the construction soon, expectedly from this April 2015. Japanese Government also provides ODA Loan to upgrade NR.5 from Prek Kdam to Poi Pet and Sihanoukville Port Multi-purpose Terminal Development, and commenced Feasibility Study for the Expressway Construction from Phnom Penh to Bavet.

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