

Speech by H. E. Mr. KUROKI Masafumi Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia At the Signing Ceremony of Japan's Grant Assistance For Grass-Roots Human Security Project February 6, 2012

- Mr. Petr Schmied (ピーター・シュミッド), Head of Mission in the Kingdom of Cambodia of "People in Need"
- Representatives of Health Centers in Takeo Province,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to sign the contract of the Grant Assistance with the "People in Need" for the project of the construction of delivery rooms at eight health centers in Takeo Province.

I welcome the representative of the "People in Need", NGO of the Czech Republic and the representatives of health centers in Takeo Province to attend at this ceremony.

The Grant assistance of USD 74, 333 is provided for the extension of delivery rooms at eight health centers in Takeo province. This project will improve the conditions for delivery and health care services of before and after childbirth for mothers and children. It will also facilitate their families to stay at the health centers for taking care of them, which will encourage the pregnant women to have delivery in health centers.

This project is in line with the Health Sector Strategic Plan of the Cambodian Government and the development assistance policy of the Japanese Government, both put a high priority on the reduction of the maternal and child mortality rate. I hope that this cooperation will promote the safe deliveries and appropriate health care services at the health centers and contribute to the reduction of the maternal and child mortality rate which is still

high in rural areas.

I understand that we had the cooperation with the "People in Need" for Japan's grass-roots grant assistance in Angola and Ethiopia. I believe that the "People in Need" will implement this project effectively for the benefit of the people in need in Takeo Province.

Lastly I hope that this cooperation will further strengthen the friendly relations between Japanese and Cambodia people.

Thank you for your attention.