



## **Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of Cambodia**

**Speech by H.E. Mr. KUROKI Masafumi  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan  
to the Kingdom of Cambodia  
At the Hand-Over Ceremony of Demining Equipments to CMAC  
(Phase VI)**

**February 16, 2012**

- Venerable monks
- His Excellency Dr. SOK An, Deputy Prime Minister,  
Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of  
Ministers
- His Excellency Mr. SOU Phirun, Governor of Siem  
Reap Province
- His Excellency Mr. Heng Ratana, Director-General of  
the Cambodian Mine Action Center
- Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and  
Gentlemen

It is a great honour for me to attend this important hand-over ceremony of demining equipment for the Cambodian Mine Action Center (CMAC) with the high presence of His Excellency Dr. SOK An, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council

of Ministers. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to His Excellency for sparing his busy time to preside over this ceremony.

This is the sixth time that the Japanese Government provides a package of demining equipments to the Royal Government of Cambodia. The main items of today's hand-over include mine detectors, UXO detectors, brush cutters and various transportation vehicles worth over 16 million USD, which are to support and further improve CMAC's demining operations. Through the assistances for the past five times in this sector, which are worth about 50 million USD, almost half of equipment used by CMAC was provided by Japan's grant aid.

The Government of Japan has placed a particular emphasis on assisting demining activities in Cambodia, recognizing the seriousness of the landmine problem. Clearing landmines and UXOs is critically important for the people of Cambodia both from the viewpoints of human security and socio-economic development. Not only do their existences pose a significant threat to the lives of the people in affected areas but also they hinder the productive use of land for agriculture and may deter foreign direct investments.

The remarkable results of clearing landmines and UXOs in Cambodia would not have been possible without a strong commitment by the Government. National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) and Cambodian Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs) put a high priority on the clearance of landmines and UXOs and set the targets. Accordingly, the annual number of victims has rapidly decreased from 4,320 cases in 1996 to 211 cases in 2011 and the cleared land has increased to 52,075,770 m<sup>2</sup> in 2011.

I would like to commend the efforts and achievements made by CMAC, which is undertaking risky but great missions. Furthermore, CMAC has been successfully building the capacity of its staff and now it is sharing its experiences and know-how with other countries affected by landmines.

I sincerely hope that the assistance from the people and the Government of Japan will enable CMAC for safer and more effective demining activities and that the number of Cambodian people who enjoy the peace dividend will further increase, and ultimately contribute to accelerating Cambodia's economic and social development.

Thank you for your attention.