

**Speech by Mr. KAWAMURA Hiroshi,
Deputy Chief of Mission/Minister
Embassy of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony
for Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects
March 20, 2012**

- H.E. Mr. PICH Veasna, Director of Technical Service Center for Irrigation and Meteorology
- Mr. KEO Vey, Director of Pursat Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology
- Mr. OUK Chhim, Chief of Prangil Commune
- Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to sign the contract of the Grant Assistance with Pursat Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology, for the project of rehabilitating Kompeang Irrigation System in Pursat Province.

The Government of Japan has been focusing on agriculture sector as its assistance and supporting the development of the irrigation system. Improvement of the irrigation systems help the Cambodian Government to achieve the increase of paddy production and to contribute to the poverty reduction in rural areas.

Today's grant will be provided to the Pursat Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology for the rehabilitation of 2,100m of Secondary canal, construction of 4 turnouts, 2 check structures and 1,050m of new Secondary canal. It is expected that this project will reduce the annual flood damage and provide better access to the water for irrigation around 491 households in the region.

I expect that the Project signed today will be implemented smoothly and maintained properly by Pursat Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology. I am hopeful that this project will contribute to improving the productivity of rice and alleviating the poverty of the farmers in the targeted areas.

Last but not least, I sincerely hope that the project will further strengthen the friendly relations between Japanese and Cambodian people.

Thank you for your attention.