

Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of Cambodia

Speech by H.E. Mr. Masafumi KUROKI,

Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

At the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Project for Flood Protection and Drainage
Improvement in the Phnom Penh Capital City (Phase III)

Phnom Penh, March 26th, 2012

- Her Excellency Mrs. MEN Sam An, Deputy Prime Minister and High Representative of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia,
- His Excellency Mr. KEP Chuk Tema, Governor of Phnom Penh Capital City,
- Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure for me to attend this ground breaking ceremony of the Phase III of the Project for Flood Protection and Drainage Improvement in Phnom Penh Capital City.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Her Excellency Mrs. MEN Sam An, Deputy Prime Minister, for sparing her precious time to honor this ceremony.

Phnom Penh City has always faced the risk of flooding in the annual rainy season and suffered from inundation and stagnant waste water. These situations

have caused negative impacts on the living conditions, caused traffic jam and disturbed normal functions of the City. In order to improve the drainage systems in the flood-prone areas of the City, the Government of Japan has provided the grant aid amounting in total to 4.7 billion Japanese Yen, equivalent to USD 59 million, to implement the Phase I and the Phase II of the Project in 2002 and in 2007 respectively.

With this assistance, the improvement of the drainage systems in the south-western areas and the north-eastern areas of the Capital has been successfully implemented and frequent flooding in these areas has been significantly reduced. Now there is no serious flooding problem in the areas such as Central Market, Wat Phnom, National Museum, Mao Tse Toung Boulevard, which used to be seriously inundated in the rainy season. Thanks to the Project, we have also a pleasant pavement along the river front of the Tonle Sap River.

The 3rd Phase of the Project that we launch today is again financed by the grant aid of the Japanese Government in the amount of 3.7 billion Japanese Yen, equivalent to 46 USD million. This 3rd phase will improve the drainage systems in 8 areas in the south-eastern part of the Capital such as Orussey, Boeung Raing, Monireth, Toul Svay Prey, Toule Sleng, Boeung Keng Kang, Toul Tum Pung north and south areas.

I am sure that the 3rd Phase of the Project, together with the 1st and 2nd Phases, will mitigate the flooding problem, improve the living conditions of the Phnom Penh citizens and contribute to the economic and social activities of the Capital.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Taking this opportunity, I would like to ask to the residents of Phnom Penh, particularly those who live in the Project areas, to tolerate any inconvenience which may occur during the construction works, bearing in mind that you can enjoy better living conditions after the construction. Your understanding and cooperation is important for the smooth implementation of the Project.

Finally, I strongly believe that, through this Project, Phnom Penh Capital City will enjoy further development and prosperity free from flood damages. The Project will also help promote the image of Phnom Penh City, which will bring about positive impacts on foreign investment and tourism.

I sincerely hope that the cooperation of the Government and the people of Japan will further strengthen the friendly relations between Japan and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Thank you for your attention.