

**Speech by Mr. MACHIDA Tetsuya,
Counsellor, Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for
Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects
March 27, 2012**

- Dr. Pehh Setharin, Representative of Cultural Aid Project for South East Asia ,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to sign the contract of the Grant Assistance with CAPSEA for supporting literacy education.

One of the priorities of Japan's assistance to the Kingdom of Cambodia is to improve the education sector. Accordingly, Japan has been providing assistance to the sector both in hardware and software.

The Grant Assistance amounting to USD 17,570 is provided for supporting literacy education around Phnom Penh area.

Based on the request made by CAPSEA and the field survey conducted by Embassy's staff, we recognized the urgent need of the Khmer literacy text books in order to improve literacy education at a literacy class and 19 primary schools in 4 provinces around Phnom Penh.

Through this project about 3,000 children will be able to enjoy learning how to read and write with full-color Khmer literacy textbooks. In addition, the CAPSEA mobile library is planning to visit different villages every week, enabling villagers and students to read books including the translated Japanese picture books.

I expect that this project will play an important role to achieve one of the national goals of "Education For All", which is to accomplish a 50% improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015 compared to the level of the year 2003. Lastly, I hope that the assistance for this Project will further strengthen the friendly relations between Japanese and Cambodian people.

Thank you for your attention.