

**Speech by Mr. MACHIDA Tatsuya,
Counsellor, 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 28, 2012**

- H.E. Mr. PICH Veasna, Director of Technical Service Center for Irrigation and Meteorology
- Mr. LONG Phalkun, Director of Battambang Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology
- Mr. ING Svang, Chief of Wat Tamen Commune
- Ladies and gentlemen,

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

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

Today's grant will enable the Battambang Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology to rehabilitate 3,050m of tertiary canal and to construct drop structure. It is expected to reduce the annual flood damage and provide better access to the water for irrigation around 3,188 households in the region.

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

I sincerely hope that the project will further strengthen the friendly relations between Japanese and Cambodian people.

Thank you for your attention.