

**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 29, 2012**

- H.E. Mr. PICH Veasna, Director of Technical Service Center for Irrigation and Meteorology
- H.E. Mr. CHEAT Syvutha, Director of Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology
- Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to sign the contract of the Grant Assistance with Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology, for the project of rehabilitating Chive Pheap Irrigation System in Kampong Thom 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 Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology to rehabilitate 400m of reservoir embankment and 2,200m of main canal, and to construct 2 check structures. It is expected to reduce the annual flood damage and provide better access to the water for irrigation around 1.150 households in the region.

I expect that the Project signed today will be implemented smoothly and maintained properly by Kampong Thom 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.