



Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of Cambodia

Speech by H.E. Mr. Masafumi KUROKI Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia On the Occasion of the Ground-Breaking Ceremony of the Project for Replacement and Expansion of Water Distribution Systems in Provincial Capitals”

19 July, 2012

- Excellency Mr. SUY Sem, Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy
- Excellencies Deputy Governors of Pursat Province, Battambang Province, and Preah Sihanouk Province,
- Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend today’s ground-breaking ceremony for the “Project for Replacement and Expansion of Water Distribution Systems in Provincial Capitals of Pursat, Battambang and Sihanoukville”.

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to H.E. Mr. SUY Sem, Minister of Industry, Mines and Energy for his presence at this ceremony.

Today, I am happy to witness the beginning of the Water Supply Project which will contribute to the welfare of the population of three Provincial Capitals, namely Pursat, Battambang and Sihanoukville.

Access to safe water is one of the Cambodian Millennium Development Goals, which contribute to the improvement of living and health conditions and to the

poverty reduction of the population. Accordingly, Japan has been providing its assistance for the improvement of water supply systems in Cambodia since 1990s.

The Government of Japan has been providing its assistance for water systems in big cities such as Phnom Penh and Siem Reap where the population is increasing rapidly as well as rural water supply in the villages in Kampong Cham Province. Concerning the provincial capitals, access to safe water is still very low due to the deteriorated water treatment plants and old and insufficient distribution pipelines.

The Government of Japan has decided to provide its grant aid of 2.76 billion Japanese Yen, equivalent to 34 million US dollars, for this Project in order to replace and expand water distribution pipelines in the capital cities of Pursat, Battambang and Sihanoukville. This Project will increase significantly the number of population who can benefit safe water supply in these capital cities and reduce water-borne diseases.

I expect also that the new water pipelines will be maintained by the staff of local water supply authorities, who have received technical training by Japanese technical cooperation project.

I hope that the Project will be implemented smoothly and successfully with the target date of June 2013 and contribute to the improvement of living conditions of the population concerned.

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

Thank you very much for your attention.