

**Speech by H.E. Mr. KUROKI Masafumi,
Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony
for Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects
October 26, 2012**

- H.E. Mr. PICH Veasna, Director of Technical Service Center for Irrigation and Meteorology
- Mr. BUN Huor, Director of Takeo Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology
- Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express the deepest condolences to the Royal Family, the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the passing of His Majesty King-Father Preah NORODOM SIHANOUK of Cambodia.

Today, we signed the contract of the Grant Assistance with Takeo Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology, for the Rehabilitation Project of Canal No.38 in Takeo Province.

Agriculture development, in particular, the increase of rice production is one of the highest priority targets for the development of Cambodia and the Government has been actively expanding and rehabilitating the irrigation system across the country. The development of rice production increases farmers' incomes and reduces poverty in rural areas.

The Government of Japan, understanding the importance of the agriculture sector in Cambodia, has been assisting the efforts of the Government of Cambodia through development of irrigation systems and transfer of cultivation technology.

Today's grant amounting to \$103,550 will be used to rehabilitate the main canal of 2,100m, and to construct 2 cross drainage structures and an outlet structure. This Rehabilitation Project is expected to benefit 1,358 households in the targeted area to have better access to irrigation water, to increase the rice productivity and to alleviate poverty.

I hope that the Project signed today will be implemented smoothly and the rehabilitated facilities will be maintained properly by Takeo Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology.

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

Thank you for your attention.