



## **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

At the Hand-Over Ceremony of Equipments Provided  
Under the Project for the Forest Preservation Programme  
Phnom Penh, November 23, 2012

- H.E. Dr. Chan Sarun , Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- H.E. Dr. Chheng Kimsum, Delegate of the Royal Government in charge as Chief of Forestry Administration
- Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, I would like to express my 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.

For today's handover ceremony, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to H.E. Mr. Chan Saron, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for his presence and to all the officials who worked for the preparation of the ceremony.

The climate change is getting increasing importance in the international community because of its serious impacts on the environment, economic activities and for the most importantly on people's lives. In the context of Cambodia, protecting its rich tropical forests greatly contributes to the reduction of CO2 emission and it is beneficial not only for Cambodia itself but also for the global climate change.

It is for that reason that the Government of Japan is providing its financial and technical assistance to Cambodia for the protection of environment, in particular, for the protection and management of its rich tropical forests and the implementation of REDD+. The Government of Japan is also addressing the climate change issues in the context of the Mekong region by launching an initiative titled "A Decade toward the Green Mekong" in order to manage the impacts of the climate change in the Mekong region.

In the framework of the assistance for the climate change, the Government of Japan has provided a grand aid amounting to 900 million Japanese Yen equivalent to about USD 11 million for the establishment of an effective monitoring system of forests under REDD+ strategy in Cambodia. Under this Project, we provide with the Department of Forestry Administration the facilities and the equipments for the surveillance and control of illegal logging, dissemination activities with local people for forest protection, reforestation and collection of forest data. In order to assist the Forestry Administration to implement these activities effectively, we have already put a Japanese experts' team to share their expertise and experiences.

I hope that these equipments and technical cooperation together will contribute to the enforcement of the Forest Law and protection of the forests against illegal logging and illegal occupation of forests. I also hope that Japanese cooperation will

promote the REDD+ strategy by reducing greenhouse gas and improving the CO2 absorption capacity of the forests.

Today, we hand over to the Forestry Administration some components of the Project, mainly 55 pick-up trucks, 4 tractors, 77 GPS, generators and office equipments, which will be placed in the headquarters in Phnom Penh and in 5 patrolling stations in provinces. I hope that these equipments will be utilized in full and in an appropriate manner so that Government's policies of forest preservation and management will be implemented and the related laws will be fully enforced.

I would like to commend the commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, to strengthen the implementation of its forestry policies and to join the efforts of the international community to fight against the climate change.

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

Thank you very much for your attention.