

**Speech by H.E. KUROKI Masafumi,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan
to the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots
Human Security Projects
December 20, 2012**

- Mr. Chhor Phoeun, Director of Cambodian Medical Services Support Organization,
- Ladies and gentleman,

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.

Today, we signed the contract of the Grant Assistance with the Cambodian Medical Services Support Organization (CMSSO) for the project for constructing a Hospital Ward and Installing Medical Equipment at the Borkeo District Referral Hospital in Ratanakiri Province.

Improvement of health care services is one of the highest priorities for the development of Cambodia and the Government has been actively engaged in the development of health sector across the country. Improved health conditions will considerably contribute to enhancing human capacity and facilitate economic and social development.

The Government of Japan, understanding the importance of the health sector, has been continuously supporting the efforts of the Cambodian Government by constructing public health facilities as well as providing training for medical professionals.

Today's grant amounting to USD 100,298 will be used to construct a hospital ward, composed of six rooms for pediatric care, internal medicine, laboratory and staff office, and to install medical equipment such as microscope and centrifuges.

This project will enable the medical professionals at the hospital to provide a greater array of services, including inpatient care and examinations for diseases such as Malaria, Hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, and Dengue fever. It will complement the services provided at the Provincial Hospital and district health centers in the Ratanakiri Province. Approximately 50,000 residents of Borkeo, Oyadaw and Andoung Meas districts are expected to benefit by the improved medical services of this project.

I hope that the Project signed today will be implemented smoothly and the new hospital ward and equipment will be maintained properly by the Borkeo District Referral Hospital.

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

Thank you very for your attention.