

**Speech by H.E. Mr. KUMAMARU Yuji,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan
To the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for
Grass-Roots Human Security Projects
October 28, 2013**

- Mr. Bob Jacob, Deputy Country Director of Samaritan's Purse International Relief,
- Mr. Chhem Model, Director of Phnom Thom Lower Secondary School at Mongkol Borey District, Banteay Meanchey Province,
- Mr. Pou To, Director of Kampong Trabaek District Office of Education, Youth and Sport in Prey Veng Province,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to hold a signing ceremony for four grant contracts of the Grass-Roots Human Security Project. I am particularly glad that the signing is conducted in the special context of this year 2013 which marks the 60th anniversary of Japan-Cambodia Friendship.

The four projects of which I signed the contracts today aim to provide the children in rural areas with improved educational environment. I sincerely believe that strengthening of the education sector holds a key for the future development and prosperity of Cambodia, and I am hopeful that Japan's supports will duly contribute to this purpose.

In fact, Japan has been assisting the education sector in Cambodia for two decades through the grant aid for constructing school buildings and the technical cooperation for training teachers. The scheme of the four projects is called KUSANONE Grant which is designed to promote the human security of the vulnerable population, and thus, implemented upon requests from provincial governments and NGOs.

The first grant amounting to \$ 97,431 is provided to the Samaritan's Purse International Relief for the construction of 4-room school buildings and school furniture at Paoy Angkor Primary School and Kcheay Primary School in Malai District, Banteay Meanchey Province. This project is expected to improve educational environment for over 390 school children at both schools.

The second grant amounting to \$ 107,078 is provided to the Phnom Thom Lower Secondary School in Mongkol Borey District, Banteay Meanchey Province for the construction of two 5-room school buildings with sanitation facilities, and the installation of necessary furniture. This project is expected to provide safe and comfortable educational environment for around 680 students who are currently using the dilapidated school buildings.

The third grant amounting to \$ 103,824 is provided to the Kampong Trabaek District Office of Education, Youth and Sport in Prey Veng Province for the construction of a high-floored 4-room school building and sanitation facilities, and the installation of necessary school furniture at Angkor Ang Primary School. This project is expected to improve educational environment for over 200 school children who are currently using a school building damaged by severe flooding.

The fourth grant amounting to \$ 102,824 is also provided to the Kampong Trabaek District Office of Education, Youth and Sport in Prey Veng Province for the construction of a high-floored 4-room school building and sanitation facilities, and the installation of necessary school furniture at Takeo Lower Secondary School. This project is expected to improve educational environment for about 120 students who are currently using the school building damaged by severe flooding.

I hope that these projects will be implemented smoothly and maintained properly so that as many students as possible can benefit from them.

Finally, I strongly hope these projects will further strengthen the friendly relations existing between the Japanese and Cambodian peoples.

Thank you for your attention.