

# Embassy of Japan in the Kingdom of Cambodia

Speech by H.E. Mr. KUMAMARU Yuji  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan  
to the Kingdom of Cambodia  
On the Occasion of the Exchange of Notes Signing Ceremony  
October 30, 2013

- His Excellency Mr. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,
- Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to sign the Exchange of Notes of the **Grant Aid Program for Integrated Mine Clearance and Landmine Victim Assistance (Phase II)**. First of all, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to H.E. Mr. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, for organizing today's signing ceremony in His Excellency's busy schedule.

The grant aid program, which amounts to **eight hundred and ninety-eight million yen (¥898,000,000)**, equivalent to approximately **nine million US dollars (USD9,000,000)**, aims to assist CMAC's demining and rural developing activities in Battambang Province.

The program spans for 3 years and its main components include financial resources for CMAC's operational cost and the spare parts for existing demining machinery. It is estimated that approximately 4,680 hectare of minefield will be cleared of landmines and UXOs, and then will be utilized for agricultural purposes. Around 3,000 local residents living in the vicinity of minefields will become able to enjoy a safe environment, and in addition, their living conditions will improve through the construction of a rural road and drainage facilities as well as the training on agricultural production.

The Government of Japan has been continuously supporting Cambodia's demining activities since 1999, recognizing the seriousness from the viewpoint of humanitarian aspects and poverty reduction. The landmines

and UXOs themselves not only pose a threat to the lives of local residents, but also constitute a serious obstacle to the agricultural development.

The Royal Government of Cambodia is currently stepping up efforts to achieve the complete removal of anti-personnel landmines by 2019 in line with the target under the Ottawa Treaty. I would like to reiterate the importance of demining as Japan's ODA priority and the Japanese Government is determined to continue assisting the efforts of the Cambodian Government.

I would like to pay my tribute to the Royal Government of Cambodia including the CMAP and all the people who have engaged in the demining activities which involve substantial risks.

I strongly hope that through this humanitarian assistance the day of Cambodia free of landmines will come as early as possible.

Thank you for your kind attention.