

**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
Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects
6 November, 2013**

- Mr. OUM Vibol, Director of Kampong Cham Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology
- Mr. KEO Vey, Director of Pursat Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology
- 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.

First project aims to increase the agricultural production in the Prey Chor District, Kampong Cham Province by expanding irrigated areas through the rehabilitation of the embankment of 750m, an intake structure and an outlet structure. In the project, an additional intake structure and two outlet structures which are necessary for the irrigation system are constructed as well. The grant to be provided for this project amounts to USD 94,891. The project is expected to benefit about 750 households who will become able to constantly utilize irrigation water, thus, significantly increase crop yields.

Second project aims to increase the agricultural production in the Phnom Krovanh District, Pursat Province by expanding irrigated areas through the rehabilitation of the secondly canal of 2,550m and an intake. In the project, an additional box culvert, two check structures and four turnouts which are necessary for the irrigation system are constructed as well. The grant to be provided for this project amounts to USD 110,008. The project is expected to benefit about 500 households who will become able to constantly utilize irrigation water, thus, significantly increase crop yields.

Agriculture development, in particular, the increase of rice production is one of the highest priority targets for the development of Cambodia and the Royal Government has been actively expanding and rehabilitating the irrigation systems across the country. The increase of rice production will raise farmers' income and thus reduce poverty in rural areas.

The Government of Japan, understanding the importance of the agriculture sector for economic and social development in Cambodia, has been assisting the efforts of the Cambodian Government through the rehabilitation of irrigation systems and transfer of cultivation technology. These projects are in line with the Japan's assistance strategy towards Cambodia and fits in the philosophy of the assistance scheme designed to promote the human security of the vulnerable population as well.

I hope that two projects for which we proceed to sign the grant contract today will be implemented smoothly and effectively by our partner, Kampong Cham and Pursat Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology, and maintained properly so that as many local people as possible can benefit from the projects.

Last but not least, I hope that the project will further strengthen the friendly relations existing between the Japanese and Cambodian peoples. Thank you for your attention.