

**Speech by H.E. KUMAMARU Yuji,
Ambassador of Japan
To the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for Japan's Grant
Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects
November 25, 2013**

- Mr. Hoeung Thol, Director of Cheung Prey Operational District in Kampong Cham Province,
- Mr. Supriyanto Supriyanto, Country Director of Plan International Cambodia,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend today's ceremony to sign two grant contracts of Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects. I would like to express my thanks to signers and staff of Cheung Prey Operational District and the Plan International Cambodia for coming all the way to join this ceremony. I am particularly glad that the signing takes place in the special context of this year 2013 which marks the 60th anniversary of Japan-Cambodia Friendship.

The first project, which amounts to \$116,950 (One hundred sixteen thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars), is conducted by Cheung Prey Operational District in Kampong Cham Province for constructing a general medical care ward and installing medical equipments such as medical beds and chairs in Chueng Prey Referral Hospital. I am briefed that the hospital currently lacks treatment spaces to provide adequate medical services to a number of patients. This project is expected to benefit approximately 200,000 local people in the district to have better access to quality health services.

The second project, which amounts to \$75,523 (Seventy-five thousand five hundred and twenty-three dollars), is conducted by the Plan International Cambodia for constructing Khun Ream Health Center in Banteay Srey District of Siem Reap Province and installing medical equipments such as nine medical beds and one microscope. I understand that the number of health centers is limited in the district and local people often spend long hours traveling to a health center. This project will enable approximately 6,400 local residents to have a better access to primary health services.

These projects conform to Japan's assistance policy towards Cambodia and fit in the philosophy of the Grass-Roots Human Security Project scheme designed to achieve the human security of the vulnerable people. The health sector has been one of the priorities of Japan's assistance to Cambodia and the Government of Japan has conducted various projects including infrastructure development and technical cooperation.

I expect that the projects will be implemented smoothly and effectively by our partners, Cheung Prey Operational District in Kampong Cham Province and Plan International Cambodia, and maintained properly to promote health care utilization in the respective areas.

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

Thank you for your attention.