

**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
Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects
20 December, 2013**

- Mr. KHAN Manner, Director of Battambang Provincial Department of Public Works and Transport
- Mr. VANN Muth, Chief of Kampong Sralau Muoi Commune Council, Chhaep District, Preah Vihear Province
- Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to hold a signing ceremony for two grant contracts of the Grass-Roots Human Security Project. 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 grant, which amounts to \$106,417, is provided to the Battambang Provincial Department of Public Works and Transport, for the construction of 1,070m of drainpipes along National Road No.5, the section around Preah Noreay statue, Battambang provincial capital. This project is expected to improve flood management as well as safety and sanitary environment in the area and to benefit nearly 18,000 people.

The Second grant, which amounts to \$107,545, is provided to the Kampong Sralau Muoi Commune Council, Chhaep District, Preah Vihear Province, for the construction of a new landing facility and a mobile pontoon to be used to cross the Mekong River. This project is expected to benefit over 5,000 local residents who frequently cross the river on various purposes. The new wharf is also expected to contribute to revitalizing the local economy through increasing trade with Laos.

The sectors of these two projects, flood management and river transportation are vital for the economic and social development of Cambodia, and the Cambodian Government has continuously made efforts for the improvement of both sectors.

The Government of Japan also understands the importance of these sectors and has been assisting the efforts of the Cambodian Government through the instalment of drainage pipes and the construction of port facilities.

I hope that these two projects for which we signed grant contracts today will be implemented smoothly and effectively by our partner, Battambang Provincial Department of Public Works and Transport and Kampong Sralau Muoi Commune Council, and maintained properly so that as many local people as possible can benefit from the projects.

Last but not least, I hope that the projects will further strengthen the friendly relations existing between the Japanese and Cambodian peoples.

Thank you for your attention.