

**Speech by Mr. HIGUCHI Yoshihiro,
Minister/Deputy Chief of Mission,
Embassy of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for Japan's Grant
Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects
14 February, 2013**

- Mr. MEAS Chanthon, Chief of Kampong Harv Commune Council
- Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend this ceremony today for the signing of the contract of the Grant Assistance for the construction of River Wharf in Kampong Chhnang Province, together with the representatives of the Kampong Harv Commune Council. 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.

This project aims to improve water transportation over the Tonle Sap River which is vital for the daily life of the local people in the area concerned, by constructing a new mobile pontoon and renovating the ground of an existing ferry crossing site. The grant to be provided for this project amounts to USD 29,807. The project is expected to benefit a wide range of local residents using the river crossing in 9 Communes, which population is over 50,000. It is also expected that the new wharf will contribute to revitalizing the local economy through the promotion of trade between the two sides of the river,

Development of transportation is critically important for promoting economic activities as well as social activities and in the context of Cambodia the transportation through rivers is particularly effective and efficient, and even indispensable for many local people, due to its abundant water resources.

The Government of Japan, understanding the importance of the transportation sector for economic and social development in Cambodia, has been assisting the efforts of the Government of Cambodia through the construction of roads, ports and bridges. We believe that the project will also promote the human security of the vulnerable population of the Communes concerned.

I hope that the project for which we proceed to sign the grant contract today will be implemented smoothly and effectively by our partner, Kampong Harv Commune Council and maintained properly so that as many local people as possible can benefit from the project.

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