

Speech by Mr. HIGUCHI Yoshihiro,
Chargé d’Affaires ad interim of Japan in the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for
Japan’s Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects
February 27, 2013

- Mr. NGI Set, Director of Battambang Provincial Department of Education, Youth and Sport,
- 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 new school buildings at the Yutethoar Primary School and the Samnang Preah Srey Primary School, together with the representatives of the Battambang Provincial Department of Education, Youth and Sport. 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 the education environment of the two primary schools at the remote area in Bavel district by constructing concrete school buildings and sanitation facilities, and installing water tanks. The grant to be provided for this project amounts to USD 122,771. Through the upgrading of the school facilities, the project is expected to benefit over 780 students who are currently studying at the schools and also many children who will come to enrol in the future.

Education and human resources development are a foundation for the future development of Cambodia. The Government of Cambodia places a high priority on education, which in fact constitutes one of the four pillars of the Rectangular Strategy for national development. The Government is also making its efforts in increasing primary schools for achieving full dissemination of primary education by 2015.

The Government of Japan, understanding the importance of the education sector for economic and social development in Cambodia, has been assisting the efforts of the Cambodian Government through assistance both in hardware and software. The new project conforms to this basic policy of Japan 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 the project for which we proceed to sign the grant contract today will be implemented smoothly and effectively by our partner, Battambang Provincial Department of Education, Youth and Sport, and maintained properly so that as many school children as possible can benefit from the project.

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

Thank you for your attention.