

**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 28, 2013**

- Mr. PHI Nop, Commune Chief of Kork Rokar Commune, Posenchey District, Phnom Penh Capital City,
- 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 a new nursery house with community center at Andaung village in Kork Rokar commune, together with the representatives of Commune Office of Kork Rokar, Posenchey District, Phnom Penh Capital City. I am particularly glad that the signing is conducted in the special context of this year 2013 which marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japan-Cambodia Friendship.

This project aims to improve the environment of the nursery house at Andaung village by constructing a two-story concrete building and sanitation facilities. The new house will also accommodate a community center where mothers can learn about raising their children and how to improve their livelihood. The grant to be provided for this project amounts to USD 78,430. Through the upgrading of the facilities, the project will improve the nursery’s accommodating capacity, benefiting over 60 children who are currently attending at the nursery house, their mothers and many other children who will come to use the facility in the future as well.

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 Cambodian Government is also making efforts to improve access to education services for the poorest families.

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 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, Commune Office of Kork Rokar, Posenchey District, Phnom Penh Capital City, and maintained properly so that as many children and vulnerable mothers 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.