

**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**

March 1, 2013

- Dr. Glyn Vaughan, Director of All Ears Cambodia,
- Ladies and gentleman,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend this ceremony today for the signing of the contract of the Grant Assistance for the installation of audiological equipment in Phnom Penh, together with the representative of All Ears Cambodia, which has been addressing the needs of Cambodians with hearing impairment and deafness since 2003. 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 audiological services provided in the clinic in Phnom Penh, operated by All Ears Cambodia, by installing audiological equipment including headlights and sound-proof testing rooms. The grant to be provided for this project amounts to USD 91,429. The project is expected to benefit approximately 2,000 individuals with hearing impairment, as the clinic staff will become able to accurately conduct audiological examinations and provide treatment and correction of hearing loss. Furthermore, it is expected that the improved audiological services provided in the clinic will contribute to an increased level of economic and social independence of the patients as they become able to attend schools and attain job opportunities.

Development of health sector is critical in improving the quality of lives of the Cambodian people. Recognizing the important role of the health sector, the Government of Japan has prioritized its assistance in the health sector and constructed public health facilities, provided medical equipment as well as supported the capacity building of medical professionals. I believe that this new project will also promote the human security of the vulnerable population with hearing loss, to whom All Ears Cambodia provide audiological services.

I hope that the project for which we proceed to sign the grant contract today will be implemented smoothly and effectively by our partner, All Ears Cambodia, and the equipment be maintained properly so that it can be used to benefit as many patients as possible.

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

Thank you very much for your attention.