

**Speech by H.E. Mr. KUMAMARU Yuji,
Ambassador of Japan
To the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for
Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects
March 21, 2013**

- Ms. CHAN Theary, Executive Director of Reproductive and Child Health Alliance,
- Mr. KEV Ren, Executive Director of Center for Development,
- Mr. PRUM Noem, Chief of Chaong Maong Commune Council, Teuk Phos District, Kampong Chhnang Province,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend this ceremony today for the signing of grant contracts for the three Grass-Roots Human Security Projects. 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.

Three projects for which we signed the contracts today aim to improve the quality of drinking water and to provide improved educational environment for children in rural areas. These sectors are critically important for the social development of Cambodia and in fact, the Government of Cambodia places high priority in education and water supply in their development strategy.

Japan has been assisting the development efforts of the Cambodian Government since 1992, aligning its assistance policy to the Cambodian development policies. These projects conform to Japan's assistance policy towards Cambodia and fit in the philosophy of the Grass-Roots Human Security Project scheme designed to promote the human security of the vulnerable population.

The first grant amounting to \$ 100,745 is provided to the Reproductive and Child Health Alliance for installing a water filtration system in Thmor Pouk District, Banteay Mean Chey Province. Through the installation of the filtration system at a reservoir, the project will improve the access to safe drinking water for over 11,000 people living nearby areas who are currently suffering from health problems caused by the use of unfiltered water.

The second grant amounting to \$ 40,666 is provided to the "Centre for Development" for the construction of a 2-room nursery house and sanitation facilities, and the installation of necessary furniture at Toek L'ok Commune, in Kong Pisey District, Kampong Speu Province. This project is expected to provide safe and sanitary environment for 140 children who are currently using the community centre as a nursery house.

The third grant amounting to \$ 81,100 is provided to the "Chaong Maong Commune Council", Teuk Phos District, Kaompong Chhnang Province for the construction of a 5-room school building and sanitation facilities, and the installation of necessary school furniture and at Chaong Maong Primary School. This project is expected to improve educational environment for over 250 school children at Chaong Maong Primary School.

I hope that these projects will be implemented smoothly and maintained properly so that as many people as possible can benefit from them.

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

Thank you for your attention.