

**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 27, 2013**

- H.E. Mr. Iang Vuth, Deputy Governor of Pailin Province
- Dr. TOUCH Visalsok, President of University of Battambang(UBB),
- Mr. SUN Mao, Technical Advisor of Cambodian Rural Development Team(CRDT),
- Ms. SOR Monirath, Director of Pailin Provincial Department of Rural Development,
- Mr. SAM Leangtry, Director of  
Preah Vihear Provincial Department of Public Works and Transport,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend this ceremony today for the signing of grant contracts for the four 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 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japan-Cambodia Friendship.

Four projects for which we signed the contracts today aim to assist the agriculture sector and to improve flood management in rural areas. These sectors are critically important for the social and economic development of Cambodia, and in fact, the Government of Cambodia places high priority in agriculture and flood management in its 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 \$ 118,996 is provided to the “University of Battambang” for installing two autoclaves of 50 and 150 liters, one clean bench and constructing two screen houses with the capacity of 300m<sup>2</sup> and 600m<sup>2</sup> at UBB Farm in order to breed virus-free cassava. This project is expected to improve the productivity of cassava cultivation, which will thus contribute to the income increase of about 1,150 farmers in the rural communities.

The second grant amounting to \$ 91,121 is provided to the “Cambodian Rural Development Team” for the construction of small-scale water treatment facility and to install 3,000m of water distribution pipes at Koh Pdao village, and for the construction of an agricultural water distribution facility, two water tanks and 1,200m of canals at Sampin village, Kampong Cham Commune, Sambo District, Kratie Province. This project is expected to provide safe drinking water as well as agricultural water from Mekong River to over 2,000 local farmers and residents.

The third grant amounting to \$ 99,800 is provided to the “Pailin Provincial Department of Rural Development”, for the construction of 14 culverts and 3 vented causeways along an agricultural road at O’tavao area, Pailin Province. This project is expected to improve flood management and transportation for over 3,000 people living in 5 nearby villages. It is also expected that project will contribute to revitalizing the local economy through the promotion of trade.

The fourth grant amounting to \$ 105,422 is provided to the “Preah Vihear Provincial Department of Public Works and Transport”, for the rehabilitation of 900m of drainpipes with 36 manholes in Kampong Bronak Commune, Preah Vihear provincial capital. This project is expected to improve flood management, and safety and sanitary environment for over 10.000 people.

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.