



**Embassy of Japan**  
**in the Kingdom of Cambodia**

Speech by H.E. Mr. Yuji KUMAMARU  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan  
to the Kingdom of Cambodia  
At the Exchange of Notes for Japan's ODA Yen Loan Signing Ceremony  
April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013

- Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia,
- His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,
- Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to sign the Exchange of Notes of Japan's ODA Yen Loan Project for the improvement of National Road No.5. First of all, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Samdech Akka Moha Sena Papei Techo HUN Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia for his high presence at this signing ceremony regardless Samdech busiest time schedule.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to H.E. Mr. HOR Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, for organizing today's signing ceremony.

I am particularly glad that the ceremony for this important project takes place in the special context of the Year 2013 which marks the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Japan-Cambodia Friendship.

This project aims to refurbish a 47km's section of the National Road No.5 between Battambang and Sri Sophorn City as well as to construct two bypasses in Battambang City and Sri Sophorn City respectively. Yen Loan amounting up to 8.852 billion yen, equivalent to around \$ 90 million will be provided for this project.

The National Road No.5, an important part of the Southern Economic Corridor, constitutes a critical route of both domestic and international road network in Cambodia, Great Mekong Sub-Region and ASEAN. This Project is expected to increase the transportation capacity as well as to improve the logistics efficiency through the northern part of the National Road No.5.

The Government of Japan places a priority on the improvement of the Southern Economic Corridor and is currently conducting feasibility studies of the southern and middle sections of the National Road No.5 with an intention to refurbish the whole sections of the road.

I sincerely hope that this project will contribute to the improvement of economic and social development of Cambodia and thus, strengthen the friendly relations existing between Japan and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Thank you for your kind attention.