



Embassy of Japan
in the Kingdom of Cambodia

Speech by H.E. Mr. KUMAMARU Yuji,
Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the Groundbreaking Ceremony
for the Project for Flood Disaster Rehabilitation and Mitigation
in Kampong Chhnang, on May 21st, 2013

- His Excellency Mr. KONG Sam Ol, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Royal Palace and, high representative of His Majesty King NORODOM Sihamoni,
- His Excellency Mr. TRAM Iv Tek, Minister of Public Works and Transport,
- His Excellency Mr. TOUCH Marim, Governor of Kampong Chhnang Province,
- Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend this groundbreaking ceremony of the project for Flood Disaster Rehabilitation and Mitigation in Kampong Chhnang Province.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to H.E. Mr. Kong Sam Ol, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Royal Palace and, high representative of His Majesty King NORODOM Sihamoni for sparing his precious time to honor this 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 60th Anniversary of Japan-Cambodia Friendship.

In 2011, intense rainfall at the upstream of the Mekong River and the subsequent widespread flooding caused substantial damages in many parts of Cambodia. It was

reported that over 250 persons were sacrificed, about 1.5 million people suffered from the flood damage and 17 percent of paddy fields were spoiled.

The Government of Japan quickly responded by providing emergency assistance in October 2011 and later decided to conduct this rehabilitation project amounting to 1.51 billion Japanese Yen, approximately \$15 million. This project has two components, one is rehabilitation of roads and drainages in Kampong Chhnang Province and the other is rehabilitation of bridges in Prey Veng Province.

The Kompong Chhnang component includes the rehabilitation of 2.2km section of the National Road No. 5 and 2.4km section of the main streets in the city center, and the construction of 2.6km of drainage system. I understand that the most of Kampong Chhnang City, including National Road No.5 and City center sections, were seriously damaged by a long-standing flood in 2011. Although the repair works have been carried out on a temporary basis, it is now necessary to rehabilitate the roads by replacing the asphalt concrete pavement for the smooth passage of vehicles.

Flooding is one of the biggest natural calamities in Cambodia and it damages the country every year to various degrees. Japan, understanding the situation in Cambodia, places a priority on the flood prevention in its assistances. I strongly hope that this project will benefit the people in Kompong Chhnang as well as the development of Cambodia and the Mekong region as the National Road No.5 is a critical component of the Southern Economic Corridor

Finally, I sincerely hope that the cooperation by the Government and the people of Japan will further strengthen the existing friendly relations between Japan and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Thank you for your attention.