



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 Prey Veng, on May 23rd, 2013

- His Excellency Mr. SAR Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Interior and high representative of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia;
- His Excellency Mr. TRAM Iv Tek, Minister of Public Works and Transport;
- His Excellency Mr. HAS Sareth, Governor of Prey Veng 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 Prey Veng Province.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to H.E. Mr. SAR Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior 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.

Due to the intense rainfall which started in September 2011, flooding occurred in many parts of the Mekong River, giving substantial damages in some of the provinces. 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 bridges in Prey Veng Province and the other is rehabilitation of roads and drainages in Kampong Chhnang Province.

The Prey Veng component includes the reconstruction and rehabilitation of eight (8) bridges which were seriously damaged by the flood in 2011 and now load limit is being introduced to avoid accidents.

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 Prey Veng and surrounding areas for their economic and social activities.

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.