



**Speech by H.E. Mr. KUMAMARU Yuji
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan
to the Kingdom of Cambodia
at the Inauguration Ceremony
of Taches and Kampong Harv River Wharves,
Kampong Chhnang, May 30, 2013**

- H.E. Mr. Tram Iv Tek, Minister of Public Works and Transport ;
- H.E. Mr. Seat Kimleang, Deputy Governor of Kampong Chhnang province ;
- Excellencies, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen ;

It is a great pleasure for me to attend today's ceremony for the inauguration of two river wharves at the Taches and Kampong Harv communes in Kampong Chhnang Province, with the high presence of H.E. Mr. Tram Iv Tek, Minister of Public Works and Transport. First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Kompong Chhnang Provincial Government and the local residents who arranged today's ceremony.

I am particularly glad that this ceremony is conducted in the special context of this year 2013 which marks the 60th anniversary of Japan- Cambodia Friendship.

As we know, the development of transportation systems is critically important for promoting economic and social activities. Particularly in the context of Cambodia where abundant water resources exist, transportation through rivers is effective and efficient, and even indispensable for many of the local residents.

The Government of Japan, understanding the potential and the importance of the transportation sector in Cambodia, has been assisting the efforts of the Cambodian Government in constructing infrastructures such as roads, ports and bridges. I believe that the upgrading of river wharves at Taches Commune and Kampong Harv Commune will not only promote the economic activity in the region but also help the livelihood of the vulnerable population at the surrounding communes.

I have heard that the river wharves at the two communes had structural problems and had not efficiently functioned before and accordingly, the local residents had difficulties in crossing the Tonle Sap River. The projects at the two communes aim to improve the capacity of transportation over the Tonle Sap River by upgrading the wharves and constructing pontoons. These projects are expected to benefit the residents in 13 communes which have total population of about 80,000.

I strongly hope that these wharves will be properly maintained by the local residents as symbols of the freindship between Japan and the Kingdom of Cambodia for many years to come.

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the people who have contributed to the smooth implementation of the projects. I strongly hope that these projects will further strengthen the friendly relations between the Japanese and Cambodian people.

Thank you very much for your attention.