



## **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 Partial Use Ceremony of Area under the Project for Flood Protection  
and Drainage Improvement in the Phnom Penh (Phase III)

August 30, 2013

- His Excellency Mr. PA Socheatevong, Governor of Phnom Penh Capital City
- Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure for me to attend this Partial Use Ceremony of Area under the Project for Flood Protection and Drainage Improvement in the Phnom Penh (Phase III). First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to H.E. Mr. PA Socheatevong, Governor of Phnom Penh Capital City and his staff for organizing 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 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Japan-Cambodia Friendship.

Phnom Penh City has always faced the risk of flooding during the annual rainy season and frequently suffered from inundation and stagnant waste water. This situation has brought about negative impacts on the transportation, hygienic environment and economic activities and thus, disturbed the smooth operation of the Capital.

The Government of Japan, understanding that the improvement of drainage systems will hold a key to reduce flooding, has provided grant aid amounting in total to 4.7 billion Japanese Yen, equivalent to \$ 59 million, to implement the Phase I and the Phase II Project in 2002 and in 2007 respectively. With this assistance, the drainage systems in the south-western and the north-eastern areas of the Capital have been upgraded and serious flooding has no longer occurred in such areas as Central Market, Wat Phnom, National Museum and Mao Tse Toung Boulevard.

The Phase III Project, which amounts to 3.7 billion Japanese Yen, equivalent to 46 USD million, will cover 8 areas in the south-eastern part of the Capital. Among these areas, the construction work of Tuol Sleng, Boeung Keng Kang and Tuol Tompoung has partially completed.

**Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am aware that construction works have caused inconveniences to the local residents, in particular, those living around the project sites. Taking this opportunity, I would like to seek understanding and cooperation of the residents in Phnom Penh. Although you may be disturbed during the construction works, flooding will dramatically reduce after the completion of the project.

In order to keep the system efficiently function, public awareness is critically important. Thus, I would also like to ask the residents in Phnom Penh not to throw away garbage on the streets and in the waterways. In this connection, we strongly welcome the initiative by his Excellency the Governor of Phnom Penh to clean the existing manholes and drainage systems.

Finally, I strongly believe that, through this Project, Phnom Penh Capital City will enjoy further development and prosperity free from serious flood damages. The Project will also help promote the image of Phnom Penh City, which will bring about positive impacts on foreign investments and tourism.

Thank you for your attention.