

Speech by Mr. TAMAMITSU Shinichi,
First Secretary, Chief of Economic & ODA Section,
Embassy of Japan in Cambodia
At the Inauguration Ceremony of the General Medical Care Ward
in Pea Raing Referral Hospital
in Prey Veng Province
September 18th, 2013

- Venerable Monks
- H.E. Mr. Eng Hout, Secretary of State, Ministry of Health,
- Mr. Soth Seun, Deputy Governor of Prey Veng Province,
- Dr. Seng Panharith, Director of Provincial Health Department,
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend this inauguration ceremony for the General Medical Care Ward in the Pea Raing Referral Hospital, with the presence of H.E. Mr. Eng Hout, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Health.

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

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Health and the Department of Health in Prey Veng Province for holding this ceremony.

For the past two decades since the end of civil war, Cambodia has made strenuous efforts for its reconstruction and development, and it has reached a point where its economic growth rate is one of the highest even in the high growth ASEAN region. Also in the health sector, both the quantity and the quality have significantly improved through the cooperation between the Ministry of Health and international community.

Japanese Government has also been continuously supporting

the Cambodian Government through the projects including the construction of medical facilities, the provision of medical equipment and the training of medical and technical staff.

However, there are still substantial needs for the improvement of the public health services. One of the urgent issues is a shortage of appropriate medical facilities and equipment in rural and remote areas. In fact, inpatients are sometimes seen staying on the corridors of hospitals because of a lack of patients rooms.

I was briefed that the number of patients at the Pea Raing Referral Hospital was rapidly increasing in recent years, and as a result, its facility could not cope with the growing needs for the local residents. This new medical care ward, which was supported by Japan's Grass-Root Grant aid, allows more patients to receive medical treatment in safe and attentive environment and is expected to contribute to the health improvement in the region.

I understand that Japan Heart, a Japanese NPO, has been assisting surgical operations at this hospital for the past four years and the synergy effects with their activities are also expected.

Lastly, on behalf of the Government and the people of Japan, I sincerely hope that this Project will further promote the friendly relations between Cambodian and Japanese people.

Thank you very much for your attention.