

Speech by H.E. Mr. HORINOUCHI Hidehisa
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan
to the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the Handover and Inauguration Ceremony
Battambang, November 24th, 2016

- サ ム ダ イ ク ロ ラ ー ハ オ ム ソ ー ケ ー ン
- Samdech Krala Hoam Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior,
ヘ ン ラ タ ナ
- H. E. Mr. Heng Ratana, Director-General of Cambodian Mine Action Centre
- Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure for me to be attending this important ceremony to mark the handover of the land after mine clearance has been completed and inaugurate the new mine clearance project.

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Samdech Krala Hoam Sar Kheng, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, for his participation in this ceremony, despite his busy schedule.

In acknowledgement of the fact that mine clearance is crucial to securing the safety of residents and farmers living and working around minefields, and it's importance for generating economic growth through rural development, the Government of Japan has been a strong supporter of mine clearance activities in Cambodia since 1998. Our support has taken various forms, including the provision of demining equipment, technical cooperation, the financing of operational costs and the provision of assistance to several NGOs, including

JMAS.

As a result of the combined efforts of CMAC and JICS, in cooperation with local communities and farmers, I am very pleased today to be witnessing the successful outcome of the mine clearance efforts and the start of agricultural production.

I also expect that the new, Phase III, program will enable CMAC to carry out safer and more effective demining activities in cooperation with all stakeholders. It is my sincere wish that the Cambodian people will be able to enjoy the peace of mind that comes from working on safer farms and going to school without the risk of coming into contact with mines.

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I sincerely hope that this assistance will further strengthen the close and friendly relations that already exist between Japan and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Thank you very much.