

Speech by H. E. Mr. KUMAMARU Yuji Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan To the Kingdom of Cambodia At Signing Ceremony of the Exchange of Notes June 8th, 2016

- His Excellency Mr. PRAK Sokhonn, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,
- Excellences, Distinguished Guests,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to sign today the Exchange of Notes on the Grant Aid for the "Japanese Development Scholarship (JDS)" Project.

For this Project, the Japanese Government is going to provide a Grant Aid of 332 million Yen, equivalent to about 3 million USD^{**} for 24 new scholarship fellows to study in Japan for two years. This scholarship is awarded mainly to the young and capable government officials who are expected to contribute to economic and social development of Cambodia after completion of their study in Japan.

Japan has been providing this scholarship continuously since the year 2000. So far a total of 344 Cambodian fellows have participated in this program and after returning home, most of them are now working in the public administration.

I believe this project continues to contribute to human resource development in Cambodia, which is crucial for sustainable development of this country. We note that the Royal Government's development strategy recognizes human resource development as a priority. It gives me great pleasure that Japan can help Cambodia in this priority area.

I sincerely hope that the past and future fellows of this scholarship project will not only support Cambodian development, they also become the connecting bridge between Japan and the Kingdom of Cambodia for strengthening our bilateral relations.

Thank you for your kind attention.