



**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
August 31st, 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 Project for Expansion of Distribution Lines in Southern Economic Corridor.

For this Project, the Japanese Government is going to provide a Grant Aid of 893 million Yen, equivalent to about 8 million USD for installation of distribution lines. The total length of the distribution lines is about 90 km.

As we are all aware, electricity is an indispensable source of energy for achieving economic and social development. As the demand for electricity increases day by day in Cambodia, the Cambodian government and the Electricité du Cambodge have been striving to improve the situation of electricity supply.

In the recent years, some power plants were newly built in Cambodia. As a result of the increase in electric generation capacity, the amount of electricity production in Cambodia has surpassed the amount of electricity import. However, electricity supply is still often unstable and cut off in rural areas due to insufficient distribution lines.

Under such circumstances, this project will be implemented in 3 provinces: Svay Rieng, Koh Kong and Banteay Meanchey. I hope that construction works of this project will be carried out smoothly and improving the stability of the electricity supply will help to enhance the living standard of the Cambodian people in these 3 provinces.

Lastly, I hope that this project will further strengthen the friendly relations existing between the Japanese and Cambodian peoples.

Thank you.