

Speech by H.E. Mr. KUMAMARU Yuji  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan  
to the Kingdom of Cambodia

At the Signing Ceremony of the Exchange of Notes

September 23rd, 2016

- Mr. Gianpietro Bordinon (ジャンピエトロ・ボルディグニョン) ,  
Representative and Country Director, World Food Programme Cambodia,
- Excellencies, Distinguished Guest,
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to sign today the Exchange of Notes on Grant Assistance for the Food Assistance Programme through WFP.

In this programme, the Japanese Government is going to provide a Grant Assistance of two hundred and twenty million Japanese Yen (¥220,000,000), equivalent to about 2 million USD. An approximately 290 metric tons of canned fish will be provided for breakfasts of school children in the most vulnerable communities through WFP.

As all of us know, Cambodia's economy has grown significantly over the past decades and the poverty rate has decreased dramatically. However, especially in the rural areas, a significant portion of the population still suffer from undernutrition because they lack access to sufficient and diverse food. A lot of people are only just above the poverty line, and they have a high risk of falling into poverty by the slightest income shock.

In addition, the recent drought caused by El Nino phenomenon has considerably affected agricultural production including fish production. As a result, the incomes of these vulnerable households tend to be further reduced. This makes it difficult for them to get sufficient nutrition, particularly protein, and to allow their children to go to school.

Under such circumstances, by providing canned fish for the WFP's School Feeding Programme, Japan's assistance will contribute to improve not only food security but also access to education for school children. I sincerely hope that our assistance will be effectively used to secure a bright future for children.

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

Thank you.