

**Speech by H.E. Mr. HORINOUCHI Hidehisa,  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan  
to the Kingdom of Cambodia  
At the Signing Ceremony of the Exchange of Notes for Japan's ODA Grant Aid  
3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017**

- H.E. Mr. PRAK Sokhonn, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,
- Excellencies, Distinguish Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to sign the Exchange of Notes and Record of Discussions for a Japan's ODA Grant Aid project today.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the high presence of H.E. Mr. PRAK Sokhonn, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, at this signing ceremony. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to officials in charge for organizing today's signing ceremony.

The Grant Aid we have just signed today, amounting to 3,942 million Japanese Yen, or approximately 35 million US Dollars, will be used to implement the project for Urgent Replacement of Bridge in Flood-Prone Areas.

Cambodia has experienced two devastating floods in 2011 and 2013 which affected more than 1.7 million people and damaged many infrastructures. In this project, 2 bridges along the NR11 in Prey Veng province and 5 bridges along NR73 in Kratie province, as well as approach roads, will be reconstructed to ensure safe, smooth and stable transportation and logistics.

NR11 functions as an important road in the region as it connects several highways (NR1, NR7 and NR8) and contributes to enhancing regional trade. Similarly, NR73 is also important in transporting goods to the north-eastern provinces of the country which has the highest poverty rate. Therefore, the project contributes to the development of road networks as the prerequisite for poverty reduction and economic development of Cambodia.

Lastly, I strongly hope that this project will contribute to the improvement of economic and social development of Cambodia, as well as strengthening the friendly relations existing between Japan and the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Thank you.