



## PRESS RELEASE

EMBASSY OF JAPAN  
TO THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

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### JAPAN PROVIDES APPROXIMATELY 2 MILLION US DOLLARS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND NGOs

Under the framework of *the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects ("KUSANONE" Grant)*, the Government of Japan will provide a total of 1,997,800 USD to eight (8) recipient organizations. Grant Contracts were signed by H.E. Mr. SHINOHARA Katsuhiko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia, and by the representatives from the recipient organizations, which would carry out the following projects:

1. The Project for Supporting Humanitarian Demining Activities in Provinces of Kompong Thom, Oddoh Meanchey and Preah Vihea (US\$861,833)

Recipient: Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC)

This project is to support CMAC for the deployment of demining teams in Kompong Thom, Oddoh Meanchey and Preah Vihea, where there are a large number of casualties caused by landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO)-related accidents. In these regions, CMAC is going to clear minefields with its 4 Mobile Platoons, 1 Community Based Demining team, 2 Brush Cutter teams, 1 Explosive Ordnance Disposal team and 2 Technical Survey teams, freeing villagers of the area from the threat of Explosive Remnants of War. Once mines/UXO are cleared, the land will be handed over to the communities to undertake development activities, bringing about social and economic development.

2. The Project for Supporting Humanitarian Mine Clearance in Northwest Border Districts (US\$781,089)

Recipient: The HALO Trust

The HALO Trust will continue its 1-year mine clearance activities in villages along the Northwest border areas which are severely affected by landmines and unexploded ordnance, prioritising poverty-stricken areas where accidents happen to the residents. The project will finance the deployment of 16 demining teams as well as technical surveys and explosive ordnance disposals in the area, so that the development in the community will take place after the clearance, relieving approximately 2,830 people in Battambang province and Pailin municipality of the threat of mine/UXO accidents.

(US\$85,705)

Recipient: Center for Social Development (CSD)

This project is to print 330,000 voters' guide for National Assembly Election in July 2008. The guide is to provide neutral information on all the respective candidate parties for voters, as well as general information on the election procedures in order to avoid confusion on the Election Day. CSD will distribute Voters'.Guide throughout the country to promote better understanding of the democratic system.

4. The Project for Rehabilitation of Bos Leave Irrigation System in Kratie Province (US\$85,535)

Recipient: Kratie Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology

In response to the shortage of agricultural water, Kratie Provincial Department of Water Resources and Meteorology will rehabilitate Bos Leave irrigation system which was originally constructed in 1975, with 3,200m-embankment, 2,200m-irrigation-canal, and 3 intakes. This project will enable the farmers in the area to distribute and control water from the reservoir throughout the year, benefiting approximately 211 families, with the increase of rice production.

5. The Project for Supporting Voter Education Materials for the National Assembly Election in 2008 (US\$63,050)

Recipient: Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL)

The project is to print materials for educating voters to promote understanding of the process of election and its importance in a democratic society. For this purpose, COMFREL, with the grant, will print booklets, picture books, calendars, and pamphlets, which are to be distributed by their staff throughout the country. Election manuals and election law review books will also be printed for the election observers who are to monitor the election process and the voting environment. COMFREL's education project is thus to reactivate citizens' rights and participation in a democratic society.

6. The Project for Supporting Well Construction in Svay Check District in Banteay Meanchey Province (US\$51,153)

Recipient: Rural Community and Environment Development Organization (RCEDO)

With a view to providing clean drinking water, RCEDO will construct 25 hand-pump wells in 4 communes of Svay Check District in Banteay Meanchey Province, where people are currently facing a serious shortage of water especially in dry seasons. RCEDO will implement the project in collaboration with villagers who will be responsible for the maintenance of those wells for the long-term benefit.

7. The Project for Constructing School Building at Koh Reah Junior High School in Lvea Aem District, Kandal Province (US\$36,312)

Recipient: The District Bureau of Education, Youth and Sports of Lvea Aem, Kandal

Province

Responding to the lack of classroom, the District Bureau of Education, Youth and Sport will construct one 5-room school building equipped with furniture at Koh Reah Junior High School in Lvea Aem District, Kandal Province. With this fund, the recipient organization will also build one 4-room lavatory. The project will enable 215 students to study in the improved environment.

8. The Project for Constructing School Building at Slaeng Junior High School in Kiri Vong District, Takeo Province (US\$33,123)

Recipient: Slaeng Junior High School

Similar to the above project, Slaeng Junior High School will construct one 5-room school building equipped with furniture in Kiri Vong District, Takeo Province. The project will enable over 340 current students in the new building to study in the improved environment. Moreover, Slaeng Junior High School will be able to accommodate an increasing number of junior high school students every year.

Japan's "KUSANONE" Grant Assistance started in Cambodia in 1991 in order to support Cambodia's reconstruction and development efforts at the grassroots level. The assistance is aimed at protecting vulnerable individuals from such factors as poverty and misfortunes that directly threaten their lives, livelihood, and dignity, as well as at promoting self-reliance of local communities. Since 1991, the Government of Japan has provided over US\$38 million for local authorities and non-governmental organizations to implement 403 projects throughout the country.

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