

NOTE TO EDITORS-OPPORTUNITY

**The Handing Over and Opening Ceremony for
" Eighteen Primary Schools in Takeo and Kompong Speu Provinces "**

**at Champa Primary School, Bati District, Takeo Province
June 3rd, 1997 at 08:00 a.m.**

The Handing Over and Opening Ceremony for eighteen Primary Schools in Takeo and Kompong Speu Provinces will be held on June 3rd, 1997 at 08:00 a.m. at Champa Primary School, Bati District (see the map attached), under the presence of H.E. HONG SUN HUOT, Minister of Rural Development and H.E. TOL LAH, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports. Japanese Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Shohei NAITO will also participate in this ceremony.

These eighteen primary schools, 12 in Takeo Province (7 in Bati district and 5 in Tramkâk district) and 6 in Kompong Speu Province (5 in Boseth district and 1 rehabilitated in Kong Pisei district), were constructed in a unique 3 way project:

- the materials for the construction of the schools were supplied by the Government of Japan under the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grass-Root Projects with a total amount of US\$ 261,681.

- local villagers, whose children will benefit from the schools, volunteered their services to construct (or rehabilitate) the schools.

- technical advice and supervision came from Tripartite Cooperation (Japan-ASEAN-Cambodia)- a rural development and resettlement project where experts from ASEAN countries and Japan work with Cambodians to teach technical vocational skills in 4 basic fields: agriculture, education, income generation and public health. Japan provides the all of the funding for this project, which is being run in Kompong Speu and Takeo provinces.

The Government of Japan considers this method of school construction to be the most appropriate way to build many schools in Cambodia, as building costs are halved, approximately US\$ 10,000, for one school and the local population acquires new technical skills.

For the peace process and the rehabilitation and development of Cambodia, the Government of Japan has provided various assistance to Cambodia and since 1991, a total amount of US\$ 536,384,439 has been provided as grant aid. US\$ 4,604,439 of this was used for 92 "Grass-Roots" projects funded by the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Projects.

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Editors are invited for reporting and photo coverage.