

01-ECO007
March 1, 2001**PRESS RELEASE****សេចក្តីប្រកាសព័ត៌មាន****Embassy of Japan****ស្ថានទូតជប៉ុន**

**Signing of Grant Contracts
for the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Projects
(KUSANONE) and a Cultural Grass-roots Project (CULTURAL
KUSANONE)**

March 01, 2001 at 11:30 a.m.**at the Meeting Room of the Embassy of Japan****(Editors are invited for reporting and photo coverage)**

The Government of Japan has decided to provide, through its Japanese Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Projects scheme called "KUSANONE", which means grass-roots in Japanese, a total amount of US\$ 333,773 to the following six projects. It should be noted that the first Cultural Grass-roots Project has been approved this time. The Grant Contracts will be signed between Mr. Gotaro OGAWA, Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia and the representatives of each of the recipient organizations.

The Grant Assistance for Cultural Grass-roots Projects (Cultural KUSANONE) was introduced to Cambodia in 2000, in order to contribute to promotion of cultural activities, sports, higher education or preservation of cultural assets at the grass roots level in Cambodia.

<The outline of the Cultural KUSANONE project>**1. The Project to Supply Equipment for the restoration of Cultural Heritage to Sophia University Angkor International Mission (US\$ 62,719) [Cultural Grass-roots Project]****Recipient:** Sophia University Angkor International Mission**Outline of the Project:** This project is to provide one crane and one surveying instrument to Sophia University Angkor International Mission in order to improve the efficiency of works for the restoration of cultural heritage and the capability of information processing. Sophia University's Mission has been working for the restoration and the preservation of cultural heritage and for the training of human resources in Cambodia since 1980.

"KUSANONE" grant assistance started in Cambodia in 1992, in order to help Cambodia's reconstruction and development efforts at the grass roots level. Up to the present, including these five projects, a total amount of US\$ 8,860,747 has been provided by the Government of Japan through the "KUSANONE" scheme to assist 177 international and local NGOs or local authorities' projects, especially in the education and health sectors. In Japanese Fiscal Year 2000 (April 1999~March 2000), a total amount of US\$ 1,044,368 has been granted so far under "KUSANONE" scheme for 24 projects including these five projects.

<The outline of the KUSANONE projects>**1. The Project to Rehabilitate the Irrigation System of Komping Puoy Reservoir in Battambang Province (US\$ 183,505)**

Recipient: Battambang Provincial Service of Water Resources and Meteorology

Outline of the Project: This project is to rehabilitate secondary canal No. 2 irrigation facilities, a part of irrigation system in Komping Puoy Reservoir in Phnom Sampeou commune, Banan district, Battambang province to provide this area with sufficient water for biannual cropping and to help farmers to limit the negative impact caused by drought. About 1,009 families, in total 5,276 people living in the target villages will be able to cultivate in the whole years.

2. The Project to Construct School Building in Ang Khmao Primary School in Kompong Speu (US\$ 28,473)

Recipient: Foundation for International Development/Relief (FIDR)

Outline of the Project: This project is to construct a school building of 5 classrooms and an administrative office in the Ang Khmao Primary School in Ang Khmao village, Samrong Tong district, Kompong Speu province. Necessary school equipments such as blackboards, teachers' desks and chairs, students' desks and chairs and office's equipments are also provided under this project for the benefit of about 900 school-aged children living in the surrounding 15 villages.

3. The Project to Hold Emergency Feed Preparation Seminar in Svay Rieng Province (US\$ 26,930)

Recipient: International Volunteers of Yamagata

Outline of the Project: The last year Mekong flood has seriously damaged the country in which buffaloes, effective pulling forces for rice production, were also seriously affected by a lack of feed. This project is to support the animal health and production program carried out in Svay Rieng province by International Volunteers of Yamagata with close cooperation of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to organize a seminar to instruct the people on animal husbandry and to provide feed and medicine to cure about 2,000 buffaloes in 100 days.

4. The Project to Support the Regional Center for Women and Children in Battambang Province (US\$ 20,622)

Recipient: Caring for Young Khmer (CYK)

Outline of the Project: This project is to construct a weaving building in the Community Women's Center in Beng village, Anlongvill commune, Battambang province equipped with silk weaving equipment to provide the silk weaving skill to impoverished women so that they can improve their income generation to support their families.

5. The Project to Rehabilitate the Access Road of the Svay Khorm Reservoir in Takeo Province (US\$ 11,524)

Recipient: Takeo Provincial Services of Water Resources and Meteorology

Outline of the Project: This project is to rehabilitate one culvert and an access road connecting the embankment road of the Svay Khorm Reservoir which was rehabilitated last year, and the National Road No.2. The beneficiaries of the project are 1,550 households living in twelve villages around the reservoir.