

PRESS RELEASE

សេចក្តីប្រកាសព័ត៌មាន

NOTE TO EDITORS-PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Signing Ceremony on the Exchange of Notes
For Japan's Grant Aid

to

the Project for Improvement of Facilities of Colmatage Systems
in Kandal Province along the Mekong River
(Detailed Design Study)

February 19, 1999 at 4:00 p.m.

at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

In response to the request from the Royal Government of Cambodia, the Government of Japan has decided to extend Grant Aid Assistance up to **forty three million Yen (¥ 43,000,000)** approximately equivalent to **three hundred and seventy thousand US dollars (US\$ 370,000)** for the **Detailed Design** for the Project for Improvement of Facilities of Colmatage Systems in Kandal Province along the Mekong River.

The Notes to this effects will be exchanged on **February 19, 1999 at 4:00 p.m.** at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation between **H.E. Mr. HOR Namhong, Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation** and **H.E. Mr. Masaki SAITO, Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia.**

"Colmatage" is a traditional agricultural method in Kandal province, which uses the flooding cycle of the Mekong River for farming irrigation and soil enrichment. However, the functions of "colmatage" canals are lowering, due to the deterioration of the intake structures, sediment deposits and erosion of embankments.

The Project is the rehabilitation of four "colmatage" canals (Prek Pol, Prek Youm, Prek Chrouy Chrey and Koki Thom) and their intake facilities and the provision of canal maintenance equipment such as bulldozers, excavators, dump trucks and mobile pumps. This will newly irrigate the 550 ha and increase the productivity of the 2,400 ha of farmland, as well as enable the fishery in the canals and reservoirs throughout the year including the dry season, which is expected to benefit 4,400 farming and fishery families (24,000 people in total).

The Exchange of Notes on February 19th is the agreement on the detailed design study to thrash out the specific contents of the project which is the first stage of its implementation.

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Editors are invited for reporting and photo coverage.