



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

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The 11<sup>th</sup> Policy Dialogue Meeting  
On Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA)

### **Opening Remarks**

by Deputy Prime Minister KEAT CHHON, MP  
Minister of Economy and Finance and First Vice-Chairman of CDC  
Palais du Gouvernement  
Phnom Penh, 03 November, 2011

1. It is my great honor and pleasure to welcome you all, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen to this 11<sup>th</sup> Policy Dialogue Meeting between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Government Japan. Let me extend my special warm welcome to His Excellency Masafumi KUROKI, Ambassador of Japan and all members of Japanese delegation, especially those from their headquarters and also to colleagues from the Royal Government who are present here.

2. Before I continue, I would like to take this opportunity to express on behalf of the RGC, our sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Japan for the solidarity Japan has shown in providing emergency relief worth more than three hundred thousand US dollars to help Cambodian victims of the recent severe flood. This is extraordinary given the hardships Japan faced during the March earthquake and tsunami disaster. We are grateful for this sincere gesture of solidarity that shows the depth of our strong relations and demonstrates that Japan is one of Cambodia's best friends during these hard times.

3. The Policy Dialogue has been organized every year, with the preparation being led by the Cambodian Rehabilitation and Development Board of the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CRDB/CDC) in close collaboration with the Embassy of Japan and the Japan International Cooperation Agency. We have two main objectives for today's Meeting, namely:

- First: to reach a common understanding on Japan's new country assistance policy and program for Cambodia that will ensure alignment of Japan's ODA with Cambodia's development priorities;
- Second: to jointly review the progress made in implementing Japan's ODA-supported projects and programs since the last Policy Dialogue in June 2010.

4. The agenda of our policy dialogue today is more comprehensive as the discussion will cover all schemes of Japan's ODA framework namely: grant aid, technical cooperation

and concessional loan scheme. Based on figures in the Cambodia ODA Database, in the period 1992-2010, Japan's ODA has totaled almost USD 2.0 billion, representing almost 20% of the total ODA provided to Cambodia during this period. Estimated disbursement in 2011 amounts to USD 120 million. Moreover, in early 2011, both governments have signed the Exchange Note for six grant aid projects and one Yen Loan project, equivalent to approximately USD 165 million. This indicates the continued commitment to a strong and enduring partnership between the two countries. Japan's ODA has made a valuable contribution to national development that has enabled the Royal Government to achieve sustainable economic growth to support poverty reduction.

5. In the context of regional development, Japan has initiated and implemented many initiatives such as the Cool Earth Promotion Program, the Cool Earth Partnership with developing countries, the Japan-ASEAN Economic Partnership and recently the Japan-Mekong Partnership. Moreover, Japan has determined to support the initiative for ASEAN Integration and the realization of the ASEAN vision 2020 through the implementation of IAI Work Plan II which started in 2009 and will operate until 2015.

6. I also wish to confirm that Japan's ODA provided to date has been in line with the priorities of the RGC Rectangular Strategy - Phase II. Japan's ODA has made a valuable contribution to key priority sectors of the National Strategic Development Plan. I would like to recall that our partnership has been well grounded and focused on achieving results based on the principles of ownership, committed partnership and leadership of the Royal Government.

7. Our Policy Dialogue today is being held at the time that Japan's new Country Assistance Policy and Program is being finalized. I would like to emphasize that the Royal Government considers this dialogue as an important step in the process towards further strengthening the partnership between the two countries. It provides an opportunity to discuss the priorities and areas of support that Japan will provide over the next few years.

8. Once again, I would like to assure the Japanese tax payers that greater care has been taken to ensure that their money is used in a transparent and accountable manner. I wish to conclude my remarks and thank you all for joining today's Policy Dialogue Meeting. I declare this meeting open and expect a fruitful and productive discussion.