

**Speech by H.E. Mr. KUMAMARU Yuji,
Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia
At the Workshop on Integrating Social Policies
and the Delivery of Social Protection Floors
May 29, 2013**

*His Excellency Mr. Yim Chhay Ly, Deputy Prime Minister and the Chairman of the Council for
Agriculture and Rural Development,*

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the International Labour Organization and the Cambodian Government for organizing this important Workshop, which the Government of Japan strongly supports.

As a founding member of the ILO, Japan has been engaged in many programs and projects in supporting the improvement of the living and working conditions of workers worldwide. Many of such programs and projects were conducted in cooperation with the ILO.

In fact, in addition to its membership contribution to the ILO, which is the second largest after the United States, Japan has also been providing voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects mainly for the Asian countries.

One of such projects is "*Promoting and Building Unemployment Insurance and Employment Services in ASEAN*". This project aims at facilitating the establishment of social protection frameworks specifically for employment such as unemployment insurance and employment services.

I understand that today's workshop is partly assisted by this project and I believe it is a right timing to tackle with the issues of social protection and employment as the governments of ASEAN countries are now making strenuous efforts to set up instruments and institutions to that effects.

In recent years, many of the Asian countries have been recording high economic growth rates, and as a result, various labour issues have surfaced, attracting more and more attentions from home and abroad. I believe that improving working conditions along with efficiency of the labour market is prerequisite for maintaining high economic growth and achieving the sustainable development.

Lastly, I strongly hope that this workshop will produce valuable and fruitful discussions and that it will contribute to building the social protection delivery mechanisms and employment services in Cambodia and other countries in Asia.

Thank you very much.