

Remarks by Ms. KAMIKAWA Yoko  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan  
at Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC)

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(Translation)

**1 Japan's Past Assistance for Humanitarian Mine Action**

- Your Excellency. Heng Ratana, Director General of the Cambodia Mine Action Centre, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great pleasure for me to visit the CMAC today.
- I was just briefed extensively on CMAC's more than 30 years of humanitarian mine action, and am impressed by the tremendous efforts of the many people involved in this endeavour.

- The majority of victims of anti-personnel mines are civilians, including children.
- Based on the concept of “Human Security,” Japan has been pursuing diplomacy aimed at realizing a world where even vulnerable people can live safely and securely and where human dignity is protected. Anti-personnel mines are a threat to human dignity indeed.
- Japan places the utmost importance on this issue and has consistently cooperated with Cambodia’s humanitarian mine action.
- Cambodia is now one of the world leaders in humanitarian mine action, having made steady progress in mine clearance in its own territory.

## **2 A New Vision for Japan's Assistance for Humanitarian Mine Action**

- There are still many countries suffering from the damage caused by anti-personnel mines. How should Japan help those countries tackle with mines?
- Today, here in Cambodia, the starting point for Japan's cooperation in humanitarian mine action, I would like to present Japan's vision for humanitarian mine action.
- First, consistent and comprehensive efforts are essential for humanitarian mine action.
- It is important not only to detect and clear mines, but also to provide mine risk education to help people avoid the risk of mine damage and to provide victim assistance.
- The core of humanitarian mine action is, above all,

the development of human resources. In order to utilize the technology and equipment safely, training of personnel based on thorough safety management is necessary. In providing these supports, it is also essential to involve a wide range of relevant stakeholders, making use of the technologies and know-how of the private sector and the knowledge of academia.

- Japan will continue to provide assistance in each of the phases of humanitarian mine action: mine risk education, mine detection and clearance, and victim assistance, in cooperation with stakeholders, and bearing in mind the perspective of Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) based on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.
- While presenting this "Japan's Comprehensive Package of Assistance for Humanitarian Mine

Action " to the affected countries, like-minded countries, and international organizations, we will work together with these partners to provide more effective support.

- We must not forget the problem of unexploded ordnance (UXO) used in war as well as mines. The technology for such weapons is constantly advancing, but the technology for protecting civilians is also in the process of developing.
- The latest technology is also being applied to the production of prosthetic and orthotics items needed by those who have lost limbs to mines.
- Development of mine detecting technology utilizing AI and others is also advancing.
- Japan, as a major technology power, will utilize

ODA to promote the development of the latest science and technology, and its application to “*monozukuri*”, craftsmanship rooted in on-the-ground experience.

### **3 Launch of Japan-Cambodia Landmine Initiative**

- When Japan tackles with mine around the world under the new vision, Cambodia has to be its indispensable partner.
- We will position Cambodia as a hub for international cooperation on humanitarian mine action, and aim to achieve zero mine victims in the world.
- Today, in cooperation with Cambodia, I am pleased to launch the “Japan-Cambodia Landmine Initiative.” This consists of four pillars.

- First, we are confident that Cambodia will contribute greatly to raising awareness of the inhumanity of anti-personnel mines since it is a country that has suffered from mines.
- During the 5<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention, The Siem Reap-Angkor Summit on a Mine-Free World, scheduled to be held in Siem Reap in November of this year, Japan will work with Cambodia, Chair of the Conference, to raise awareness of the inhumanity of anti-personal mines and further universalize the Ottawa Convention toward a Mine-Free World, through introducing our joint efforts for a wide range of humanitarian mine action, including victim assistance.
- Second, Cambodia has accumulated mine action knowledge and has a well-developed professional

human resource.

- Therefore, Japan will support the establishment of a new international cooperation team for a world free from landmines and assist in increasing the number of personnel working there.
- Third, our two countries will jointly provide humanitarian mine action to third countries, drawing on the expertise of the private sector and academia as well.
- As a concrete cooperation under the Japan-Cambodia Landmine Initiative, Japan will provide full-scale assistance to humanitarian mine action in Ukraine.
- Next week, we will provide Ukraine with large



demining machine, and next month, here in Cambodia, we will train Ukrainian personnel on how to operate the machine.

- Fourth, both countries will cooperate and work with the private sector to promote science, technology, and innovation related to humanitarian mine action, rooted in the spirit of "*monozukuri*" (craftmanship).

## **4 Conclusion**

- Our cooperation on humanitarian mine action is an important part of the "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" between our two countries.
- Let's work hand in hand and promote our cooperation aiming to achieve zero mine victims in the world.

- SOUM • OKUN (joined hands)

(End)