

First Japanese Cultural Project " Kusanone " in Cambodia
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First Japanese Cultural Project "KUSANONE" to assist Cambodia for the preservation of its cultural heritage, was signed on March 1st, at the Embassy of Japan, between Mr. Gotaro OGAWA, Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia and Mr. Yoshiaki ISHIZAWA, Chief of Sofia University Angkor International Mission. The six projects worth of US\$ 333, 773.

Before signing the Grant, Mr. Gotaro OGAWA, Ambassador of Japan, said that: " This Project KUSANONE has aim to assist ordinary people". " I am very happy to sign the Grant of these 6 projects". The grant through "KUSANONE " has increased gradually from one year to the others. The other projects will be signed later.

It is the first time, when the Cultural Project has been approved. This cultural project worth of US\$ 62.719, was provided to Sophia University Angkor International Mission to improve the efficiency of works for the restoration of cultural heritage and the capacity of information processing. This project is to provide one crane and one surveying instrument to Sophia University Angkor International Mission. Other five projects had been signed on 28th February: the project to rehabilitate the irrigation system of Komping Puoy reservoir in Battambang Province, the project to construct school in Ang Khmao Primary school in Kompong Speu Province, the project to hold emergency feed preparation seminar in Svay Rieng Province, the project to support the regional center for Women and Children in Battambang Province and the project to rehabilitate the access road to Svay Khorm reservoir in Takeo Province.

It was reminded that, " KUSANONE " grant assistance started in Cambodia in 1992, in order to help Cambodia's reconstruction and development efforts at the grass roots level. According to the Embassy's Press Release, up to present, a total amount of nearly US\$ 9 million has been provided by the Government of Japan through " KUSANONE " to assist 177 international and local NGOs or local authorities' projects, especially in the education and health sectors.