

**Brief Remarks by H.E. Mr. Yoshitaka HANADA, Ambassador of Japan,
at the Signing Ceremony of the “*The Project for Construction of
Wheelchair Fabrication Studio in Dili*”**

21 March, 2013

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good afternoon,

It is my great pleasure to be here today to celebrate the completion of the wheelchair fabrication studio here.

The Government of Timor-Leste has been implementing Community Based Rehabilitation Project for supporting the people with disabilities at community levels in order to respond to their needs in more efficient and at grass-roots manner. Taking this into account, the Government of Japan is very pleased to cooperate with the local NGO ASSERT who has been actively engaged in improving the quality of life of people with disabilities.

The Government of Japan has been implementing various projects since last 10 years, Timor-Leste's independence. Although the projects implemented by the Government of Japan have been covering various sectors, all projects have consistent objective to lead all people of Timor-Leste into making their own bright future. I believe that inclusive participation to the society is essential and crucial in order to achieve this objective. The Government of Japan strongly desire that all people of Timor-Leste including people with disabilities are able to get benefit from our diplomatic interaction between the Government of Japan and the Government of Timor-Leste.

The Embassy has learnt that although ASSERT has been an only organization fabricating wheelchairs for the people with disabilities, they could not demonstrate their manufacturing capacity because they had not have enough facilities to organize the assembly line of wheelchair fabrication.

Now, we are delighted to see that this newly constructed wheelchair fabrication studio, is going to provide suitable environment for ASSERT to perform to their utmost capacity. With the rehabilitated facility, ASSERT will be able to fabricate two to three wheelchair per week. I hope that the wheelchair, which will fabricate here, can be delivered as many as possible to the people in need and each wheelchair will become the symbol of close friendship between people of Timor-Leste and Japan.

Furthermore, the Government of Japan already decided to assign a prosthetic technical expert to ASSERT from this July. I sincerely hope that both projects will contribute to people with disabilities in Timor-Leste and extend their social participation through effective harmonization of both projects.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to ASSERT for their dedication and tireless efforts in implementing this project. Without such efforts, the project would not have been made possible. I am delighted to be here today and to share your accomplishment and joy.

Thank you very much.

(End)