

Brief Remarks by H.E. Mr. Yoshitaka HANADA, Ambassador of Japan, at the
Signing Ceremonies of 4 GGP projects

12th September 2012

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning /Good afternoon,

It is my great pleasure to be here today to address the signing ceremony of the Grant Contracts with 4 Timorese NGOs under Japan's Grant Assistant for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP).

The GGP projects aim at assisting NGOs and local public authorities in developing countries in responding to various development needs in a prompt and flexible manner with a relatively small size of budget. The 4 projects which we will sign later will contribute to the 4 different sectors at the grass-roots level, namely, agriculture, health, education and welfare. The geographical distribution of the projects is well considered into account as they locate in the 4 different districts across the country, namely, Covalima, Ermera, Dili and Oecussi. Japan's total assistance for the projects amounts over US\$ 360,000.

The Embassy of Japan has been supporting the grass-roots projects in Timor-Leste through GGP scheme. All GGP projects are targeted on 3 priority areas set out by Japan's "Country Assistance Policy", namely, Establishing Foundation for Promoting Economic Activities, Agriculture and Rural Development and Capacity Development of Government and Public Sector. Moreover they are designed to support the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) of Timor-Leste. Over the last 5 years since 2007, more than 25 projects have been implemented in many districts, providing water supply systems, irrigation systems, school buildings and other small-scale infrastructures.

As the year 2012 marked the 10th anniversary of the Restoration of Independence, I sincerely congratulate the Government and people of Timor-Leste for their achievements of development in the past decade. I am also very happy that the diplomatic relations between Timor-Leste and Japan marked the 10th anniversary as well.

During the past 10 years, the friendship and cooperation between our two countries have steadily grown. Japan is firmly determined to walk together with Timor-Leste towards your development goals for another next 10years.

I sincerely hope that the 4 projects will contribute to a better life in the local communities and to further strengthening of the bonds and friendship between the two Peoples of Timor-Leste and Japan for the next 10 years.

Thank you very much

(End)