

Remarks by H.E. Mr. Yoshitaka Hanada, Ambassador of Japan to Timor-Leste, On the occasion of the Exchange of Notes (E/N) Signing Ceremony for the *“Project for Construction of Upriver Comoro Bridge (Detailed Design)”*

(On April 4th, 2014, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Dili)

H.E. Mr. Constancio da Conceicao Pinto, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation,
(Members of the Government,)
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

It is my great pleasure to be here with all of you today to sign the Exchange of Notes for the “Project for Construction of Upriver Comoro Bridge (Detailed Design)”.

The Government of Japan, in aligning with the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) by the Government of Timor-Leste, set as priority area, especially putting emphasis on “Establishing Foundation for Promoting Economic Activities” which includes the construction of Roads and Bridges.

As many of you are well aware, the traffic and population in Dili have increased overwhelmingly with the rapid development of the country and are anticipated to be beyond the capacity of the present roads and bridges.

Especially, access roads to the west from Dili would be seriously important with anticipated heavy traffic by the development of the International Airport and Sea port of Tibar in the near future. However there is only one bridge crossing the Comoro River now, and it is concerned that the city function of Dili would be paralyzed by the heavy traffic congestion. For this reason, it is indispensable to construct a new bridge over the Comoro River to

ease the traffic.

By signing the E/N today, the Government of Japan provides reliable detailed design to construct new beautiful, high quality bridge. At the completion of the project, you will find a modern and heavy duty bridge will merit promoting safe and effective transportation of the goods and people. The people will also enjoy walking across the river.

The Government of Japan is fully committed to completing this project in a timely and appropriate manner through close coordination and cooperation with the Timorese counterparts and stakeholders.

I sincerely hope this new bridge would be a new symbol of Dili and the friendship of the people of Timor-Leste and Japan.

Thank you very much for your attention.

*The population growth rate in Dili is 4.1% per annum based on the census, is challenge to solution. Currently the population of Dili, 234,026 people, which is 2010 census population, is about 20% of the total population of Timor-Leste. In 2020, the population of the city is predicted to exceed 30% of the total population.