

**Brief Remarks by H.E. Mr. Yoshitaka HANADA,
Ambassador of Japan, at the Signing Ceremony of 3 GGP
projects**

23 October, 2013

Ladies and Gentlemen,

H.E. Mr. Fernando Lasama de Araujo, Vice-Prime Minister

H.E. Mr. Jacinto Rigoberto, Vice Minister for Social Solidarity

H.E. Mr. Elias Pereira Moniz, Secretary of State for Water and Urban Development

It is my great pleasure to be here today to speak at the signing ceremony of the Grant Contracts with 3 national NGOs under Japan's Grant Assistant for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP).

These 3 projects are expected to contribute agricultural development and to improve water and sanitation sectors at the grass-roots level.

The Government of Japan has listened to the voice of the people of Timor-Leste in rural areas and deepened our understanding of the customs and livelihood. Because the Government of Japan recognized the strong needs among the people of Timor-Leste for water supply, we have already provided 17 water supply projects in 8 districts. Adding these 3 projects, which we sign today, marks our 20th project. This shows how the people of Timor-Leste have been longing for the access to safe and clean water in rural areas. I hope new 3 water supply systems will be a driving force to empower the communities to improve their own livelihood.

On this occasion, let me express my sincere gratitude to H.E. Mr. Fernando Lasama de Araujo, Vice Prime Minister who took strong initiative for coordinating the project in Lautem District. Thanks to his effort, we can hold a signing ceremony for the water supply projects. To conclude, let me express my gratitude again for all attendees to celebrate this signing ceremony. I hope our close cooperation and friendship will further be strengthened.

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