

Brief remarks by Mr. Toshihide Kawasaki on behalf of Ambassador of Japan to Timor-Leste at the inauguration ceremony of Construction of Irrigation Channel in Meligo Village, Cailaco Sub-district, Bobonaro District

30 January, 2014

Good morning,

It is my great pleasure to be here today to celebrate the completion of “*The Project for Construction of Irrigation Channel in Meligo Village, Cailaco Sub-district, Bobonaro District*”.

Since 2000, the Government of Japan has been working earnestly to reflect the voice of the people of Timor-Leste in rural areas and deepened our understanding of the customs and livelihood through Grant Assistant for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP). This is the first time for the Government of Japan to implement GGP project in Bobonaro district, and I am glad to share my joyfulness with all of you in this memorable inauguration ceremony.

With the grant, 1.2 kilometers of irrigation channel have constructed by Organization Haburas Moris with close cooperation with the community. Now, 7 agricultural cooperation groups with 210 farmers will receive agricultural water sustainably. New constructed irrigation channel will provide agricultural water even in the dry season. We are very glad this project has a direct and significant impact on the improvement of the livelihood of farmers and extend its effect to all of members of this community. We hope that irrigation channel will be used for a long time with proper maintenance by the community and remembered as a symbol of friendship between our people of Japan and Timor-Leste.

Lastly but not least, let me express my sincere gratitude to Ms. Rince Nipu, Director of Organization Haburas Moris to accomplish this project. I hope our close cooperation and friendship will further be strengthened.

Thank you very much.

(End)