

**Brief Remarks by Mr. Toshihide KAWASAKI, Charge d'
affaires, at the Signing Ceremony of 2 GGP projects**

7 March, 2014

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Bondia,

It is my great pleasure to be here today to attend the signing ceremony of the Grant Contracts with 2 national NGOs under Japan's Grant Assistant for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP). The Government of Japan has already provided 48 projects since 2007, and adding these 2 projects, which we sign today, marks our remarkable 50th project of GGP. The school building project in Fuloro in Lautem District, which was proposed by NGO Amor Foundation, will be our 6th project of the educational sector. We have already built 5 schools in Lautem, Liquica, Oecusse, Covalima Districts, and currently the construction is underway in Manleuana in Dili. For the agricultural sector, it will be our 8th project as we sign today, to be implemented by NGO ALEBAO in Oesilo, Oecusse District. We have already provided 7 irrigation channels with the aim of increasing rice productivities in Covalima, Oecusse, Manufahi, Bobonaro and Ainaro Districts.

This school building project in Lospalos is expected to improve educational environment for the junior high school students. The irrigation project in Oesilo is to improve the current conditions of the agricultural sector.

The Government of Japan is focusing on especially basic of Timor-Leste education for children. We agree with the Ministry of Education of Timor-Leste that it is necessary to expand the capacity of schools in order to enroll a larger number of students urgently. In addition, I consider that economic cooperation in the educational sector is significant for Timor-Leste to sustain the next decades. I hope this school building construction project will provide the proper learning environment for the students.

On the other hand, the Government of Japan also considers that promoting the agricultural area is one of most important elements in Timor-Leste, as we have set “Agricultural and Rural Development” is one of our “Country Assistance Policy” for Timor-Leste, which also meets the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) of the Government of Timor-Leste.

To conclude, let me express my gratitude for all attendees to celebrate this signing ceremony. I sincerely hope that these 2 projects by the 2 NGOs will contribute to improve the life of communities. I hope our close cooperation and friendship will further be strengthened.

Thank you very much.

(End)