

**Remarks by Mr. Toshihide Kawasaki, Counselor of Embassy of Japan in
Timor-Leste
Ini the Occasion of Ground Breaking Ceremony of “Project of River
Training for the Protection of Mola Bridge”. Thursday, July 3, 2014**

H.E. Sr. Eng. Gastao Francisco de Sousa, Minister for Public Works,
(VIP names)
Members of the Government,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning. It is my great pleasure to be with you all today in this beautiful town of Zumalai and to attend this auspicious occasion of the Grand Breaking ceremony of the “Project of River Training for the Protection of Mola Bridge”.

The Government of Japan, in aligning with the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) of Timor-Leste, and from the perspective of stability and prosperity in Timor-Leste, set 3 priority areas of “Establishing Foundation for Promoting Economic Activities”, “Agriculture and Rural Development” and “Capacity Development of Government and Public Sector”. With this policy, the Government of Japan together with private sector, as “All Japan,” has been sincerely contributing to overseas infrastructure and economic development with its high level technology and know-how as a development partner.

The biggest obstacle to the development of Timor-Leste is fragile conditions of infrastructure including roads and bridges. The Mola Bridge that spans in Zumalai Sub-District in Covalima District is in the middle of the main road from Suai to Dili. The bridge constructed during the Indonesian time and was rehabilitated. Even after the rehabilitation, the bridge has been exposed to the risk of seasonal floods.

In order to consolidate the safety of the bridge and improve the community people, the Government of Japan has decided with close coordination with the Government of Timor-Leste to assist this important bridge, which has broader implications for national development and prosperity. Mola Bridge will allow

the community to have better access to education, healthcare and markets across the river. The bridge will also enable to manage traffic heavy traffic and secure smoother transportation of goods, hence will benefit the economic and social development of Covalima District and Timor-Leste as whole.

I still remember that Timor-Leste, especially Covalima District had been severely affected by serious flood last year. Human security is one of important area of Japanese Government. I am extremely happy in this regard to be able to announce the launch of this project today that will no doubt increase sustainability of the bridge, hence improve resilience against adverse natural conditions for the safety of the people.

I hope that the people of Timor-Leste will enjoy the improvement of the Economic and Social development through this project as a symbol of friendship between people of two countries and also from the Human Security point of view, this project could mitigate natural disaster and normalize the floods route which affected to the villagers who live surrounding the Mola River so that the villagers can living safety from floods.

Once again, let me express my sincere gratitude especially to Mr. _____ and to the people of Zumalai for your welcome and hospitality to attend this ceremony.

Thank you very much for your attention.

(End)