

**Brief Remarks by H.E. Mr. Yoshitaka Hanada, Ambassador of Japan,
on the Occasion of the Inauguration Ceremony of Water Supply
Systems in Hera Village**

21st December 2012

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning,

It is my great pleasure to be here today to celebrate the completion of “*The Project for Improvement of Water Supply System in Hera Village*”. I am very pleased that through this project, the Government of Japan is contributing to rural development in Timor-Leste which is one of the priority areas of Japanese assistance to this country. To support the project, the Government of Japan provided SOHA FITUN, a local NGO, with US\$99,316 under the Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP).

With the Japanese grant, SOHA FITUN has constructed two water supply systems in four Sub-villages of Hera Village, Cristo-Rei Sub-district, Dili District. By improving the water supply systems, it is expected that the project contributes for more than 4,000 people. In close cooperation with the community and SOHA FITUN had completed the project; however, it is not the end but in fact, it is the beginning of the project where the villagers are expected to take good care of the water supply systems and maintain themselves through water association.

The project will enhance awareness about sanitation and hygiene among the villagers and reduce the number of patients getting several diseases as a result of the shortage of clean water, while the improved access to clean water near the seashore will also free fishermen in Hera Village from long hours of toils trying to get fresh water. Thus, the project is expected to improve health conditions of the community and vitalizes the fishery industry in the community.

I would like to express my heartfelt thank you to SOHA FITUN, the

government officials concerned and the people in the community for their concerted efforts to complete this project. I sincerely hope that the project will contribute to the development of the community in the long term and I am looking forward to working with you all in our future projects and further strengthen the bonds of friendship between the people of Japan and Timor-Leste.

Thank you very much

(End)