

Speech by Mr. Fumihiko NISHI,
Chief Advisor of JICA Project,
At the occasion of the Opening Ceremony of the Training of Trainers for
Cambodian 2008 Population Census
3 December 2007

Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to deliver a speech here. First of all, let me introduce myself. I am F. Nishi. In Japan, I am a government official and work for Statistical Research and Training Institute, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. I come to Cambodia every three months as a chief advisor of JICA project. So, I now work for two Statistical Institutes in both Cambodia and Japan.

I am really happy to have an opening ceremony here. I would like to let you know that many people, commencing with H.E. Mr. San Sy Than, Director General of NIS, Resident Representative of JICA Cambodia Office, and Director General of Statistics Bureau of Japan, have made great efforts for a long time in order to support the Census. Therefore, I really would like to make the Census successful.

I would like to introduce you that the Government of Japan provides around 50% of the Census cost and some Japanese technical advisors, and will support the Census until Oct. 2010.

The Japanese technical advisors for the Census, commencing with DR. Inoue who was the former Director of Population Division, United Nations HQ, consist of university professors, the former Director Generals of Statistics Bureau of Japan, and so on. Therefore, I am confident that JICA Project has been providing the same high level and intensive contents as that of Japan.

I hope you will learn new knowledge as much as possible through this training, and contribute to improve the Census.

As we all know, most of official statistics are based on the Census. That is, the quality of official statistics depends on the Census very much. In addition, there is correlation between level of nation and quality of official statistics, because official statistics are often utilized for national policy making. It means that, if you contribute to improve the Census, Cambodia will be developed more quickly.

Finally, I would like to conclude my speech by expressing my sincere gratitude to NIS and Ministry of Planning.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.