

Handover Ceremony of Thakhek Water Supply Development Project

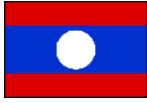
Supported by Japanese Government

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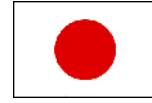
Khammouane Province, 2nd March 2016-New Water Supply System of Thakhek district was officially handed over by H.E. Mr. Takeshi Hikihara, Ambassador of Japan to the Lao PDR, to Khammouane province. The ceremony was attended by H.E. Mr. Lattanamany Khounnivong, Vice Minister of Public Works and Transport, H.E. Mr. Odai soudaphone, Governor of Khammouane Province, H.E. Mr. Takeshi Hikihara, Ambassador of Japan to the Lao PDR, Ms. Saeda Makimoto, Senior Representative, JICA Lao Office and other officials. Japan concluded the Exchange of Notes of Thakhek water supply development project in March 2013, provided a grant of 1.64 billion Japanese Yen [equivalent to 16.1 million US dollar at the exchange rate at the time of E/N signing].



Before this project started, the water supply coverage rate in Thakhek was no more than 50%, and there has been problems of deterioration in the quality of underground water and water shortage during dry season. With the progress of the urban development, securing steady supply of safe water was a top priority in this area.



Press release
The Embassy of Japan to the Lao PDR



Through this project, a new water treatment plant with a capacity of 15,000 cubic meters (m³) per day was constructed; 2 water storage tanks and water pipelines stretching over 14.8 kilometers (km) were installed. By March this year, technical staffs will complete their training to acquire skills and knowledge for operating and maintaining the new water treatment plant, as well as managing the water distribution system.

In his speech, Ambassador Hikihara stated “by the year 2020, nearly 50,000 residents in Thakhek district will have access to the potable water, which is more than double that in 2010. This water supply system will contribute significantly to achieving the Lao government goal of supplying 80% of the population in urban area with safe water. I am sincerely glad that Japan has played significant role in socio-economic development of the Lao PDR”

Japan has been engaged with the socio-economic development of the Lao PDR for many years. Last November, Prime Minister Abe pledged a concessional loan of about 10.3 billion yen [approximately 90 million USD at current exchange rate] for a Vientiane Capital Water Supply Expansion Project at the meeting with H.E. Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong in Kuala Lumpur November 2015 on the margins of ASEAN meetings. From 1994 to 2000, Japan has implemented the “Project for Reconstruction of Bridges on National Road Route 13 South” amounting to 10.1 billion Japanese Yen [approximately 90 million US dollar] and concluded the Exchange of Notes of “Greater Mekong Power Network Development Project” in March 2005, provided a concessional loan of about 3.3 billion Japanese Yen [equivalent to 32 million US dollar].

Ambassador concluded by mentioning “This project is based on the framework of quality infrastructure partnership which Japan is developing in Asia region”. He continued saying that “Japan will continue to further strengthen this partnership with the Lao PDR and further enhance cooperation for the socio-economic development of the Lao PDR.”