



**Press Release**  
Embassy of Japan in the Lao PDR



18 March 2016

**Send-off Reception for  
16 Japanese Scholarship (MEXT) Students**

On 18 March 2016, the Embassy of Japan held the Send-off Reception at the Japanese ambassador's residence for 16 Lao students who will study in Japan on the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, Japan (MEXT) Scholarship.

During the past 20 years, the Japanese Government has received more than 950 Lao students to study in Japan on various scholarships such as MEXT, JDS, YLP and so on. This year, 16 students (two for doctoral courses, five for master's degrees, eight for Colleges of Technology and one for a specialized training college) were awarded MEXT scholarships.

H.E. Mr. Takeshi Hikiyara, Ambassador of Japan to the Lao PDR, emphasized in his remarks the importance of seeing the real Japan through their own eyes and talking directly with Japanese people as well as studying their specialized areas. The Ambassador added that studying abroad, may be challenging because of language and the culture new to the students, but, this would be a good opportunity to grow up on their own and he expressed his wish that they would become a bridge of mutual understanding and empathy between Laos and Japan.

Following the Ambassador's remarks, Mr. Chanphasouk Vidavong, a representative of the students, who will be taking a Doctoral course in Social Science in the field of economics at Nagoya University, expressed his appreciation to the Japanese Government and expressed his determination to study hard in Japan.

The reception was attended by H.E. Dr. Ponmek Dalaloy, President of the Lao-Japan Friendship Association, H.E. Mrs. Sengdeuane Lachanthaboun, Vice-Minister of Education and Sports, Alumni of Laos and other officials from related organizations. (End)