

Vientiane Capital, March 10, 2016
Embassy of Japan

Japan Funds School Expansion and Reconstruction Projects

VIENTIANE, March 10, 2016 – The Japanese Government provided grant assistance worth 768,058 US dollars (about 6.3 billion Kip) to expand or reconstruct school buildings at nine schools in Vientiane Capital, Oudomxay, Sayabouly, Houaphan, Vientiane and Savannakhet Provinces, through its Grant-in-Aid Scheme for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGPs).

On March 10, 2016, grant contracts for nine GGP projects in education were signed at the Ministry of Education and Sports in Vientiane Capital between H.E. Mr. Takeshi Hikihara, Ambassador of Japan to the Lao PDR, and seven Directors of the Education and Sports Offices, representing the respective capital, provinces and districts, while Y. E. Madam Sengdeuane Lachanthaboun, Acting Minister of Education and Sports, and other officials witnessed.

The first four projects are for the expansion of school buildings at the Namsang Secondary School in Vientiane Capital, the Kasi Secondary School in Vientiane Province, Punglak Secondary School in Vientiane Province and the Beukthong Secondary School in Savannakhet Province. At these schools, the number of students is expected to increase while classrooms are already overcrowded. Therefore, the projects aim to improve the educational environment by constructing one to two additional blocks of four to six fully furnished classrooms and some block of toilets. As a result, the average number of students per class will decline at each school respectively.

The other five projects are for the reconstruction of school buildings at the Phangthong Lower Secondary School in Oudomxay Province, the Nabouwam Primary School in Sayabouly Province, the Namxong Secondary School in Sayabouly Province, the Chefai Lower Secondary School in Houaphan Province and the Nathom Primary School in Savannakhet Province. At these schools, the conditions of school buildings are poor, being run down, and classes are sometimes disrupted by rain and wind. Therefore, the projects aim to improve the educational environment by constructing a block of four to six fully furnished classrooms and a block of toilets.

Through these nine projects, a total of about 5,000 school students will enjoy the benefits of an improved educational environment.

In his remarks, Ambassador Hikihara emphasized, “It is critically important that the benefits of the projects should be enjoyed by people in the respective local communities as this is the most significant characteristic of GGPs.” He continued, “Japan attaches great importance to basic education as a foundation for development. Through this GGP scheme, Japan has funded 276 education projects since 1989, including 171 primary schools and 55 lower and upper secondary schools”.