

FORWARD

Around 60-70 million antipersonnel landmines are said to be buried around the world, though their exact number is unknown. It is said that the first mines were buried in Cambodia in 1967 during the Vietnam War. After that, the conflict in Cambodia continued for about 20 years until the final agreement was signed at the Paris Conference on Cambodia. Years of conflict have made Cambodia one of the countries with the largest number of buried mines in the world.

Demining activities in Cambodia started when the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) established the Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) in 1992. The country signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Convention) in December 3, 1997 and ratified it on July 28, 1999. The Convention requires each of its member states “to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible but not later than ten years after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party”, requiring that mines buried underground be disposed of within 10 years.

CMAC has implemented a test of metal detectors in 2004. CMAC hopes for the development of a (hand-held type) mine detector with more sophisticated features than the metal detectors based on the test results and the characteristics of the metal detectors.

Therefore, in the conditions the Royal Government of Cambodia requested the Government of Japan to contribute to land mine clearance, and the Government of Japan decided to extend a grant aid to the Royal Government of Cambodia for “THE PROJECT FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF MINE CLEARANCE RELATED EQUIPMENT IN ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA (hereinafter “Project”). The Project started on March 17, 2006 and ended at March 31, 2007 with the cooperating of Cambodian Mine Action Centre (hereinafter “CMAC”) on the basis of the requirements from extended to the Government of Japan.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the officials concerned of the Government of Japan, the Royal Government of Cambodia, CMAC and all participants in the Project.

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