

# Cambodian king's visit

## 'Tokio' makes first visit as king

His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, the king of Cambodia, pays a state visit to Japan from May 16 to 20, following the invitation of the government of Japan, to further strengthen the friendly relations between Japan and Cambodia.

The occasion of the state visit of the king of Cambodia reflects the highest esteem accorded to the diplomatic relations between both countries, which dates back to 1953. It also commemorates the 55th anniversary of the Japan-Cambodia Treaty of Amity, signed in 1955.

During his stay in Japan, the king will make a state call on the Emperor Akihito and

Empress Michiko, who will host a state banquet in honor of the king on May 17.

The king is also scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, who will host a lunch in honor of the king on May 18.

Japan and Cambodia established diplomatic relations in January 1953. In 2008, to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the relationship, the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Embassy of Japan in Cambodia established a joint committee, and designated the year as the Cambodia-Japan Friendship Year 2008. During the year, 55 commemorative events were held.

Coincidentally, the king

was born in 1953. King Norodom Sihamoni is the eldest son of King Norodom Sihanouk and his sixth wife, Norodom Monineath Sihanouk. As his birthday May 14 was exactly the date on which his father returned to Phnom Penh from his visit to Japan, King Norodom Sihamoni was nicknamed 'Tokio.' For Japan, King Norodom Sihamoni's father's visit to the Imperial Palace was the first by an Asian king after World War II.

Following independence from France on Nov. 9, 1953, Cambodia announced in 1954 that it renounced the right of the state to ask for compensation for damages caused by the invasion of the Japanese Army in Cambodia during the

World War II.

In 1955, during the visit to Japan of King Norodom Sihanouk, the House of Representatives passed a resolution of thankfulness for Cambodia's renouncement of compensation. The Japan-Cambodia Treaty of Amity was then signed by King Norodom Sihanouk and Foreign Minister Aoi Shigemitsu. The prime minister at the time was Ichiro Hatoyama, the grandfather of Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama.

King Norodom Sihamoni spent his childhood from 1962 to 1975 in Prague, where he got his basic education, studied classical dance, ballet and music. He is fluent in French, Czech, English and Russian.

After studying filmmaking in North Korea from 1975 to 1977, he returned to his homeland and was put under arrest by the ruling Khmer Rouge with the rest of the royal family until 1979.

In 1981, he moved to France, and lived there for nearly 20 years, teaching ballet and then becoming president of the Khmer Dance Association. In 1993, he was appointed Cambodia's delegate to UNESCO and became known for his hard work and his devotion to Cambodian culture.

In 2004, after the surprise abdication of his father, a special nine-member throne council selected him as the successor. Endorsed by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and National Assembly Speaker Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the new king's half brother, King Norodom Sihamoni was inaugurated and formally anointed on Oct. 29, 2004.

In 2008, King Norodom Sihamoni selected 26 members of the Cambodian royal family to his advisory court.

This is the first visit to Japan for King Norodom Sihamoni after his enthronement in 2004. After staying in Tokyo, he will visit Kyoto on May 19.



His Majesty: King Norodom Sihamoni greets villagers during the annual royal plowing ceremony near Bayon Temple in the famed Angkor complex in Siem Reap Province, about 320 km north of Phnom Penh, on May 2. AP

## Cambodia, ASEAN grateful for Japanese aid

The Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) and Japan have enjoyed healthy relations since the bloc's formal establishment in March 1977. Significant progress has been made and cooperation has broadened and deepened, covering political, security, economic and financial, and social and cultural areas.

The economic interdependency between Japan and ASEAN has been firm as a result of long years of trade, investment and the movement of people. Besides Japan's official development assistance (ODA) for infrastructure improvement as well as for human resource development, Japanese private investment, the largest for ASEAN, undoubtedly con-

tributes a great deal to the bloc's economic integration.

Cambodia is among the Mekong countries which form part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and is drawing international attention for its growth potential with various infrastructure projects under way for freer cross-border flow of goods and people. At the same time, Cambodia has been cited for its efforts to create a better investment environment for foreign businesses.

Following the Paris Peace Agreement in 1991, the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia led by Japan monitored the first-ever general election in Cambodia in 1993, leading to the restoration of the constitutional monarchy. Japan has

played an essential role in attempting to bring peace, reconstruction and socioeconomic progress to Cambodia.

Ranking as the biggest ODA donor, Japan has provided substantial financial and technical assistance every year to Cambodia, aiming at rehabilitating and rebuilding the country's physical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, ports, power supply systems and water treatment facilities, hospitals and schools, among others.

Japan has also continued to provide annual scholarships and conduct capacity building programs for Cambodian civil servants and students, which will contribute to human resource development in Cambodia.

On regional and subregion-

al cooperation fronts, Cambodia has benefited greatly from Japan's active engagement in the frameworks of the ASEAN-Japan Dialogue Partnership, the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the East Asia Summit (EAS), the Mekong River Commission (MRC), the Greater Mekong Subregion Cooperation (GMS), the Cambodia-Laos-Vietnam Development Triangle and the newly established Japan-Mekong Cooperation framework.

As a member of ASEAN and the Mekong subregion, Cambodia has been very active and has made significant contributions to maintaining peace and stability as well as narrowing the development gaps in the region. In October, Cambodia

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## A 'bridge of the heart' between Japan, Cambodia

Tsuyoshi Saito  
CHAIRMAN,  
JAPAN-CAMBODIA PARLIAMENTARIANS'  
FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE OF THE  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF JAPAN

On behalf of the Japan-Cambodia Parliamentarians' Friendship League of the DPJ, I wholeheartedly welcome the visit of the dear king of Cambodia, His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, to Japan.



Cambodia went through the tragedy of a civil war from the 1970s to the early 1990s, suffering casualties of some million people. The country has overcome it and made a remarkable comeback to the international community due to strenuous efforts by the successive kings and other national leaders, and each and every person in Cambodia, which is impressive and which we respect.

Following the Paris Peace Agreement in 1991, Japan participated in the United Nations peacekeeping operation, dispatching Self-Defense Force personnel as well as civilian policemen and election observers to Cambodia. It was the first action for Japan to dispatch the Self-Defense Force to a foreign land, which was done only after heated debate. Seeing Cambodia now in peace and moving ahead, with H.M. Norodom Sihamoni as mainstay, makes me joyous and proud that Japan has helped the country to progress in that direction.

Japan is the largest bilateral assistance donor to Cambodia and I hear a large number of the Cambodian population have pro-Japanese sentiments. An increasing number of Japanese — as many as around 150,000 a year in recent years — visit Cambodia for tourism, especially to see the ruins of Angkor Wat, reducing the sense of distance between the

two countries. On the economic front, Japan and Cambodia concluded an investment agreement in 2008 and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) opened an office in Phnom Penh this March. I believe that Cambodia's progress contributes to the prosperity and stability beyond the Mekong area and ASEAN region to all of Asia.

This parliamentarians' league was established in April for members of the Diet, representatives of the Japanese people, to take the initiative in promoting exchanges with Cambodia and helping Cambodia's progress. There would be nothing happier for us than if our activities could contribute to friendship and cooperation between Japan and Cambodia and become a "bridge of the heart" between the two peoples.

Last but not least, we hope that King Norodom Sihamoni's visit to Japan will be fruitful.



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**Our warm and sincerest welcome to**  
*His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath*  
**NORODOM SIHAMONI, King of Cambodia,**  
*on the Occasion of State Visit to Japan from May 16th to 20th, 2010*

Respectful greetings from:

- H.E. Mr. Hor Monirath, Ambassador of Cambodia to Japan, and Madam Mr. Hideo Yamada, Honorary Consul of Cambodia in Osaka, and Spouse Mr. Seiki Takada, Honorary Consul of Cambodia in Nagoya, and Spouse Mr. Seiroku Takizawa, Honorary Consul of Cambodia in Sapporo, and Spouse Dr. Haruhisa Handa, Honorary Consul of Cambodia in Fukuoka**



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*on the Occasion of State Visit to Japan*  
*from May 16th to 20th, 2010*

- Respectful greetings from:  
**Japan-Cambodia Friendship Association**  
**Mr. Tetsuo Kitamura, Chief Executive Officer**  
**Mr. Tadasu Kikuchi, Vice President**  
**Asia School Attendance Partnership**  
**Mr. Yasutoshi Hasegawa, President**  
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Awe-inspiring: A number of stone faces decorate the many towers of Bayon, a 12th-century Khmer temple that stands at the center of Angkor Thom. KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA MINISTRY OF TOURISM

## Economic, trade relations developing steadily

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

hosted the Second Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Siem Reap, where the ministers held in-depth discussions on various issues of common interest, including the progress and the future direction of the Mekong-Japan cooperation, in the spirit of friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation to further promote Mekong-Japan cooperation for the sake of peace, development and prosperity in the Mekong region.

In a speedy movement of mutual trust and cooperation, the five Mekong countries — the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet-

nam — and Japan held the first-ever Japan-Mekong summit in Tokyo on Nov. 6-7, 2009, which was attended by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen. This summit demonstrated the strong conviction and political commitment of the leaders of the Mekong countries and Japan to develop, expand and strengthen the Mekong-Japan partnership and cooperation to the highest level.

The economic and trade relations between the Cambodia and Japan have developed steadily. The governments of Cambodia and Japan signed the Agreement for the Liberalization, Promotion and Protection of Investment in June 2007, which aims to promote investment and strengthen economic relations between the two coun-

tries. The signing of this agreement marked a new phase of strong ties and mutual conviction where both countries will endeavor to further strengthen the bilateral relationship and address regional and global challenges together.

Japanese investment in Cambodia ranks relatively low at 12th among the largest international investors in Cambodia. According to Council for the Development of Cambodia data for 2009, Japanese investment in the kingdom dropped 39 percent to \$4.76 million in 2009, from \$7.82 million in 2008. As of December 2009, registered capital investment from Japan was \$24.65 million, representing 0.47 percent of Cambodia's total registered capital. Cur-

rently, a number of leading companies from Japan are investing in Cambodia.

Besides the bilateral agreement, all ASEAN member countries had concluded with Japan the regional agreement, the ASEAN-Japan comprehensive economic partnership (AJCEP), which came into force in December.

In terms of foreign tourists, Cambodia attracted about 2.18 million visitors in 2009, representing a 2 percent increase over 2008. Of the total in 2009, more than 146,000 came from Japan, ranking fourth among foreign tourists to Cambodia. These visits have contributed enormously to strengthening the mutual understanding and friendship between the nations and the people.

## ASEAN-Japan Center helps strengthen ties

The ASEAN-Japan Center, formally known as the ASEAN Promotion Center on Trade, Investment and Tourism, was established in 1981 by an agreement between ASEAN and Japan to embody the Fukuda Doctrine (1977), which emphasized the three basic principles of Japanese diplomatic policy

toward Southeast Asia, including the significance of heart-to-heart understanding between the two parties.

The ASEAN-Japan Center has focused on meeting the changing needs and requirements of ASEAN member countries and will continue to evolve its broad range of ac-

tivities through the elements of trust and dialogue. Toward this mission, the ASEAN-Japan Center has maintained an active role in promoting exports from ASEAN to Japan, accelerating the inflow of investment from Japan to ASEAN, including the transfer of skills and technology,

and vitalizing tourist traffic from Japan to ASEAN through close cooperation between Japan and ASEAN member countries.

Marking its 29th anniversary this year, it has been continuously implementing various programs, such as the organization of exhibitions and seminars, dispatch and invitation of missions and experts, capacity building programs and distribution of publications, among others.

Serving as a bridge between ASEAN and Japan, the center will continue to deepen and diversify its programs and activities, as well as devote its efforts to further strengthening its mutual relationship with ASEAN countries and Japan.

## Cambodian weaving creates unique textiles

Silk weaving in Cambodia has a long history. The practice dates to as early as the first century and textiles were used in trade during Angkorian times. Even modern textile production shows traces of these historical antecedents: Motifs found on silk today often echo clothing details on ancient stone sculptures.

Weavers today form sophisticated patterns of birds and flowers, mythical and realistic, often depicting Khmer tales, scenes from Angkor Wat, and the life of Lord Buddha. They produce a style of intricately patterned and dyed silk called *Kha Bang Neang Sok Kra Ob*.

There are two main types of Cambodian weaving. The *ikat* technique (Khmer: *Chong Kiet*), which produces patterned fabric, is quite complex. To create patterns, weavers tie and dye portions of weft yarn before weaving begins. The second weaving technique, unique to Cambodia, is called "uneven twill." It yields single or two-color fabrics, which are produced by weaving three threads so that the color of one thread dominates on one side of the fabric, while the two others determine the color on the reverse.

Natural dyes made from plants are traditionally used. Red comes from lac insect nests, blue from indigo, yellow and green from prohut bark, purple

from violets, and black from ebony bark.

Designs incorporate images of flowers, animals, peacocks, crowns, jewels, and other motifs inspired by the Angkor era, or handed down from previous generations.

The first technique involves wrapping strands of raw silk on to a frame and then tying the strands with banana-leaf threads into patterns. The silk is removed, dyed and remounted on the frame to be retied for the other colors in the pattern, up to five times. Base color silk is strung lengthwise on to the loom. The dyed threads are the wefts, the crosswise threads, woven into the pattern originally created by the tie-dyeing process.

It takes a week to string the warp threads onto the loom and a week to weave a length of silk for a sarong. Various silk products include checkered sarong and *sampot* worn at home, patterned *hol* and *phamuong* worn on formal occasions, furnishings decorated for informal and formal ceremonies, and *pidan* (pictorial tapestries) used as household decorations.

Cambodia's modern silk-weaving centers providing employment for many rural women are Takeo, Battambang, Beanteay Meanchey, Siem Reap and Kampong provinces.

For more information, visit [www.mot.gov.kh/](http://www.mot.gov.kh/)



Ancient motifs: Modern Cambodian silk textile works show traces of Angkorian times. KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA MINISTRY OF TOURISM



National pride: Angkor Wat, a temple complex built in the 12th century, has long been a symbol of the Kingdom of Cambodia, depicted on the country's flag, and a World Heritage site. KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA MINISTRY OF TOURISM



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to

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*Respectfully welcomed by  
the Honorary Consulate of  
the Kingdom of Cambodia in Fukuoka and  
its Honorary Consul Dr. Haruhisa Handa*



The Honorary Consulate of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Fukuoka, after completing its first year, is honored to have developed the following activities.

- ❖ Visa issuance
- ❖ Promotion of Japanese tourism according to the agreement between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Honorary Consulate of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Fukuoka
- ❖ Organizing cultural events in Fukuoka to showcase Cambodian arts and culture
- ❖ Introduction of Cambodia to the young people in the Kyushu and Okinawa regions to promote their interest in building bridges between Japan and Cambodia



Haruhisa Handa  
Honorary Consul of  
the Kingdom of Cambodia  
in Fukuoka



## Honorary Consulate of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Fukuoka

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# Cambodian king's visit

## Learning from harmony, smiles

Dr. Penn Setharin  
NOVELIST AND REPRESENTATIVE,  
CULTURAL AID PROJECT  
FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA

I came to Japan 36 years ago as a Japanese government-sponsored foreign student, the first female Cambodian to do so. It was springtime when I arrived here. Wherever I went, many flowers were in bloom and people had a hopeful look. Just watching was soothing and I felt happy.



"It is an earthly paradise here," I wrote to my family who remained in war-torn Cambodia.

Such is written in my book, "I am a Dotted Zebra — A Cambodian Woman's Struggling Life in Japan," published in 1992 by Kodansha. Government-sponsored foreign students, who study hard to help lead their home countries, tend to feel heavy. For me, however, Japan seemed to be the future for Cambodia and always supplied me with tireless energy.

The Cambodian political situations was still unclear when I finished my master's program in 1981. So I decided to stay in Japan.

Thanks to the contribution of Japan and other countries, the peace agreement was signed in Paris in 1991, and King Norodom Sihanouk, the former head of state, returned to the throne. Cambodia took a step toward peace.

What shocked me, however, was that election observer Atsuhito Nakata and civilian policeman Haruyuki Takada, who both worked hard for peace, were killed in Cambodia. We Cambodians should never forget our gratitude to these two Japanese people and never waste their devotion. So

I got into writing and have kept sending messages about the value of life, humanity and peace to Cambodia.

In 12th-century Japan, Buddhist monks, who were pessimistic about the country's war-torn situation, compiled a number of good *setsu-wa* stories in order to guide people to kindness and gentleness. I came to think that the priority should be learning the traditional Japanese sense of *wa* (harmony), which led me to study Japanese classical literature.

Current King of Cambodia His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni was born on May 14, 1953, on which date his father King Norodom Sihanouk came back home from Japan after his trip for the independence movement. That is why he was nicknamed Tokyo. As a young prince, he was a popular icon in Cambodia, often performing in the

films produced by his father.

King Norodom Sihamoni is the symbol of the Cambodian smile and gentleness. I believe that His Majesty's sincere personality has the power to break the chain of hate among the Cambodian people, who bear the history of killing one another, and strengthen the chain of friendship with Japan and with other countries.

It has been 55 years since the Japan-Cambodia Treaty of Amity was concluded in 1955, but actually, the relations between the two countries date back even earlier, as the graffiti on the wall of Angkor Wat by the 17th-century Japanese samurai Morimoto Ukondayu attests.

Praying for the everlasting friendship between the two countries, I sincerely hope that Cambodians learn from the Japanese sense of harmony and that the Japanese learn from the Cambodian smile.

## Japan-Cambodia Treaty of Amity celebrates its 55th anniversary

The 55th anniversary celebration of the Japan-Cambodia Treaty of Amity took place May 5 at Hotel Sunlife Garden in Hiratsuka, Kanagawa Prefecture.

Co-hosted by the city of Hiratsuka, the event was organized by the Cambodian Community in Japan (CCJ), led by its president, Svay Chanrith, in the presence of the Ambassador of Cambodia Hor Monirath and Hiratsuka Mayor Ritsuko Okura.

"We, the members of the Cambodian Community in Japan, extend our hearty welcome to the King of Cambodia His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni's visit to Japan," said Isa Lisreng, director general of the CCJ.

The CCJ has held various cultural exchange events, aiming to serve as a bridge between Japan and Cambodia.

The Japan-Cambodia Treaty of Amity was concluded on Dec. 9, 1955. Commemorating the 55th anniversary, the event was held in the hopes of expanding and deepening the friendly relationship between the two countries.

The program included presentations on the history of Japan-Cambodia relations and traditional Cambodian and Japanese dance performances by artists from Cambodia as well as members of the community. One of the highlights was the performance of the song "Pel Reatreay" ("Lovers in Sunset") written and composed by former King Norodom Sihanouk, the current king's father, and sung by actor Bout Rithreath and singer and fashion model Un Alisa, who both traveled from Cambodia to join the event.

"We Cambodians in Japan shall keep our respect for the treaty and shall make further efforts for the friendship and peace between Japan and Cambodia," Isa Lisreng insisted.



'Oriental Mona Lisa': The stone devata deity smiles at Banteay Srei, a small Hindu temple in a forest 30 km northeast of Angkor. BAKU SAITO

## The curious tale of a stone statue, a Frenchman and temptation

The following is an excerpt from photographer Baku Saito's "The Mona Lisas of Angkor," published in 2002 by Kusanone Shuppankai:

"Among many devatas (deities), the especially famous one is in the Cambodian Hindu temple Banteay Srei, literally translated as the Citadel of Women. Constructed in the 10th century along the royal way from the Angkor Thom, the temple is built largely of red sandstone. Its elegant and sophisticated form is considered the model of the temple complex Angkor Wat.

In the late 19th century, France was advancing toward Indochine. Colonial expositions were held in Paris and Marseille and oriental taste became popular.

In October 1923, French author André Malraux went over to Cambodia with his wife, Clara, desperately prepared for seeking the rumored hidden treasure of Angkor. Banteay Srei had already been discovered in 1914, but as it was not legally registered yet, Malraux removed bas-reliefs, taking them out of the temple to Phnom Penh. On his return, he was arrested by French colonial authorities and was imprisoned in Saigon for 1½ years.

"This is a devata with such a story behind it. I fully understood how a hot-blooded young man had felt the temptation to remove the devata called the 'Oriental Mona Lisa,' which he had encountered in the middle of a Cambodian jungle. Malraux wrote the whole story in his novel 'La Voie royale' ('The Royal Way')."

**Safeguarding Angkor:** Japanese photographer Baku Saito was a member of the Japanese Government Team for Safeguarding Angkor (JSA). In 1995, he went to Cambodia, where he dedicated himself to photographing all the massive stone faces and various devatas for six years.

He has exhibited his works taken in Cambodia inside and outside Japan, including the exhibition "Devatas of Angkor — BAYON," in 1999 in Paris, organized by UNESCO and the JSA. Since 1994, Japan has been engaged in conservation and restoration activities for the World Heritage site through the JSA within the framework of the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust.

During the first and second phases of the project, more than 700 Japanese experts were dispatched to the site, where they worked with ap-

proximately 200 Cambodian staff to conserve and restore the site.



Friendship: The Cambodian Community in Japan celebrates the Japan-Cambodia Treaty of Amity on May 5. ISA LISRENG, CCJ

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from May 16th to 20th, 2010

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**Heartiest Welcome to His Majesty the King Norodom Sihamoni of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Congratulations on 55 years of the Japan-Cambodia Treaty of Amity**



**CAPSEA**

President: Dr. Penn Setharin  
General Secretary: Dr. Svay Leng  
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