

# Cambodia National Day Special

## Celebrating 68 years of independence and evolution

**UNG RACHANA**  
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY,  
PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE KINGDOM OF  
CAMBODIA TO JAPAN



Preah Borom Ratanak Kaudh, the father of independence, territorial integrity and national unity.

Celebrating this significant event with pride, joy and strength, Cambodians will never forget the great royal crusade of his majesty the late king, who fought for the independence of Cambodia. The whole nation owes his majesty profound gratitude.

After achieving independence, Cambodia went through difficult times, particularly the turbulence and destruction caused by civil war. The people never lived their lives in peace nor enjoyed prosperity. Thanks to the win-win policy of Prime Minister Samdach Techo Hun Sen, however, the country

has enjoyed real peace and prosperity since 1998. One would agree that peace is a prerequisite for economic development. To this end, the government and people of Cambodia are committed to safeguarding peace and stability at any cost.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Paris Peace Agreements signed on Oct. 23. "(The) Paris Peace agreement was made possible thanks to the wisdom, will and patriotism of the two great statements: His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk and Samdech Techo Hun Sen, prime minister of Cambodia," said H.E. Prak Sokhonn, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation of Cambodia.

The Paris Peace Agreement established basic and democratic principles for Cambodia that were later transferred to the 1993 Constitution to which the government strictly adheres. Thirty years later, Cambodia has become a highly responsible actor in regional and international affairs. Cambodia will host the 13th Asia-Europe Meeting from Nov. 25 to 26 under the theme "Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth." Since becoming a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Cambodia has chaired ASEAN twice, in 2002 and 2012. Next year, we will assume the ASEAN chair-

manship again. It is worth noting that Cambodia also takes part in U.N. peacekeeping operations. The country has transformed itself from a recipient of such intervention to a participant. From 2006 to today, Cambodia has sent 7,826 peacekeeping personnel to nine countries in Africa and the Middle East.

As for fighting COVID-19, with Prime Minister Hun Sen's strong leadership the inoculation process has been remarkable. Cambodia has rolled out a special vaccination program for three groups: people 18 years and older (roughly 10 million), those between 12 and 17 (over 1.9 million) and those from 6 to 11 (over 1.8 million). As of Oct. 25, 97.02% of those groups had received their first dose and 90.42% had received their second. Given this vaccination rate and the daily drop in infections, the government relaxed quarantine measures and reopened the country on Oct. 18.

On bilateral relations, Cambodia and Japan have enjoyed fruitful cooperation and warm ties. Both countries have been

working and coordinating closely on issues of common concern. Not only has Japan assisted Cambodia in searching for peace in the past, but it has also helped Cambodia develop. Japan's official development assistance plays a contributing role in this country's growth. Despite the challenges caused by COVID-19 at home, Japan continues to provide ODA and COVID-19-related equipment, as well as vaccines to fight the pandemic.

As my diplomatic assignment nears its end, I wish to wholeheartedly express my profound thanks to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, especially its hardworking and dedicated personnel and other relevant institutions, for all the support that was necessary during my stay in Japan and without which my mission would not have succeeded. My high appreciation also goes to the Japanese people for the warm and cordial reception since my arrival in Japan. I will leave this beautiful country full of great memories. Sayonara and *arigato gozaimasu*.



His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk Preah Borom Ratanak Kaudh (left) and Prime Minister Hun Sen (right) receive a warm welcome in Phnom Penh in November 1991. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

## Looking ahead to good fortune, deeper friendship

**MASASHIRO IMAMURA**  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-CAMBODIA  
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



Independence Day.  
This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Agreements on

a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict (the Paris Peace Agreements), which were concluded to end the civil war in Cambodia. Since then, Cambodia has overcome the hardships of civil war and achieved peace and remarkable economic development. As a friend of Cambodia, I would like to congratulate the people of Cambodia for these significant achievements.

In these three decades, our relationship has expanded greatly. Japan has supported Cambodia in various areas, from land mine clearance and infrastructure construction to human resource development. Now our assistance extends to supporting Cambodia's industrialization and

digitalization. In addition, more Japanese companies are increasingly discovering potential in your country's geography in the heart of the Mekong, as well as in its many industrious young people. There are now about 250 member companies of the Japanese Business Association of Cambodia doing business in Cambodia.

Our countries have also been seriously impacted by the spread of the novel coronavirus since last year. However, I am pleased to see our friendship has been maintained and even strengthened under these difficult circumstances through creative means, such as online exchanges and seminars and virtual tourism. I also welcome the significant decline in coro-

navirus infections in both countries as a positive sign that may enable us to deepen our relationship through in-person meetings.

Cambodia will draw the attention of the world next year as it assumes the chairmanship of ASEAN. I sincerely hope that Cambodia will take this opportunity to showcase the attractions of the "Kingdom of Wonder," such as the diversity of its culture, beautiful landscape and growing economy, as well as its many charms, including the smiles of its people.

In conclusion, I sincerely wish for the good fortune and prosperity of Cambodia and its people, and I pray for further friendship between Cambodia and Japan.



H.E. Prak Sokhonn, deputy prime minister, chief of foreign affairs and chair of the National Coordination Committee for U.N. peacekeeping missions, visits trainees at the National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces, Mines and Explosive Remnants of War. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA



## Congratulations to the People of Cambodia on the Occasion of the Anniversary of Their Independence

The Honorary Consulate of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Fukuoka is honored to have developed the following activities:

- ❖ Visa issuance
- ❖ Promotion of two-way tourism
- ❖ 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,  
Advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia  
with the rank of Senior Minister



## Honorary Consulate of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Fukuoka

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# Cambodia National Day Special

## Keeping trade afloat in challenging times

**NOBUHIKO SASAKI**  
CHAIRMAN AND CEO, JAPAN EXTERNAL  
TRADE ORGANIZATION



On the 68th anniversary of the independence of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Cambodian people on behalf of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO).  
Furthermore, I would like to convey my heartfelt condolences to those afflicted by COVID-19 as well as the victims of the pandemic.  
Due to the spread of COVID-19, travel has been restricted and conventional face-to-face business has become difficult. Amid these circumstances, JETRO has been proactively disseminating information on business through online business-

matching and webinars and supporting business between our two countries.  
In February, working together with Cambodia's Ministry of Commerce, the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce and Junior Chamber International Cambodia, JETRO jointly held "Good Goods Japan 2021," a business-matching event for Japanese cosmetics and daily commodities. Due to the pandemic, we showcased products at a hotel banquet hall and a JETRO meeting room for buyers to see in person, while arranging online matching with Japanese suppliers. Narrowing products only to cosmetics, baby items and sundries in line with an increasing customer base, we were able to see numerous business talks between Japanese companies and buyers. Thanks to the assistance of the aforementioned co-sponsors in recruiting buyers, deals were concluded and fruitful outcomes achieved in over 60 cases.  
Regarding the dissemination of information, in November, JETRO will also

**Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen (right) and Masahiro Mikami, ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia, hold a handover ceremony on July 23 for vials of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine donated by the Japanese government to Cambodia.**  
EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA



jointly hold a webinar with the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) and Mizuho Bank with the aim of explaining the new investment law that took force last month and drawing investment to Cambodia from Japan. We hope that this opportunity will be of assistance

in encouraging Japanese companies to invest in Cambodia.  
In February, JETRO established J-Bridge as a business platform for promoting open innovation between Japanese companies and overseas startups. We will contribute to creating new value in fields important to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, such as the environment, energy, agriculture and fisheries, in addition



A view of Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

tion to manufacturing. In Cambodia, we have been promoting digital transformation through seminars and business-matching events related to the field. In addition, cooperating with the Japanese Embassy in Cambodia and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, we are making efforts to seek new startups.  
While it will take more time for traffic between our two countries to truly

return to normal, JETRO will continue facilitating collaboration between Cambodian and Japanese companies, and comprehensively support them by devoting efforts to not only provide and share helpful commentary on systems, but also to help individual companies match up with one another. Lastly, I wish for the happiness and prosperity of the people of Cambodia.

## Flourishing thanks to energetic, young staff

**YOSHIHISA KAINUMA**  
REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTOR, CEO & COO,  
MINEBEAMITSUMI INC.



and best wishes to the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia.  
MinebeaMitsumi has been operating in Cambodia under the name Minebea

(Cambodia) Co. since December 2010 as a pioneering manufacturer of electronic components. With continuous support from the royal government of Cambodia and hard work by our dedicated Cambodian employees, we have expanded the floor space of our plants to 200,000 square meters by investing more than \$181 million in Cambodia over the past 10 years.  
Although the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the world and Cambodia, thanks to the country's preparedness and prompt actions by the royal government of Cambodia our plant has been operating smoothly.  
On July 27, our company became the first from Japan to win the Excellence

Awards for Cambodia from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Occupational Safety and Health Network (ASEAN-OSHNET), which had delayed the awards ceremony by a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were recognized for various efforts to create a workplace where our young Cambodian employees can work safely and securely, including through prompt sharing and deployment of MinebeaMitsumi global safety, health know-how and disaster-prevention measures, as well as well-developed welfare facilities including dormitories, cafeterias and a medical office.  
I sincerely wish for the happiness and further prosperity of the Kingdom of Cambodia.



Left: Baphoun Temple in Siem Reap; Right: Preah Vihear Temple in Preah Vihear Province EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA



*Congratulations*  
To  
**THE PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA**  
on the Occasion of the Anniversary of  
Their Independence

「佛教之王堂」 The Royal Grand Hall of Buddhism  
念佛宗 三寶山 無量壽寺 Nenbutsushu Sampozaan Muryojuji Head Temple

<https://www.royalgrandhall.jp/eng>  
<https://www.nenbutsushu.or.jp/eng>

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Their Independence

*Respectful greetings from:*

**Toyama-Cambodia Friendship Association**  
Mr. Junichi Takata, *Chairman*  
Mr. Kazuo Takagishi, *Vice Chairman*  
Mr. Toyohiko Ise, *Vice Chairman*  
Mr. Ryoichi Takai, *Vice Chairman*

**West Japan-Cambodia Friendship Association**  
Senji Kobayashi, *President*  
Kenji Otani, *Executive Director*

**Congratulations**  
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## Congratulations to the People of Cambodia on the Occasion of the Anniversary of Their Independence

**Respectful greetings from:**

- Mr. Hideo Yamada, Honorary Consul of Cambodia in Osaka, and spouse
- Mr. Seiki Takada, Honorary Consul of Cambodia in Nagoya, and spouse
- Mr. Susumu Tai, Honorary Consul of Cambodia in Sendai
- Mr. Katsuki Tanabe, Honorary Consul of Cambodia in Sakaiminato, and spouse



# Cambodia National Day Special

## Angkor Wat and the rebirth of national pride

**YOSHIAKI ISHIZAWA**

DIRECTOR, SOPHIA ASIA CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



On the occasion of the 68th anniversary of the independence of the Kingdom of Cambodia, which falls on Nov. 9, I convey my sincere felicitations. My heartfelt greetings go out to

His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni of the Kingdom of Cambodia, His Excellency Prime Minister Hun Sen, His Excellency Ung Rachana, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the kingdom, as well as to all the people of the nation.

The COVID-19 issue is on the verge of resolution, and yet we need to be alert. In July, the government of Japan declared that it would provide 1 million doses of coronavirus vaccine free of charge to Cambodia as a symbol of goodwill, and that was really heart-warming news.

The coronavirus infection is an "invisible fire." Often when we become aware of its existence it is too late, and we cannot

enter places that have infected people due to the risk of ourselves getting infected. I was informed that Cambodia is taking steps against coronavirus infections by employing the "red zone" method, and I pray the problem gets settled as early as possible.

The Cambodians have thus far regained their national pride and unity, due to the presence of Angkor Wat. We are in an age where nothing is certain. Yet, when standing before Angkor Wat, the Cambodian people touch the stone walls with their hands, as though to confirm the fact of who they are. A scholarly 16th century monk dedicated a poem to Angkor Wat titled the "Lboek Angkor Wat" describing the site as an entity that has endured by transcending time and space. In 2017, which was the 21st year since we proposed training conservation officers at Angkor Wat, the Sophia Asia Center received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, which is known as the Nobel Prize of Asia. The reason for granting the award was the fact that the Cambodian people had regained their national pride.

In 1993 at Angkor Wat, we commenced, along with the Authority for the Protection of the Site and Management of the

Region of Angkor, the training of Cambodian conservation officers, and this was the starting point for the recovery of national pride. The restoration site of Angkor Wat is currently closed due to the coronavirus disaster. Sad to say though that due to this, tourists are forbidden from entering the area and villagers are forbidden from passing through it.

Currently, the conservation and restoration of the Angkor ruins is conducted with the global backing of teams from seven nations, including the Sophia Angkor International Survey Team.

Since 1996, the curriculum for the emergency training of conservation officers at the Sophia Asia Center for Research and Human Development has been on-site training, lectures, surveys and research. Archaeological training was conducted at Banteay Kdei and the Western Causeway of Angkor Wat.

At the Angkor archaeological site, the work of global support teams has been suspended, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, but seven nations have been dealing with various sites. Japan is represented

by the Sophia University Angkor Ruins International Survey Team and the Sophia Asia Center for Research and Human Development that was launched in 1996 as an educational center for the emergency training of conservation officers. It conducts on-site training at Banteay Kdei and the Western Causeway of Angkor Wat. The Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties deals with the West Top Temple, while the Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties deals with Ta Nei. The Japanese government team for Safeguarding Angkor and the Cambodian Authority for the Protection and Safeguarding of Angkor and the Region of Angkor deal with the Bayon.

The World Monuments Fund from the U.S. deals with Phnom Bakheng, while the Archaeological Survey of India serves at Ta Prohm. China serves Ta Keo and Phimeanakas, and Germany conducts curing activities for the stone walls of ruins such as Angkor Wat. South Korea deals with Prea Pithu and the Terrace of Elephants. Ecole française d'Extreme-Orient used to



Young Cambodian archaeologists work at Banteay Kdei Temple in August 2001 following the discovery of 274 Buddha images. SOPHIA CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

work in West Mebon, but they withdrew in 2018. Since 1908, this institute has made significant contributions toward the preservation and restoration of the sites.

To conclude, we express our sincere gratitude to His Excellency Ung Rachana, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to

Japan, who is shifting to a new location after having fulfilled his duties in Japan. In September 2020, when conservation officers from Cambodia held an online international conference to report on the restoration work at Angkor Wat, we received a special message from his excellency.



Lectures for Cambodian students are conducted at the site of the ruins, led by Yoshiaki Ishizawa. SOPHIA ASIA CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

**KUNIHICO HIRABAYASHI**  
SECRETARY-GENERAL, ASEAN-JAPAN CENTRE



On the occasion of the 68th anniversary of Cambodia's Independence Day on Nov. 9, it is my great pleasure and honor to deliver a congratulatory message to the Cambodian people.

The ASEAN-Japan Centre has long conducted promotional activities for trade, investment, tourism and personal exchanges to enhance partnerships between the Association of Southeast

Asian Nations and Japan, and it is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. On behalf of the AJC, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the Kingdom of Cambodia for its continued contributions to maintaining amicable ASEAN-Japan and Cambodia-Japan relations.

It's been a difficult time for all of us due to the pandemic. However, I am confident that things will get better and that we will be able to deepen our already strong ties throughout this pandemic. I believe that despite the challenges, our real strengths — the ability to respect and foster human and cultural diversity; our bonds of cross-border friendship and partnership; and our solidarity — have re-emerged just as real, strong and vibrant as they ever were.

As you may know, Cambodia has been a popular travel destination among Japanese people of all ages. In the hope that international tourism will recover gradually, the AJC has been organizing webinars and online events for the Japanese travel industry as well as the general public to offer up-to-date information on tourism in the ASEAN states, including Cambodia. In travel awareness surveys the AJC conducted in January on the general public in Japan, the results showed that of all of the five major tourism resources in Cambodia, namely Siem Reap, Phnom Penh, Preah Vihear, Sihanoukville and Angkor Wat, the latter was

the most iconic and attracted many Japanese to visit the country. At the same time, the results showed that there are many more places and factors that could potentially expand the range of visitors. The AJC will continue to highlight Cambodian tourism to further promote its tourism assets to the Japanese people.

Lastly, as the new secretary-general of the AJC, I am looking forward to working with the people of Cambodia toward a sustainable, integrated, peaceful and stable future for the people of both ASEAN and Japan. I cordially extend my heartfelt wishes of happiness and further prosperity to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

## Going beyond business to build deeper ties, prosperity

**TAITO SUZUKI**

PRESIDENT, TAICA CORP.



On the occasion of the 68th anniversary of the independence of the Kingdom of Cambodia, we would like to congratulate and thank the people of Cambodia for their friendship

and cooperation. We would also like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt sympathy to all those who have been affected by COVID-19.

We, Taica Corp., have four business areas, and our relationship with Cambodia started when we established a chemical plant there in 2012. Since that

time, we have not only conducted business activities, but have also deepened our relationship with the Kingdom of Cambodia by sponsoring a climbing competition organized by the Cambodian Climbing Federation and donating futsal courts and stationery based on our corporate philosophy of making international contributions.

We have been heartbroken by the news that Cambodia's tourism industry has been suffering greatly due to the spread of COVID-19 since last year. Together with the Japanese professional soccer team Shimizu S-Pulse, with whom we have a partnership agreement as a contribution to the local community, we sought to help by creating the "Cambodia, Kingdom of Wonder" logo on the uniform.

This was the first attempt in the history of the Japan Professional Football League



Ambassador Ung Rachana (middle) poses with Taica Corp. President Taito Suzuki (right) and Japan-Cambodia Parliamentary Friendship League Chairman Masahiro Imamura at the soccer match between Shimizu S-Pulse and Yokohama F. Marinos on Aug. 9 in Shizuoka. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

to show the country's name, and it was made possible with the support and cooperation of all parties involved, including the Cambodian government, embassy and Japan Professional Football League. Since then, in cooperation with Shimizu S-Pulse, we have been holding matches under the title of "Cambodia Day."

We are confident that the Kingdom of Cambodia will make further progress

and grow as it moves toward its 70th and 80th anniversaries, and as a company with roots in Cambodia, we will not only observe the trajectory of this progress and growth, but will also continue to seek new international contribution activities that will serve as a bridge between Japan and Cambodia. We hope that the bonds of friendship between Japan and Cambodia will be further strengthened.

*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*

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to the People of Cambodia  
on the Occasion of  
the Anniversary of  
Their Independence

**MARUHAN GROUP**

**សាធារណៈ ហ្គ្រូប**  
**SATHAPANA BANK**

Chairman of SATHAPANA BANK PLC.: Han Chang-Woo, Ph.D.  
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**MinebeaMitsumi**  
Passion to Create Value through Difference

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**ReNet.jp**  
group

Renet Japan Group, Inc.

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Nagoya City, Aichi

**Congratulations**  
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Since completing Japan Bridge in 1966,  
We have enjoyed a history of over 50 years in Cambodia.



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