

# Cambodia National Day

## Working to facilitate Mekong-Japan cooperation

Cheah Kimtha  
AMBASSADOR OF CAMBODIA

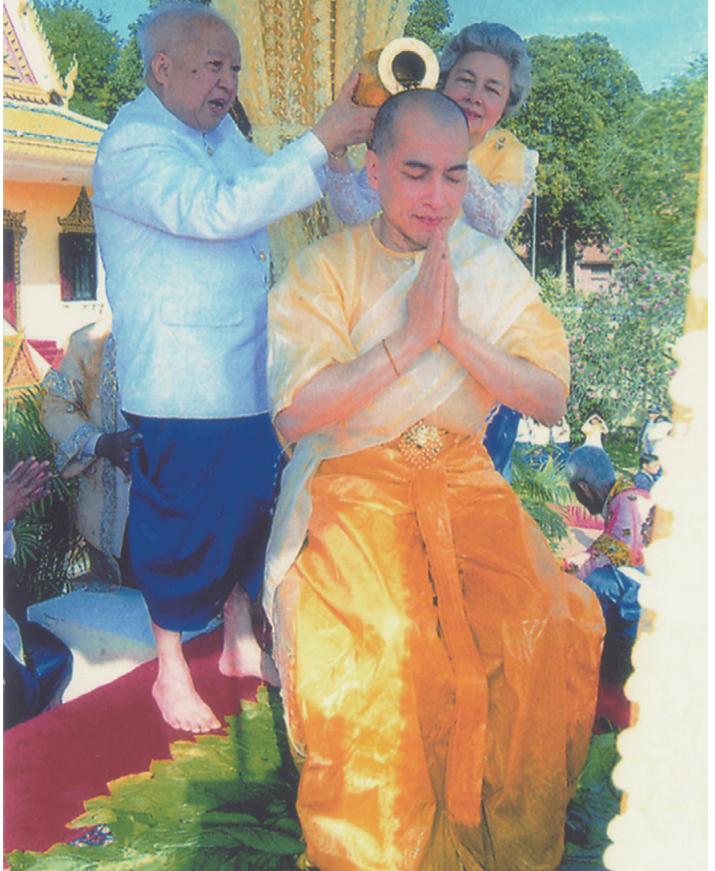


Cambodia commemo-  
rates its Na-  
tional Day on  
Nov. 9 every  
year. The cele-  
bration heralds  
the triumphant  
day in 1953  
when His  
Majesty the Late King Father Norodom Sihanouk successfully led a crusade to free Cambodia from 90 years of colonial domination as a French protectorate. All Cambodians owe an unlimited debt of gratitude to the Late King Father for restoring independence, integrity, social happiness and prosperity to Cambodia since then.

As we celebrate the 62nd anniversary of national independence this year, I would like to convey the warmest greetings and sincerest best wishes of His Majesty King of Cambodia Norodom Sihamoni, Prime Minister Hun Sen and the people of Cambodia to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito, Empress Michiko and the Imperial family, His Excellency Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the great people of Japan.

Notwithstanding the distance between the two countries, Cambodia and Japan have never experienced any bitterness. On the contrary, the two countries have become increasingly close because so many things bind us historically and we share numerous values.

For Cambodia, Japan has always been a great friend. All Cambodians know that Japan has assumed a meaningful role in bringing peace and development to the kingdom. Since the signing of the Paris Peace Agreements on Cambodia in October 1991, Japan has continued to mobilize assistance to rehabilitate and help reconstruct our national economy



The Late King Father Norodom Sihanouk and Queen Mother Norodom Monineath anoint King Norodom Sihamoni's head with nine jars of holy water, in a symbolic gesture to bless his reign during his coronation ceremony on Oct. 29, 2004. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

and physical infrastructures.

Since the bilateral relations between the two countries were upgraded to a strategic partnership at the end of 2013, Cambodia and Japan have endeavored to coordinate and cooperate more closely on regional and international issues.

This year, Cambodia and Japan mark the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Japan-Cambodia Treaty of Amity in order to further cement the long-standing friendship and boost our bilateral ties toward another milestone. In this celebratory year, the two prime ministers met in March in Sendai, Japan. They recommitted

to strengthen the relationship and cooperation in a variety of fields based on the strategic partnership, and deepen coordination in the regional and international community. Cambodia recognizes Japan's aspiration to contribute more to the peace and prosperity of the region, and the world from the standpoint of its "Proactive Contribution to Peace" policy based on the principle of international cooperation.

In addition, Cambodia expressed gratitude for Japan's election reform support, which will improve the credibility of elections in Cambodia, the building of the new Tsubasa

Bridge, which helps facilitate the livelihood of the Cambodian people and contributes to better linkage of the Mekong countries, as well as for Japan's support for National Road No. 5, which comes on top of the support for National Road No. 1 received from Japan thus far.

In July 2015, during the Cambodia-Japan Summit Meeting in Tokyo, the two prime ministers discussed the importance of their relations and committed to work harder together for the steady implementation of the "New Tokyo Strategy 2015" on Mekong-Japan cooperation. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe welcomed the April opening of the Tsubasa Bridge, which was funded by Japan's ODA, and commented that as a country focusing on quality infrastructure, Japan intends to provide cooperation in areas such as the development of highways and urban transit systems as well as supporting Cambodia in electoral reform and the Khmer Rouge tribunal. He also reaffirmed that Japan's foundation as a peace-loving nation will not change amid the passing of the Legislation for Peace and Security.

In response, Prime Minister Hun Sen highly praised and supported the Proactive Contribution to Peace policy, including the expansion of Japan's role in U.N. peacekeeping operations. He offered his congratulations on the success of the Seventh Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting, and stated that the opening of the Tsubasa Bridge is an important contribution to enhancing connectivity not only in Cambodia but also the region as a whole. He thanked the government and people of Japan for their valuable support in electoral reform and the Khmer Rouge trials.

Under the wise and able leadership of Prime Minister Hun Sen, the Royal Government of Cambodia has been able to maintain peace, stability and sustained economic development, as well as remain active in regional cooperation



Prince Norodom Sihanouk meets Emperor Hirohito (right), then-Empress Nagako (third from right) and then-Crown Prince Akihito (second from left) during his visit to Japan in December 1955. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

relations. There will be new challenges and opportunities that require Cambodia and Japan to continually nurture their relationship, and adapt to new circumstances, especially as Cambodia is preparing to embrace the fast-approaching 2015 ASEAN Community.

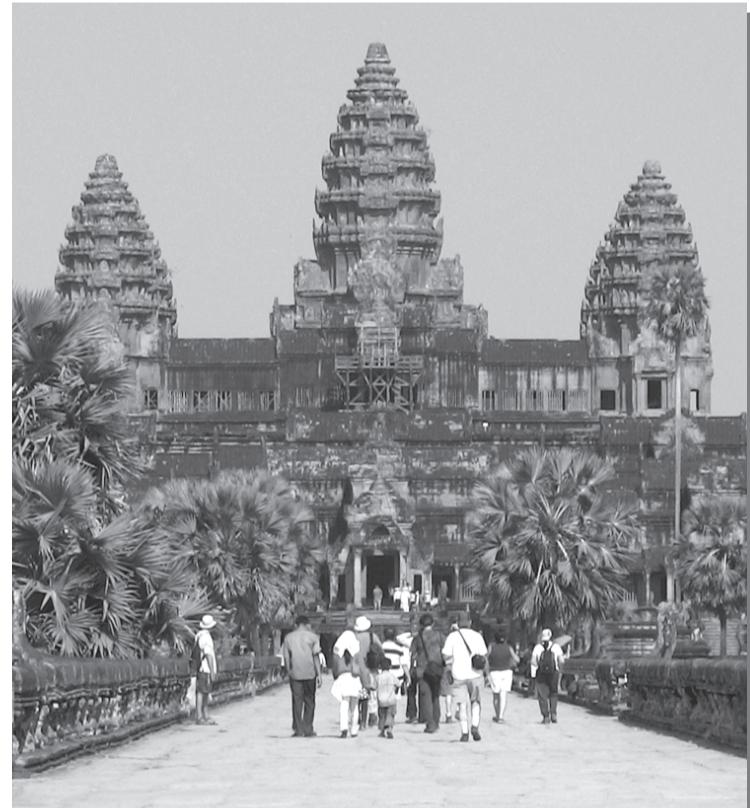
After the civil wars and internal strife, Cambodia has been progressing well, and has steadily re-emerged to become an active player in regional and global affairs.

Internally over the past two decades, Cambodia has been remarkable in achieving social cohesiveness, one of the most open economies in the world, sustained growth and poverty reduction. Cambodia's economy has expanded at a fast pace. In 2014, the growth rate was 7.2

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



On July 4, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held a meeting with Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia Hun Sen, visiting Japan to attend the Seventh Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA



**Congratulations  
to the People of Cambodia  
on the Occasion of the 62nd Anniversary of  
Cambodia's Independence 9th November 2015  
and  
the 60th Anniversary of the Signing of  
the Japan-Cambodia Treaty of Amity, 1955-2015**

**The Honorary Consulate of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Fukuoka 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 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



**Honorary Consulate of  
the Kingdom of Cambodia in Fukuoka**

Nishinippon Shimbun Building 15th Floor  
1-4-1 Tenjin, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka 810-0001

Tel: 092-717-1255 Fax: 092-717-1021  
HP: <http://www.fukuoka-cambodia.jp/>

Haruhisa Handa  
Honorary Consul of  
the Kingdom of Cambodia in Fukuoka,  
Advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia  
with the rank of Senior Minister



# Cambodia National Day



Left; His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni is welcomed by Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and Crown Prince Naruhito on May 17, 2010, during a state visit to Japan to strengthen the bilateral relationship between the two countries. Right top; Cambodia's new King Norodom Sihamoni delivers a speech at a solemn coronation ceremony held in the Throne Room of the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh on Oct. 29, 2004. Right bottom; Tsubasa Bridge was inaugurated on April 6. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA



The National Museum of Cambodia in Phnom Penh, the country's leading historical and archaeological museum, was officially inaugurated by King Sisowat in 1920. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

## Strong commitment to being a strong ASEAN player

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4**  
percent and GDP is expected to remain at 7 percent during 2015, according to the Asian Development Bank. Key drivers of the economy are the garment industry, tourism and construction. Favorable conditions deriving from government efforts toward good governance have also attracted greater foreign direct investment into the country.

Externally, Cambodia exhibits a strong commitment to playing a major role as an outward-looking, constructive and dynamic player in an integrated ASEAN, a broader Asian region and beyond. Cambodia supports ASEAN's process of regionalism, and has been pushing for more effective reforms to realize the national development goal and enhance our competitiveness in the region, especially

the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2015 and the world.

We understand well the benefits of the AEC, which is to promote physical connectivity, expand access to regional markets, resources and investments, and increase participation in regional production networks. As such, we are aware of the need to push for further commitment toward specific AEC-related reforms, such as the fulfillment of obligations pertaining to taxation and customs procedures to improve overall Cambodia's performance toward full implementation of the AEC.

Although Cambodia has made progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals with rapid growth and a substantial decline in poverty, the country still faces challenges to find better ways to increase value-added, and diversify the economy and improve skill training, as well as overcome infrastructure bottlenecks and expand the business climate based on a clear reform agenda. The government is mindful of the fact that if we want to take Cambodia to the next level of socio-economic development, we need to remain committed to deeper reforms in such areas as good governance, education, health care, and judiciary and law enforcement so as to contribute viably to the long-term national development plan.

There exist unique opportunities for investors to explore the other Cambodian competitive advantages that exist in the large pool of young and eager Cambodian workers, favorable investment incentives, and untapped ag-

In conclusion, as we cele-

brate our National Day today, I would like to earnestly convey my heartfelt appreciation to the government and people of Japan for what your noble country has done for Cambodia. I will spare every effort to promote stronger, healthier and more productive relations between our two governments, and strengthen the everlasting bond of friendship between our two peoples.

Last but not least, I would like to extend my thanks to The Japan Times for giving me this excellent opportunity to address its many valuable readers.

Friendship to contribute to peace in region, world

**Takeo Hiranuma**  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-CAMBODIA FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE OF LAWMAKERS



Let me express my profound respect for the impressive development of the Kingdom of Cambodia, a country with a great history and tradition, under the reign of His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni.

It gives me enormous pleasure that Cambodia and Japan are marking the 62nd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, and that trust and friendship between the two countries have deepened.

Cambodia underwent great turmoil and adversity in its modern history. I have great

respect for the Cambodian people, who courageously worked to overcome them, and build a truly peaceful and stable future.

As a result, Cambodia is achieving steady economic growth. Japanese companies are stepping up investment in Cambodia as they have been attracted by its plentiful labor force, liberal investment policy, preferential measures for investors and its people, who are serious and friendly toward Japan. Against this backdrop, economic relations between the two countries have strengthened.

I believe increased friendship between our countries, their prosperity and further cultivation of bilateral ties, which are characterized by mutual respect and affection, will contribute to the peace, stability and prosperity of the whole of Asia.

## Congratulations

to the People of Cambodia on the Occasion of  
the 62nd Anniversary of Cambodia's Independence  
9th November 2015 and the 60th Anniversary of  
the Signing of the Japan-Cambodia Treaty of Amity, 1955-2015

Respectful greetings from:

**Japan-Cambodia Friendship Association**  
Mr. Tetsuo Kitamura, President  
Mr. Tadasu Kikuchi, Acting President

**West Japan-Cambodia Friendship Association**  
Masanori Yatohji, President  
Kenji Otani, Executive Director

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

*Congratulations*  
To  
**THE PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA**

ON THE OCCASIONS OF

The 62nd Anniversary of  
Cambodia's Independence  
9th November 2015

The 60th Anniversary of the Signing of  
the Japan-Cambodia Treaty of  
Amity, 1955-2015

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The Royal Grand Hall of Buddhism <http://www.royalgrandhall.jp>

佛教之王堂



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the Japan-Cambodia Treaty of Amity, 1955-2015

Respectfully greeted from:

H.E. Ms. Chea Kimtha, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Japan

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 Hokkaido and Spouse



# Cambodia National Day



Angkor Wat Temple EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

## Exchanges help build water supply system

Kenji Kitahashi  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF KITAKYUSHU



Allow me to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the 62nd anniversary of the independence of the Kingdom of Cambodia. It gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity to deliver this con-

gratulatory message this year as it also marks the 60th anniversary of the friendship between Cambodia and Japan.

Exchanges between our city and Cambodia have been in place since 1999, primarily through waterworks projects. Kitakyushu proudly contributed to what has been dubbed as the "miracle of Phnom Penh" — the dramatic improvement of the city's waterworks, and at present, its water supply coverage has in-

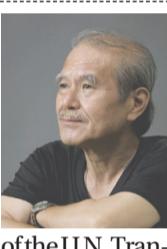
creased by over 90 percent and the leakage rate has been reduced to 8 percent. In 2011, on behalf of the city, I had the honor of receiving the Grand Cross, the highest distinction awarded to a foreigner by the Kingdom of Cambodia, for Kitakyushu's tireless efforts to support Cambodia's development, so I feel a strong sense of familiarity with the country.

Add to that, this July, we were visited by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen. With this visit, it is hoped that the exchanges between our city and Phnom Penh can move forward to the next level, such as bringing about more dynamic exchanges, particularly in the areas in which our city excels — water supply, sewerage and the environment — and deepening our friendship with the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere hopes for the continued development of Cambodia.

## Photographer captures beauty of Angkor Wat Temple

Baku Saito  
PHOTOGRAPHER



When I first visited Cambodia, the first national elections after the long civil war successfully ended with the cooperation of the U.N. Transitional Authority for Cambodia (UNTAC). There was a passion for reconstruction in Phnom Penh, where I felt the nation gaining momentum for recovery. However, the situation was still turbulent, as seen in the bomb incident in the central market.

In May 1994, I attended a dedication ceremony for a school in Prey Veng province. The school was constructed through an Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR) project, in which I participated. It was the begin-

ning of my engagement with Cambodia. I still cannot forget the sight of 2,000 students in neat lines welcoming us to the school.

My ongoing passion as a photographer led me to participate in the UNESCO-JSA project, and it took me 10 years to finish shooting all 259 holy faces in the monuments, including those of Bayon Temple.

The most distinguishing footprints of the Khmer people's culture can be seen in the grandeur of the Angkor Wat complex and the unique architectural style of the peerless Bayon Temple. They are filled with energy and I really found myself at a loss for words.

The forest of tetrahedral towers carved with holy faces on each side, embodying the holy Mount Meru, is an overwhelming sight. The Khmer's creativity is not only something from 1,000 years ago; it has the potential to come into bloom in the future.

tions between Japan and Cambodia.

Additionally, the government of the Kingdom of Cambodia will hold a photo exhibition "Preah Vihear and Angkor Monuments by Baku Saito" in December at the national Samdech Decho Eco-Global Museum, which was newly constructed near the Preah Vihear Temple.

It's already been 23 years since the war and Cambodian children who didn't experience it are now over twenty years old. It would be great if my photos of the Preah Vihear Temple and the ruins of Angkor could make Cambodians, including those children, feel how wonderful their World Heritage sites are and support their future reconstruction.

I would like to reiterate my gratitude for the immense cooperation from many people that has enabled me to continue my photography of Angkor.

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Since completing Japan Bridge in 1966, we have enjoyed a nearly 50-year history in Cambodia

**TOYOTA TSUSHO CORPORATION**

Toyota Tsusho Corporation Phnom Penh Liaison Office  
11th floor, Phnom Penh Tower,  
#445, Monivong Blvd., (St.03/230), Sangkat Boeng Pralit, Khan 7 Meakara, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Tel: +855-23964044 Fax: +855-23964043  
phnompenh@tk.toyota-tsusho.com

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