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Cambodia Independence Day

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Remembrance for the King Father

Wise leader was key to Cambodia's independence

Hor Monirath AMBASSADOR OF CAMBODIA

Nov. 9, the Independence Day of Cambodia, reminds all Cambodian citizens and the world

to bear memories of the great achievement and the historical legacy of His Majesty Preah Samdech Preah Norodom

Sihanouk, late king father of the Kingdom of Cambodia, who just passed away on Oct. 15 at the age of 90.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Imperial family, government of Japan, diplomatic community and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) embassies in particular, civil society, and Japanese public who had joined in extending their heartfelt sympathies and condolences to His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, king of Cambodia, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, prime minister of Cambodia, and the people of Cambodia at this saddened grief and irreparable loss of the Cambodian nation.

His Majesty the King Father was born on Oct. 31, 1922, and took coronation on Oct. 28, 1941, at the age of 18 while Cambodia was under France's colonial administration in Indochina. His Majesty was not only a heroic king for Cambodian people but also a great statesman internationally recognized in the 20th century. Filling the roles of king, prime minister and head of state of Cambodia, His Majesty had dedicated his whole life for the cause of "independence, national reconciliation and development," and had made historically perpetual contribution to Cambodia's peace, stability and prosperity. His Majesty has been regarded as the symbol of the nation, titled as "Father of Independence, Sovereignty, Unity,

and National Reconciliation." It is worthwhile to recall that while Cambodia's independence from France was officially proclaimed 59 years ago today, it is not well understood that His Majesty's action to achieve independence began as early as 1946. France did not approve His Majesty's unilateral proclamation of Cambodia's independence which was made on March 9, 1945, but returned to take control over Indochina shortly after Japan's defeat in World War II. Negotiations with France had continued until His Majesty launched the famous "Royal Crusade for Independence" in 1952, appealing to the international community for the total independence of Cambodia



he was receiving treatment. ROYAL EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

that took the king to France, the United States, Canada and Japan, and into self-imposed "exile" in Siem Reap. Cambodia was finally granted full independence without a drop of blood and a shot of fire on Nov. 9, 1953, before Vietnam and Laos, which were also under French Indochina federation, gained theirs.

Since gaining independence until overthrown from power by the coup masterminded by Gen. Lon Nol in March 1970, Cambodia had achieved a significant socioeconomic progress under His Majesty's wise leadership in an aspiration to transform Cambodia into a modern state. Several development programs had been pushed for implementation, including expansion of education and health services, agriculture and industries. At least 45 remarkable achievements, well-known to the public, had been built across the country during 16 years of His Majesty's Sangkum Reastr Niyum (or the Popular Socialist Community) such as among many others, the independence monument, national stadium, Phnom Penh international airport, government buildings, universities, hospitals, factories, schools, roads, bridges, etc. With the significant development during that period, Cambodia was regarded as a "role model of development" in Asia and Phnom Penh was called "Little Paris or Pearl of Southeast Asia."

Another great historical legacy of His Majesty was the triumph by peaceful means over the ownership of the Temple of Preah Vihear, which the International Court of Justice ruled in favor of Cambodia in 1962 and was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site on July 7, 2008.

In the international arena. His Majesty was renowned for his foreign policy adherence to an independent and neutral country and was very active as one of the founding fathers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which today consists of 120 member countries. The king father was also a founder and an active contributor for achievements of the International Organization of the Francophonie.

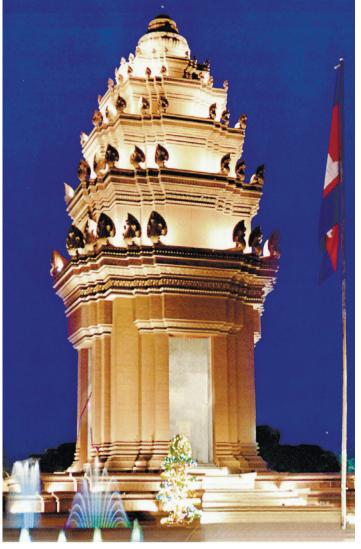
In relation to bilateral ties

between Cambodia and Japan, His Majesty was the architect of our existing healthy friendship. With the king father's wisdom and broad vision and his deep personal feeling of sympathy toward Japanese people, Cambodia announced in 1954 that it renounced the right of the state to ask for compensation for damages caused by the presence of the Japanese Imperial Army in Cambodia during World War II. His Majesty was the first king in Asia who visited Japan in April 1953 after World War II. During the visit to Japan of then Prince Norodom Sihanouk in 1955, the House of Representatives of Japan

passed a resolution of thankfulness for Cambodia's renouncement of compensation. In the spirit of this historical event, the Japan-Cambodia Treaty of Amity was signed on Dec. 9 by His Majesty, the then Prime Minster of Cambodia and Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu of the government of the then Prime Minister Ichiro Hatoyama. Our relationships have been gradually developing and flourishing on the basis of mutual respect, understanding, conviction and cooperation through the present. In marking the 55th Anniversary of the Treaty of Amity, His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, the king of Cambodia, paid a State Visit to Japan from May 16 to 20, 2010. Notably, the Official Visit of His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito to the Kingdom of Cambodia from June 27 to 29 this year was another key milestone highlighting the grow-

our two peoples. Unfortunately, due to the impact of the cold war that spread throughout Southeast Asia, Cambodia's real politics and neutrality were impossible to stand amid the gravity of ideological rivalry between the Western and Eastern blocs. The kingdom fell into a deep hole of civil war, which began in 1970 and lasted nearly three **CONTINUED ON PAGE 3**

ing bond of friendship between









Friendly bilateral relationship grows stronger with every year

Tsuyoshi Saito DEPUTY CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY; CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-CAMBODIA PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY



As today marks the 59th anniversary of Cambodian independence, I would like to honor the achievement of His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, King Father of Cambodia, who made great contributions to the independence of

Cambodia and passed away Oct. 15. His Majesty had contributed to Cambodia's independence, peace and stability throughout his entire life. Cambodian nationals have deep respect and love toward His Majesty because he is the symbol of the nation's unity and played the central role in realizing peace and national reconciliation.

Looking back, I believe His Majesty established the foundation of the amicable relationship between Japan and Cambodia. He visited Japan in 1953 as

the first Asian king to visit Japan after World War II. When he visited Japan again in 1955, he signed the Japan-Cambodia Treaty of Amity. He showed understanding and trust for Japan's contribution to Cambodia, such as the Tokyo meeting on Cambodia and Japan's

participation in the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which was the first U.N. Peacekeeping Operation deployment for Japan. Even after Cambodia achieved peace, Japan has helped Cambodia in many ways via official development assistance and other forms, including restoration of

Majesty named the Cambodia-Japan Friendship Bridge. This year marks the 20th year since the Angkor archaeological site was recognized as a World Heritage site. I am glad to see the bilateral relationship deepening in a field of cultural exchange such as the

the Chrouy Changwar Bridge, which His

restoration of temples. The Cambodian economy has grown 7 percent annually on average for the past 10 years. The bilateral economic relationship has also thrived and direct

investment to Cambodia by Japanese companies has expanded rapidly in recent years. Last month, I visited Cambodia for the first time in two years and met with Prime Minister Hun Sen and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong. Then I saw the streets of Phnom Penh and factories of Japanese companies. I also met Cambodian students who had visited Japan. I felt Cambodia's development and the big potential in Cambodian youths who will become a bridge between the two

Next year will mark the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between the two countries. I hope both governments and people of our countries will carry forward the friendly bilateral relationship, which was the will of His Majesty, and strengthen the relationship by making our mutual understanding and trust deeper.

I would like to convey my sincere condolences on His Majesty's passing and hope the Cambodian royal family, government and people will overcome

Development, stability built on sacrifice

Takeo Hiranuma CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-CAMBODIA PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP

ASSOCIATION IN THE DIET I would like to convey my sin-

cere condolences on the death of the revered former Norodom Sihanouk, who passed away Oct. 15. Throughout his life, His Maj-

esty has worked hard for realizing Cambodia's independence and peace amid domestic chaos and civil wars and establishing the foundation of the current Cambodia.

The path leading to Cambodia's current order from the independence of the Cambodian Kingdom on Nov. 9, 1953, was not an easy one. Today's development and stability has been built on hardship and sacrifice of ancestors. I believe Cambodia will overcome such pain and sorrow and advance to prosper further with the leadership of King Norodom Sihamoni.

The bilateral relationship between Cambodia and Japan is deep and amicable as the two countries are full of sincerity in caring about each other.

In 1955, Cambodia forfeited

its right to seek compensation in connection with Japanese military aggressions. In response, the Lower House decided to express gratitude to Cambodia. In December the same year, then King Sihanouk visited Japan as a national guest and had friendly exchanges with the Emperor and the Empress. On Dec. 9 of that year, the Japan-Cambodia Treaty of Amity was signed. The treaty was memorial for both countries as it was the first treaty signed by Cambodia since its independence and also the first for Japan since the San Francisco Peace Treaty in 1951, which effectively let the world put World War II behind.

Japan deployed the Self-Defense Forces and police officers for the United Nations' Peacekeeping Operations in Cambodia, the first time Japan participated in a PKO. Many Japanese worked in harmony with Cambodians for the recovery of the Southeast Asian country.

Unfortunately, Atsushi Nakata, 25, a U.N. volunteer, and Haruyuki Takada, 33, an Okayama prefectural police officer, were shot to death during their duties, on April 8 and May 4, 1993, respectively. The village where Nakata was killed is now called "Atsu Village." Also, the Takata Memorial Elementary School



Mourners numbering 100,000, including 10,000 Buddhist monks, gather in front of the Royal Palace to pray for the late King Father on Oct. 23, the last day of the Official Mourning. ROYAL EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

was built where Takata was killed and the village there is now called "Haru Village."

Also, Cambodia gave Japan donations in money and goods as well as condolence letters after the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995 and the Great East

Japan Earthquake in 2011. Both countries are tied by a very close and friendly relation-

ship. It will lead to peace, stability and prosperity for all of Asia to develop the bilateral ties further. With the 60th anniversary of Cambodia's independence upcoming next year, I would like to engage more in activities for the two countries' prosperity as the chairman of the Japan-Cambodia Parliamentary Friendship Association in the Diet.



The late King Father's coffin is carried on its way from Phnom Penh International Airport to the Royal Palace on Oct. 17.

Cambodia independence day

Realizing peace after chaos, with no bloodshed

Negotiations, worldwide campaigning help Cambodia become free from French rule

Yukio Imagawa PRESIDENT, JAPAN CAMBODIA ASSOCIATION; FORMER AMBASSADORTO CAMBODIA

Majesty Norodom Sihanouk declared independence from France nullifying French nial authority



in March 1945. But the declaration had never been internationally recognized following Japan's defeat in World War II in August that year. France regained influence over Cambodia through its military and politics, and tried to restore its colonial authority based on bilateral treaties of 1863 and

In counteraction, His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk began negotiations with France for independence and achieved limited independence in November 1949 as Cambodia gained the status of "associate independent state of the French Union."

His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk was not satisfied with this. In June 1952, he promised to Cambodian nationals to achieve complete independence by leading the independence movement himself. The movement led by His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk is called the Royal Crusade for the Independence of Cambodia.

His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk visited France to discuss with French President Vincent Auriol in February 1953, but

failed to gain an understanding from him. He then asked Cambodian Prime Minister Penn Nouth to come to France to continue the negotiations.

In April and May, His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk went to Montreal, New York, Washington, D.C., San Francisco and Tokyo to call for international support for Cambodia's inde-

During his visit in Tokyo, he obtained a very important, compromise proposal from France and made a temporary visit home.

But the proposal was not satisfactory because France still wanted to retain a certain amount of authority. After going to Thailand as part of an international campaign in June, His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk moved to Siem Reap, where the Angkor ruins are located, and announced he would never go back to Phnom Penh unless France abandoned its authority over Cambodia entirely.

His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk's action pushed France into a corner. In response, France gave up judicial and policing authority in August and the right to operate the military in October. With that, Cambodia gained complete independence.

On Nov. 8, 1953, His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk went back to the capital and declared independence the following day.

The remarkable thing is that the Royal Crusade for the Independence of Cambodia, led by His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, was conducted with persevering negotiations and



King Norodom Sihanouk meets with French generals in Paris in 1946. Right: King Norodom Sihanouk leads the **Royal Crusade for the** Independence of Cambodia in the early 1950s. ROYAL **EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA**

international campaigns, and never with violence. That is different from Vietnam and Algeria, which were also under French control. Nobody was killed in the Royal Crusade for the Independence of Cambodia as His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk avoided violent conflict. This shows how completely pacifist His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk was. His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk contributed to peace making without causing deaths.

After the complete independence, His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk stepped down as the king and let his father, His Majesty Norodom Suramarit, take the throne.

His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk then engaged himself in leading politics. Cambodia enjoyed peace and stability from 1955 to 1969.



Preserving the past for the future

Baku Saito PHOTOGRAPHER

About 15 years ago, while I was trying to take photos of the Bayon Temple, His Majesty Norodom Si-

hanouk was also visiting the temple. As I saw him offering a prayer outside the east gate of the temple, I associated him with livinggod former King



Jayavarman VII and put my hands together silently. I then had the great honor of being received by His Majesty on the spot and was given noble words encouraging me to take wonderful pictures of Cambodia's national treasure of Bayon.

Thinking of Cambodian people who had suffered destruction and fatigue amid violence after violence for more than 20 years since 1970, I asked myself many times what I can do as an Asian person, or what I can do as a photographer. At least a photograph is needed for the Angkor ruins, otherwise the great World Heritages may disappear from the planet.

The ruins were listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site that needs repairing most immediately in 1992. As many as 30 countries pitched in to repair the ruins. The Japanese government founded a fund in UNESCO, and a Japanese Government Team for Safeguarding Angkor, or JSA, was set up.

The team did not have a specialist photographer and taking a photo was difficult. Thus I called for cooperation from various organizations including funds to conserve cultural properties and promote artistic research and began taking photos of the ruins almost without getting paid.

A style of architecture using human faces as decoration exists only in Cambodia. The style was found only in the early 13th century but never existed before or after the period. It appeared all of a sudden and it is unclear where it came from.

In the JSA project, I took photos of the holy faces carved on the Bayon Temple as part of the



to many such stone images on its 52 towers. BAKU SAITO

Bayon Recovery Master Plan.

The holy faces were carved on a 30-meter tower. I stood on a temporarily built tower to take photos of each holy face from the same altitude and angle in order to compare the faces thoroughly. It took more than 10 years to take photos of 259 holy faces in Angkor and other ruins in Cambodia. It was also the first attempt to take photos in this method.

The holy faces with archaic smiles are created with the high skill of the Khmer culture and have reached the point of artistic excellence. But because they were at high places, Cambodians could only see them by looking up.

I wanted people to understand the excellence of Khmer culture and look at photos of the JSA projects, as well as Cambodians to be

proud of inheriting culture of the ancient Angkor dynasty. That is why I planned photo exhibitions.

I was thrilled when His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, who was also a Cambodian delegate to UNES-CO, gave me encouraging words at a photo exhibition at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris in 1999.

My photo book of the holy faces, published by the UNESCO publishing section with support from the Japanese government, was presented to His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk by JSA.

Lastly, I would like to offer a orayer to "Father of Cambodian Independence," the late former King, His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, who lived in the turbulent 20th century and is loved by many Cambodian nationals. May His Majesty rest in peace.



We Pay Great Homage to His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Late King-Father of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on the Occasion of the 59th Anniversary of Cambodia's Independence

His Majesty was an extraordinary leader respected by all the People of Cambodia, and he dedicated his whole life to the cause of independence, national reconciliation and development. His Majesty made a truly enduring contribution to Cambodia's peace, stability, and the prosperous future of the nation.



Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Fukuoka, Advisor to the Royal Government of Cambodia



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Cambodia independence day

Crown Prince Naruhito meets with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen during his visit to Cambodia in June. ROYAL EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

Cambodians continue to follow King Father's principles

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

decades. The atrocities of civil war had destroyed almost the whole economic and social infrastructure, including human resources of the country, and pushed the nation into a human tragedy and destruction of the world's history, and altered Cambodia's image from the "Kingdom of Smiles" to an unthinkable killing field in the 20th

Thanks to the King Father's pivotal role in national reconciliation and tireless endeavor for the ultimate cause of the country's independence, sovereignty, national unity and neutrality, Cambodia again could see a light of peace. The conclusion of Agreements on a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict, known as the Paris Peace Accord, on Oct. 23, 1991, brought hope for

the Cambodian people to enjoy the rights to live in peace for a prosperous future after enduring more than 20 years of war. Right after signing of the agreements, the Supreme National Council (SNC), chaired by the late King Father, was established to ensure the full exercise of a sovereign

It is widely recognized that the Paris Peace Accord was a great achievement of His Majesty the King Father and Samdech Techo Hun Sen, supported by all Cambodian factions that enabled the United Nations to establish the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) led by Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the U.N. secretary general, to monitor the first-ever elections in May 1993. This opportunity also marked the first

time that Japan's Self-Defense ing civil war in the country for Forces were dispatched outside the country within the framework of the U.N.'s Peacekeeping Operation since the end of World War II. Cambodian people are grateful for Japan's contribution to the peace-building process in Cambodia and its significant assistance for the kingdom's reconstruction and economic development

Nevertheless, the agreements did not bring immediate, full peace for the Cambodian people. The country's peace and stability remained fragile due to the Khmer Rouge faction's boycott to join the election process organized by the United Nations and their resumption of guerilla warfare against the newlyelected coalition government, creating instability and prolonganother five years. Real peace and stability had been observed just when the kingdom was able to put an end to the war in 1998 by eliminating the entire political and military organizations of the Khmer Rouge thanks to the royal government's pursuance of the "win-win" policy of national reconciliation initiated by Sam-

dech Techo Hun Sen. It was the first time in Cambodian contemporary history that the government exercised control over the totality of its territory. This achievement of peace and stability was purely built by the Khmer people themselves who supported mutual compromise and national reconciliation without foreign interference on the basis of the revered King Father's principles of patriotism,

to which Samdech Techo Hun Sen always respects and continues to adhere at the highest stake of the nation.

In this respect, even though His Majesty the late King Father left his people forever, his love for people and his historically perpetual achievements will never vanish and live on in the heart of every Cambodian person, both inside and outside the country.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the top management of The Japan Times for publishing today's special remembrance of His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, late King Father of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and giving me this excellent opportunity to address its many readers.

We Pay Homage to His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Late King-Father of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on the Occasion of the 59th Anniversary of Cambodia's Independence

Our activities in Cambodia:

- We have planted, with 1,700 volunteers, 13,000 trees since 2002.
- We supported the construction of 150 schools. A total of over 189,000 children have attended the schools we supported since 2000.
- A total of over 24,500 people at 26 villages and 30 schools will enjoy safe water through facilities we are supporting.





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We would like to pay great homage to His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Late King-Father of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the Occasion of the 59th Anniversary of the Independence of the Kingdom of Cambodia

His Majesty King-Father, the greatest leader respected by all Cambodian People, had dedicated his whole life for the cause of "independence, national reconciliation and development," and had made historically perpetual contributions to Cambodia's peace, stability and prosperity.

Respectfully greeted from:

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 independence day

The symbol of Cambodia

King Father did much to improve, develop the lives of Cambodians

Born in Phnom Penh on Oct. 31, 1922, His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, the late king father of the Kingdom of Cambodia, was the only son of H.R.H. Prince Norodom Suramarit and H.R.H. Princess Sisowath Kossomak Nearirath Serey Vatthana. On his mother's side, His Majesty was the grandson of H.M. King Sisowath, and on the paternal side, the great-grandson of H.M. King

At the age of 18, then Prince Norodom Sihanouk was crowned king on Oct. 28, 1941, in Phnom

From 1952 to 1953, His Majesty declared then received the total independence of Cambodia from France.

In 1955, His Majesty abdicated in favor of his father and became prime minister, working for the general development of Cambodia. On March 18, 1970, a coup oc-

curred in Phnom Penh. On April 17, 1975, the FUNC (National United Front of Cambodia) resistance, of which His Majesty was the leader, took control of Cambodia, creating the State of Democratic Kampuchea. His Majesty became its president, but a year later resigned voluntarily from the position.

On Nov. 14, 1991, His Majesty returned to Phnom Penh after 13 vears of exile

On Sept. 24, 1993, His Majesty promulgated a new constitution for Cambodia

On Oct. 6, 2004, His Majesty announced his retirement and his son H.R.H. Norodom Sihamoni was elected as the new king of

The National Assembly of Cambodia then gave Norodom Sihanouk the official title His Majesty the King Father, Preah Karuna Preah Moha Virak Ksatr Preah Vorakreach Beida Cheat Khmer, with the same privileges and immunity as when he was a reigning sovereign.











Clockwise from left: Prince Norodom Sihanouk is crowned king on Oct. 28, 1941, in Phnom Penh; as Head of State, he visits the Temple of Preah Vihear in 1962 after the International Court of Justice ruled for Cambodia in the dispute with Thailand over ownership; as the prince, he clasps hands with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen in a motorcade from Phnom Penh airport on Nov. 14, 1991; as King Father, he makes a speech at the celebration of the 20th anniversary of his return to Cambodia, in October 2011; King Norodom Sihamoni and Queen Mother Norodom Monineath Sihanouk greet mourners during a procession in front of the Royal Palace on Oct. 23, the last day of the Official Mourning for the late King Father. ROYAL EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA, AP

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Respectful greetings from:

Japan-Cambodia Friendship Association Mr. Tetsuo Kitamura, Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Tadasu Kikuchi, Acting President

Toyama-Cambodia Friendship Association Mr. Junichi Takata, Chairman

Mr. Yoshiki Takai, Vice Chairman Mr. Kazuo Takagishi, Vice Chairman Mr. Toyohiko Ise, Vice Chairman

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Mr. Masao Ichimura, Chairman

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