

G-7 outreach meeting

Bangladesh sees steady growth

Sheikh Hasina, the prime minister of Bangladesh, is serving her third term following the electoral victory by her grand alliance led by her party Bangladesh Awami League in January 2015.

The eldest of the five children of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Sheikh Hasina got her orientation in

politics from an early age. A graduate of the University of Dhaka, she was active in politics from her student life and participated in all major movements relating to Bengali nationalism and the independence of Bangladesh in 1971.

Sheikh Hasina played a critical role in establishing democracy in the country

and was a leading figure in the historic mass movement in 1990 which led to the restoration of democracy in her country after a long spell of military rule.

She has provided strong leadership to steer her country to achieve steady economic growth, poverty reduction, and development in all sectors, including major

infrastructure development. Women's empowerment and advancement, and ensuring universal education and health have been special areas of focus and achievement by her. She has been honored by various reputed universities and institutions around the world for her contribution to strengthen democracy, peace building, women's empowerment and socioeconomic development.

Sheikh Hasina is a strong proponent of regional cooperation and connectivity for economic development, trade and advancement in social sectors. In recognition of her far-reaching initiatives to address climate change and environmental issues she was awarded the "Champion of the Earth Award 2015" by the U.N. She is the recipient of numerous other international awards, including the "Sustainable Development

disaster management is recognized globally. The meeting will provide the prime minister an opportunity to share with Group of Seven and outreach leaders our development experience, and the potentials of Bangladesh and this region, in moving forward the new global development agenda and addressing collectively pressing global issues.



and the contribution of Bangladesh to regional and global stability, development, peace and security. Bangladesh's progress in socioeconomic development, women's empowerment, education, primary health and

Steadfast support for regional, global stability

Rabab Fatima
AMBASSADOR OF BANGLADESH

I thank The Japan Times for bringing out this special supplement on the G-7 outreach meeting.

We are delighted that our Prime Minister, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina has been invited to the meeting.

We see her participation as recognition of her leadership

Vietnam welcomes outreach agenda

Nguyen Quoc Cuong
AMBASSADOR OF VIETNAM

At the invitation of the government of Japan, the Prime Minister of Vietnam H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc will attend the G-7 outreach meeting and engage in bilateral talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with a view to strengthening the Extensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries.

The G-7 summit is a multilateral forum with a significant voice on various global issues. The global economy, geopolitical tension and security concerns are all pressing issues.

This is the first time for Vietnam to attend the G-7 outreach meeting and we highly appreciate the invitation and view it as recognition from Japan and the international community for Vietnam's increasing role and enhanced status in the international arena. Vietnam has proactively stepped up its

international integration efforts, engaged in many international economic linkages and been a responsible member of the international community.

Vietnam supports Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's initiatives on "partnership for quality infrastructure" and "Mekong-Japan connectivity." Vietnam also shares the common concern of many countries in the region and the world over the unilateral actions that have escalated tensions and changed the status quo in the South China Sea. Vietnam's consistent policy is to resolve disputes by peaceful means on the basis of respect for international law and the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, ensuring maritime safety and security, and freedom of navigation and overflight in the East Sea.

From a bilateral perspective, the working visit to Japan by Phuc just one month after he assumed office stands as a testament to the flourishing relations between Vietnam and Japan. Phuc is the first to visit Japan among Vietnam's new leadership appointed by the 12th Na-

Prime minister of Vietnam profile

Nguyen Xuan Phuc, born in July 1954, became prime minister on April 7, 2016 at the 11th working session of the 13th National Assembly.

Below is a brief outline of his career path. From 1979 to 2006, he held various positions working in Quang Nam-Da Nang Province, including vice secretary of the Quang Nam provincial Party Committee, chairman of the Quang Nam provincial People's Committee, deputy to the 11th National Assembly, member of the 11th National Assembly's Economic and Budgetary Commission from 2004 to 2006.

After serving various government positions, from 2011 to present, he has served, among other roles, as a member of the Politburo of the 11th and 12th CPV Central Committee, deputy prime minister, chairman of the Vietnam-Laos Inter-governmental Committee, head of the Steering Committee for the Northwest Region, head of the Government's Steering Committee for Crime Prevention and Control.



Prime Minister of Vietnam
Nguyen Xuan Phuc
EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

tional Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the recent National Assembly session in April. Phuc will engage in bilateral talks with Abe and deliver a speech at the Vietnam-Japan High-level Economic Dialogue, relaying the message that the new Vietnamese leader-

ship attaches great importance to the Extensive Strategic Partnership between the two countries and considers Japan a leading and long-term partner of Vietnam.

I hope the G-7 Ise-shima summit and outreach meeting are a great success.



Prime Minister of Bangladesh
Sheikh Hasina
EMBASSY OF BANGLADESH

Award 2015."

Sheikh Hasina has authored many books, including "Sheikh Mujib is my Father," "Why are they Street Children," "The Origin of Autocracy," "Elimination of Poverty and Some Thoughts," and "People and Democracy."

Bio of Papua New Guinea PM

Peter Charles Paire O'Neill, CMG (born Feb. 13, 1965) is the prime minister of Papua New Guinea. He is the leader of the People's National Congress and represents the constituency of Ialibu-Pangia. He was sworn in on Aug. 4, 2012 as the ninth prime minister of Papua New Guinea.

His mother, Awambo Yari, a Papua New Guinean, came from the Southern Highlands. His father moved to Papua New Guinea in 1949 as an Australian government field officer, known in Tok Pisin as a kiap, later serving as a magistrate in Goroka until his death in 1982.

The prime minister grew up in rural PNG, with a very basic upbringing. He was educated at the Pangia Primary School, Ialibu High School and Goroka High School. After leaving school he was educated at the University of Papua New Guinea, graduating with a Bachelor of Accountancy and Com-



Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea
Peter Charles Paire O'Neill
EMBASSY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

merce in 1986.

The prime minister was a businessman before entering politics. As of 2011, he lives in Port Moresby with his partner and has five children; two daughters (Loris and Joanne)

and three sons (Travis, Brian and Patrick). The prime minister was first elected to the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea in 2002 and became a minister the same year.

He became the leader of Papua New Guinea's opposition in 2004. He joined the government of Prime Minister Michael Somare in 2007, serving as treasurer. During Somare's absence due to illness he served as works minister under acting Prime Minister Sam Abal.

In August 2011 he joined with opposition MPs and was elected as the acting prime minister in a parliamentary vote on Aug. 2, 2011, and was sworn in later in the day by the governor-general.

This text is an edited excerpt from the official website of the Office of the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea.

Laos on way to development, democracy

Khenthong Nuanthasing
AMBASSADOR OF LAOS

It is a great pleasure and honor for me in my capacity as ambassador of the Lao PDR to Japan to share my views on current developments in Laos on the occasion of the G-7 Ise-Shima summit. Several important events have taken place in Laos this year such as the general election of the national assembly's eighth legislature and election of provincial people's councils and the new government. The inaugural session of the national assembly's eighth legislature adopted Vision 2030, the 2016-2025 National Strategy and the eighth National Five-Year Socioeconomic Development Plan (2016-2020).

Vision 2030 and the national strategy have set out development strategies for Laos through 2030, taking into account achievements and challenges throughout the past 15 years, including favorable domestic opportunities and potentials, as well as constraints and regional

and international trends in the current globalizing world.

In the social sector, Laotians enjoy peace and social order, unity, justice and civilization, with the rights of citizens guaranteed by law. Additionally, government efforts will be enhanced to narrow the development gap between urban and rural areas as well as between the rich and poor and to reduce the number of poor families to 10 percent by 2020. At the same time, the government will work to ensure that the environment is effectively protected, to enable the country to integrate into the regional and international economy.

One important new development in Laos this year is the establishment of provincial people's councils as stipulated by the Laos Constitution, with an aim to decentralize responsibilities and strengthen local governing capacity through the council as representative bodies of the people.

With the establishment of the ASEAN Community on Dec. 31, ASEAN, as the third-largest economy in Asia with about 622 million people, is playing a more important role than ever

both at the regional and international levels. With a combined GDP of \$2.6 trillion, the ASEAN Community is a highly competitive economic region.

This year, Laos is honored to assume the rotating chair of ASEAN in the first year of the ASEAN Community. The Lao PDR will host the 28th and 29th

ASEAN Summits and Related Summits in September 2016. I am confident that as a community, ASEAN will actively contribute to the discussion of all issues of common interest with the aim of maintaining and promoting peace, stability and prosperity in Asia and the world.

Prime minister of Laos profile

Born in November 1945, Thongloun Sisoulith graduated from the Pedagogy College of Neo Lao Hak Sat, Huaphanh Province, Laos in 1969 and obtained a master's degree in linguistics and literature, at the Gerzen Pedagogy Institute, Saint Petersburg, and a doctorate in history of international relations at the Academy of Social Science, Moscow.

Early in his career, he held various positions in education, including as a professor in Vientiane University from 1978 to 1979.

He began his state-level political career in 1979 as a secretary to the minister of Education, director of the External Relations Division, Ministry of Education. He then became the vice minis-



Prime Minister of Laos
Thongloun Sisoulith
EMBASSY OF LAOS

ter of Foreign Affairs from 1987 to 1992 and the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare.

After serving other various executive positions in the government, he became the prime minister this year.

President Widodo profile

Born in 1961, Joko Widodo, popularly known as Jokowi, grew up in the Central Java city of Solo (Surakarta) as the eldest of four children and the only son. As a boy, he helped his carpenter father collect and cut wood, which the family sold as part of their livelihood.

Nevertheless, his family assisted him through school and he continued his education in the Forestry Faculty of the country's top-tier Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta and graduated with a degree in forestry in 1985.

Jokowi joined the forestry service of a state enterprise in Aceh before returning to Solo in 1989 to work with his uncle and learn the furniture business from design to delivery. He then branched out on his own and soon established a thriving furniture business with a strong focus on exports.

His entrepreneurial flair was recognized by business associates and he served as the head of the newly established branch of the furniture manufacturers association from 2002 to 2007.

His success in this role prompted his colleagues to press him to run for mayor of Solo, one of the most historic cities of Central Java. He successfully ran for mayor in Solo in 2005 and in 2010.

It was his performance as



President of Indonesia
Joko Widodo
EMBASSY OF INDONESIA

mayor of Solo that he first gained attention for his ability to resolve issues such as floods, dirty streets and slums. He was nominated by the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDIP) to run for governor of Jakarta. He succeeded in ousting the favored incumbent in the 2012 elections.

Jokowi's popularity across Indonesia rose sharply following his election to the high-profile position of governor of Jakarta. During 2013 and early 2014 he was increasingly seen as a potential PDIP candidate for the Indonesian presidential election in 2014. His nomination was announced on March 14, 2014.

The presidential election was held on July 9, 2014, and Jokowi was named as president-elect on July 22. Joko Widodo is the first Indonesian president not to come from the military or political elite.

On Oct. 20, 2014, Jokowi took the oath of office as the seventh president of the Republic of Indonesia.

Sri Lankan president biography

Pallewatte Gamaralalage Maithripala Yapa Sirisena, known as Maithripala Sirisena, is the sixth executive president of Sri Lanka. He was born on Sept. 3, 1951, to a middle-class farming family. He joined mainstream politics in 1989 and has held several ministerial portfolios since 1994. He is the president of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and he was the longest-serving general secretary. He was selected as the common candidate for the presidential election that was held on Jan. 8, 2015, where he won the support of the people of Sri Lanka to change the regime to build a better government

and an economically prosperous Sri Lanka for everyone.

Sirisena is a rare breed of gentleman politician in today's political landscape, a politician with an impeccable track record, untainted by either violence or corruption. The son of a farmer, Sirisena is a political leader with a genuine national appeal who has practiced a brand of centrism, moderate and clean politics, characterizing the best in Sri Lanka's political culture.

Text excerpted from the website of the Sri Lankan government.



President of Sri Lanka
Maithripala Sirisena
EMBASSY OF SRI LANKA

President of Chad background

Idriss Deby Itno, born on June 18, 1952, has been the president of Chad since 1990. He is also head of the Patriotic Salvation Movement. He won elections in 1996 and 2001, and, following the elimination of term limits, he won again in 2006, 2011 and 2016.

On Jan. 30, the heads of state and governments of the African Union, during their 26th ordinary session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, elected him to be the new chairperson of the African Union.



President of Chad
Idriss Deby Itno
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to The Honorable Peter O'Neill,
Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea on His Visit to Japan

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