

Cambodia National Day

Friendly bond remains amid socioeconomic growth

Chea Kimtha
AMBASSADOR OF CAMBODIA

The Kingdom of Cambodia marks her Anniversary of Independence from France on Nov. 9 every year. Cambodia was a

French protectorate for 90 years and achieved full independence on Nov. 9, 1953, through the eminent efforts of His Majesty the late King Father Norodom Sihanouk.

As Cambodia joyfully celebrates the 63rd anniversary of national independence this year with all of her citizens, I would like to convey the warmest greetings and sincerest best wishes of His Majesty the 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.

The Late King Father was con-



His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni

sidered the founder of Cambodia-Japan relations. His Majesty was the first King in Asia to visit Japan in April 1953 after World War II. During his visit to Japan in 1955, the House of Representatives of Japan passed a resolution of appreciation for Cambodia's renouncement of compensation from Japan for damages during World War II and highly appreciated the Late King Father's wisdom and broad vision and his deep personal

feeling of sympathy toward Japanese people for this noble intention. In the spirit of this historical event, the Late King Father and then-Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu signed the Japan-Cambodia Treaty of Amity on Dec. 9, 1955, to show the solidarity between the people of Japan and Cambodia.

Inheriting the foreign policy legacy from the Late King Father, King Norodom Sihamoni has definitely continued to further strengthen the relationship of amity between both countries for the years ahead.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1953, and the early 1990s in particular, Japan played an active role in the peace-building process in Cambodia during the implementation of the 1991 Paris Accords such as the first-ever contributions overseas by Japan's Self-Defense Forces as part of U.N. peacekeeping operations. Japan was one of the major contributors to Cambodia's post-war reconstruction. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Paris Accords, which offered a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian conflict signed by Cambodia and 18 other nations in the presence of the U.N. secretary-general.

After the 1993 general elections, Japan has again played a key role in offering a variety of support to the reconstruction and development of Cambodia such as infrastructure construction and rehabilitation, including roads, irrigation systems and three major bridges (the Chroy Changvar, Kizuna and Neak Loeung, or Tsubasa, bridges). Japan also provided technical support and financial assistance in improving public finance management, legal and judicial reforms, gender equality and electoral reforms; cooperation in the conservation and restoration of the Angkor site; contribution toward the

extraordinary chambers in the courts of Cambodia and more.

Additionally, Japan has been working closely with the Cambodian government to strengthen human resource development through various training and internship programs and scholarships. The Japanese government offers scholarships for 24 Cambodian officials every year under its Human Resource Development Scholarship program to undertake postgraduate study in Japan. Japan has also provided strong support for the healthcare system in Cambodia. Japan provided \$11.5 million in grant aid in March 2014 to implement the project for the expansion of the National Maternal and Child Health Center. Meanwhile, the Sunrise Japan Hospital Phnom Penh, built with \$35 million, opened in Cambodia's capital of Phnom Penh on Sept. 21.

Now, Japan has promoted the Cambodian government's efforts to encourage more Japanese companies to invest in Cambodia. Japan was the third-largest foreign investor in 2015, and Japanese investment ranges from imports and exports, tourism, factories, consulting and real estate services, to agriculture and construction. The number of Japanese business registrations in Cambodia has also surged, with about 250 Japanese companies registering with Cambodia's Ministry of Commerce in 2015.

On behalf of the government and people of Cambodia, I would like to express my profound gratitude and deep appreciation to the people and government of Japan for the constant technical and financial support for reconstruction and socioeconomic development in Cambodia.

The deep bond of friendship between Cambodia and Japan has expanded and further grown every year since the two countries historically upgrad-

ed the bilateral relations from a new partnership to a strategic partnership in December 2013, when Japan and Cambodia celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

This year brings about two important events that serve as a great showcase of our strategic partnership to further strengthen the relationship between two countries. On March 29, Cambodia and Japan signed an agreement on establishing a sister-city relationship between Phnom Penh and the city of Kitakyushu. The establishment of a sister-city alliance was followed by Cambodia's prime minister visiting Abe's hometown of Shimono-ki on July 5, 2015. In July, in a bilateral meeting between our prime ministers on the sidelines of the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting in Mongolia, Abe pointed out that the sister-city agreement would strengthen the relationship between the two countries at all levels.

On Sept. 1, All Nippon Airways launched direct flights for the first time between Narita International Airport and Phnom Penh. The direct flights will see more people traveling between our two countries, regardless of purposes of their visits, and attract more Japanese investors and companies to Cambodia. This is expected to contribute to the development of the country and the promotion of economic, cultural and people-to-people exchanges to deepen mutual understanding between our peoples.

In their bilateral meeting in Mongolia, our prime ministers also emphasized that the direct flights would further advance the relationship between the two countries at all levels and contribute to growth in tourism and investment between the two countries.

These events have raised the prospect that the relations between the two countries will



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

strengthen far into the future.

For more than two decades since the general elections in 1993, Cambodia, under the wise and able leadership of Prime Minister Hun Sen, has maintained peace, stability and sustainable economic development, and has undergone major transformation from a war-torn and least-developed country to a high-growth country with an incredible annual average growth rate of 7.7 percent over the last two decades, supported by the key drivers such as rice and the garment and tourism sectors that have reached their highest potential of growth. The World Bank projects that Cambodia will maintain its economic growth at 7 percent this year, compared to 6.9 percent in its previous estimate.

These sound achievements have been made possible due to the firm implementation of the government's "Rectangular Strategy," which continues to



Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko welcomed His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni on May 17, 2010, during his state visit. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

create a favorable environment and necessary conditions for Cambodia to move confidently forward on a journey of reform and development.

Under the direction of Prime

Minister Hun Sen, Cambodia has moved fast to implement economic and policy reforms that increase the competitiveness and transparency of doing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



King Norodom Sihamoni of Cambodia (right) and Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko get together following a welcome ceremony at the Imperial Palace on May 17, 2010, in Tokyo, during His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni's state visit to strengthen the bilateral relationship between the two countries. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA



Congratulations

to the People of Cambodia

on the Occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of Cambodia's Independence on 9th November 2016

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



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



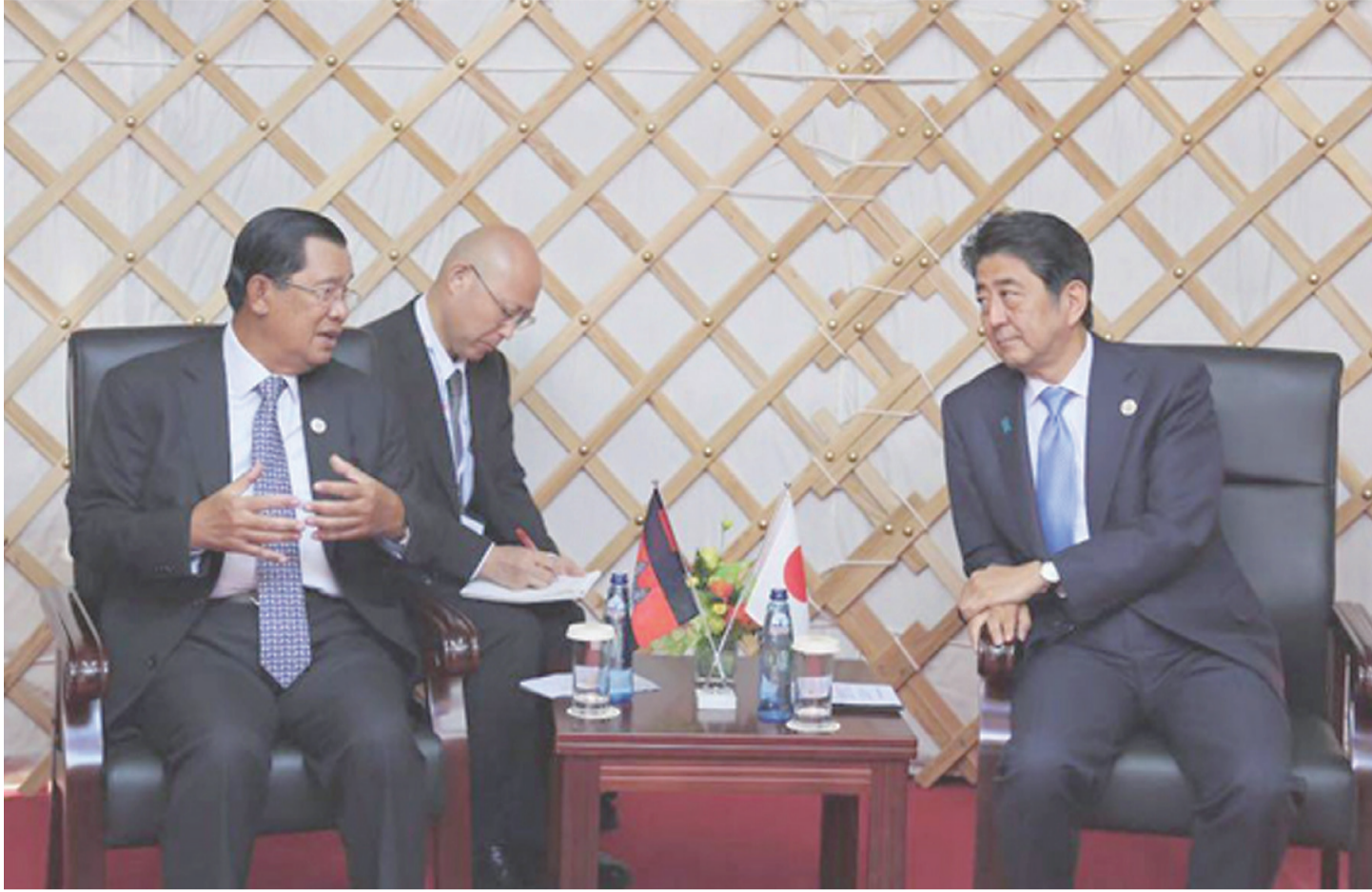
Honorary Consulate of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Fukuoka

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HP: <http://www.fukuoka-cambodia.jp/>



Cambodia National Day



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held a meeting with Prime Minister Hun Sen on the sidelines of the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting in Mongolia on July 16. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA



A signing ceremony establishing a sister-city relationship between Phnom Penh and Kitakyushu took place in the Japanese city on March 29. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

Emphasis on enhancing competitiveness, productivity

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

business in the country. Some of these include the recent development and launch of the Industrial Development Plan 2015-2025 to increase the competitiveness of Cambodia and to raise the status of Cambodia to a middle-income country by 2030. It is an initiative to ensure the continuing transformation of the Cambodian economy and to maintain healthy economic growth with a clear structure. This policy will diversify the economy, decrease dependence on our traditional sectors of garments, tourism and agriculture, while encouraging direct foreign investment into the value-added segments of agribusiness, food processing, component assembly and light manufacturing. It will also strengthen our competitiveness and enhance our productivity, which is a key for developing countries.

To further promote foreign direct investment and make Cambodia an attractive location for Asian and global investors, the

government of Cambodia established an investment law that allows foreign investors to put up to 100 percent of their capital in an investment project and provides other investment incentives such as a corporate tax of 20 percent, up to nine years of tax holidays and full import duty exemption. In addition to the investment incentives, companies could also enjoy investment guarantees, including non-control on the pricing of the products and services made and provided by any company, no nationalization, no restriction on foreign exchange convertibility and the free remittance of foreign currencies. Furthermore, Cambodia benefits from the generalized system of preferences from many countries and an Everything-But-Arms agreement with the European Union, which allows quota-free and duty-free export of Cambodian-made products to the EU.

Besides the investment sector, the European Council on Tourism and Trade has awarded

Cambodia the "World's Best Tourist Destination 2016" award along with the declaration of "Cambodia as a Popular Cultural Destination in 2016." Cambodia possesses richness of culture, history, vast natural resources along with beaches that have also been named the world's most beautiful. Cambodia is also home to the temple of Angkor, which is a heritage of humanity, the temple of Preah Vihear, which is of outstanding universal value, and thousands of other temples across the country.

In this regard, I wish to sincerely invite Japanese tourists and investors to visit, explore, and evaluate the vast business and investment opportunities in our country.

We are justifiably proud of what Cambodia has accomplished in the past few years in preparation for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Community (AEC) and believe that our small nation with her huge potential, young population, stable

political environment, leadership and central geographic location is set to play a major role in the AEC. Cambodia, as a small and open economy, has implemented 95.6 percent of the AEC blueprint. The government has established a task force to review and to reduce, to the maximum, the non-tariff measures.

The establishment of the AEC has contributed significantly in reducing the poverty rate, improving the overall well-being of the peoples of ASEAN, narrowing the development gap between the old and the new ASEAN member states, strengthening economic development and expanding intra-ASEAN trade and investment. Cambodia and other ASEAN member states are committed to continue the process of deepening economic integration through the adoption of the AEC Blueprint 2025. This is an ambitious plan that will create a highly integrated and cohesive economy, a competitive, innovative and dynamic

ASEAN, enhance connectivity and sectorial cooperation and build a resilient, inclusive, people-oriented and people-centered global ASEAN.

Although Cambodia is the youngest member of ASEAN, we have contributed to the success of and benefited from the AEC. With our success story to share with the world, the World Economic Forum (WEF) has decided to organize a WEF meeting on ASEAN in Cambodia in 2017. We are very honored to be the host country and we are looking forward to welcoming you to our "Kingdom of Wonder" next year.

In closing, once again, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to The Japan Times for giving me this excellent opportunity to address its many readers.

Working together for future prosperity of S.E. Asia

Takeo Hiranuma
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-CAMBODIA FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE OF LAWMAKERS



I would like to convey my congratulations on the occasion of Cambodia's 63rd Anniversary of Independence on Nov. 9.

Cambodia has His Majesty King Norodom Shihamoni as the center of the nation, while Japan has built its history with the emperor being the symbol of people's unity. I wholeheartedly hope that the mutual trust and friendship will further deepen between our two countries, which are constitutional monarchies with a long history among nations in Asia.

I express my sincerest respect for Cambodia, which has achieved remarkable development with foreign firms accelerating their

advance into the country thanks to the steady character of the people and various government policies.

Surrounded by rich nature, Cambodia and Japan are "countries of water." People can drink tap water straight from the faucet; something that is not so common in the world. The city of Kitakyushu's Waterworks Bureau has provided assistance to water supply improvement projects in Cambodia. I honestly think it's amazing that people from both countries shared the burden and the delight in completing the work; the projects were not achieved through one-way aid.

I'm convinced that further cementing the bilateral ties united with affection and friendship in various fields, as well as promoting co-existence and co-prosperity, will lead to stability and future prosperity of the whole of Southeast Asia.

I wish for good health for His Majesty King Norodom Shihamoni, as well as the success and growth of the Cambodian people.

Congratulations

to the People of Cambodia on the Occasion of
the 63rd Anniversary of Cambodia's Independence
on 9th November 2016

Respectful greetings from:

Japan-Cambodia Friendship Association

Mr. Tetsuo Kitamura, *President*
Mr. Tadasu Kikuchi, *Acting President*

West Japan-Cambodia Friendship Association

Kazuhiko Egashira, *President*
Kenji Otani, *Executive Director*

Toyama-Cambodia Friendship Association

Mr. Junichi Takata, *Chairman*
Mr. Yoshiki Takai, *Vice Chairman*
Mr. Kazuo Takagishi, *Vice Chairman*
Mr. Toyohiko Ise, *Vice Chairman*

Congratulations

To
THE PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA
on the Occasion of
the 63rd Anniversary of Cambodia's Independence
on 9th November 2016



念佛宗 三寶山 無量壽寺 Nenbutsushu Sampozen Murayojuji Buddhist Sect of Japan <http://www.nenbutsushu.or.jp>

「佛教之王堂」 The Royal Grand Hall of Buddhism <http://www.royalgrandhall.jp>

Congratulations to the People of Cambodia on the Occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of Cambodia's Independence on 9th November 2016

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

Relationship built on cooperation

Shinichi Kitaoka
PRESIDENT, JAPAN INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION AGENCY

On behalf of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), I would like to congratulate the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia as the country celebrates its 63 years of Independence.



JICA's cooperation with Cambodia dates back to 1965, with the dispatch of our first Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to the country. Since then, we have supported Cambodia's development in various areas, including infrastructure and human capacity building, for more than half a century.

This year, Japan and Cambodia reached another remarkable milestone. Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, and Kitakyushu, one of the largest cities in southern Japan, established a sister-city alliance. Additionally, Japan and Cambodia initiated direct flights between the two countries in September.

In the early stages of JICA's cooperation with Cambodia, JICA's assistance focused on rebuilding the country's shattered economy and social systems. One of JICA's projects, now internationally recognized as the "Miracle of Phnom Penh," worked to recover water supply systems in Cambodia that were destroyed during Cambodia's civil war in 1993. Kitakyushu has played a vital role since 1999 in this effort by dispatching experts to the Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority.

Through this collaboration, JICA learned how to better support Phnom Penh and Kitakyushu to work together to address more challenges based on their shared responsibility and respect. The success of providing safe water at a low cost to the communities of Phnom Penh has now encouraged JICA to expand assistance to other large provincial cities. We are very delighted that this relationship built over the course of more than 20 years has now been officially recognized by a sister-city alliance.

As global issues become more complex, it is clear that partnering with the private sector is pivotal in achieving our vision of inclusive and dynamic development. The launch of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Economic Community has reiterated the significance of

Cambodia's strategic location in the global economy. Through the initiation of direct flights between Japan and Cambodia, we hope to closely connect the countries and promote mutual business activities. JICA is committed to strengthening our engagement with the private sector and will provide wide-ranging support to promote more business opportunities in Cambodia.

For example, we provided funding and technical cooperation to help train Cambodian doctors and nurses to open a hospital called the Sunrise Japan Hospital Phnom Penh. This hospital, which held an opening ceremony in September, will help raise the standards of emergency and advanced medical care in Cambodia by providing medical services that utilize Japanese technology and

expertise. We are also currently improving domestic and regional connectivity to address urbanization challenges and also strengthen human resources for comprehensive industrialization. This cooperation will help provide innovative solutions to difficult development challenges and deliver products and services that improve the quality of lives in Cambodia.

The government of Cambodia has worked relentlessly to raise its people up so that all can live in dignity, free from fear and free from want. This sentiment echoes JICA's guiding principle of human security. I would like to again extend my sincere gratitude for Cambodia's steadfast partnership over the years and am confident that our partnership will only be further strengthened in the years to come.

Nation enjoys social stability, rapid economic growth

Yasushi Akashi
FORMER SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.N.
SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR CAMBODIA

I wish to express my sincere congratulations and best wishes to the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the auspicious occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of their Independence Day.



I had the privilege to serve as the special representative of the U.N. secretary-general during the transitional period of authority in Cambodia from 1992 to 1993. I am proud of having played my modest part in assisting the U.N. efforts to bring about peace and stability to Cambodia in the turbulent and crucial period of its modern history. I left Cambodia 23 years ago, but Cambodia has never left my heart. The Cambodian people left deep impressions on my colleagues and myself, with their grace, kindness, dignity, courage, joie de vivre, as well as their attachment to the cause of democracy.

While there have been many vicissitudes in Cambodia since my departure, I

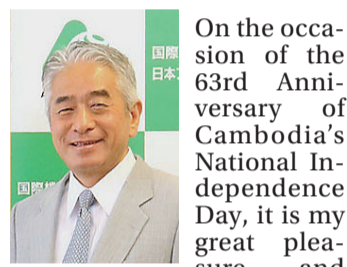
am delighted to see that Cambodia has steadfastly kept its course toward peace, democracy and prosperity under the reign of the king. Prime Minister Hun Sen has been instrumental in ensuring that Cambodia has been able to maintain its social stability, rapid economic growth and raise people's living standards.

I am also pleased to know that this is an auspicious year in which Phnom Penh and Kitakyushu have established a sister-city relationship and Japan has launched direct flights by All Nippon Airways between Narita International Airport and Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, on Sept. 1. I highly value the friendly relations and excellent cooperation between our two countries that have been constantly uplifted and enhanced. I sincerely hope that existing and new bilateral initiatives in trade, tourism, culture, education and other fields will further deepen our mutual understanding.

In conclusion, I wish, from the bottom of my heart, for the enduring peace and prosperity of the Kingdom of Cambodia, as well as for the happiness of its people. I look forward to witnessing the cordial friendship between Cambodia and Japan continue to grow in the years to come.

Solid base for regional business

Masataka Fujita
SECRETARY GENERAL, ASEAN-JAPAN
CENTRE



On the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of Cambodia's National Independence Day, it is my great pleasure and

honor to deliver a congratulatory message to the Cambodian people. The ASEAN-Japan Centre has conducted various promotional activities of trade, investment, tourism and personal exchanges so as to enhance partnerships between the Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN) mem-

ber states and Japan. On behalf of the center, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the Kingdom of Cambodia for its contribution to keep amicable ASEAN-Japan relations, as well as Cambodia-Japan bilateral relations.

Since the Khmer Rouge laid down their arms in 1998, Cambodia has enjoyed solid political and macro-economic stability that helped realize the high economic growth rate, the average of which has been around 8 percent from 1998 to 2015. With an open economy approach and a friendly, liberalized investment climate, fueled by the strategic location situated in the heart of Indochina, Southeast Asia's dynamic center, the number of Japa-

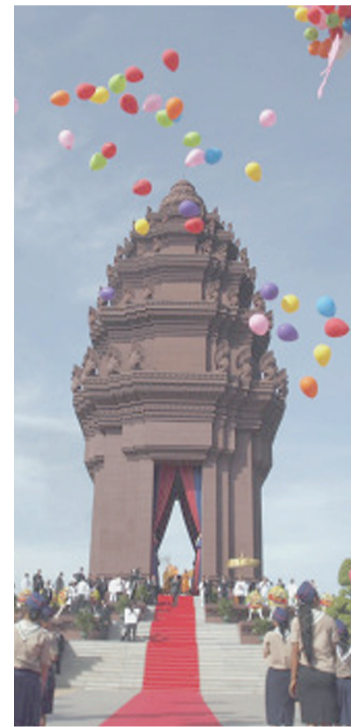
nese companies investing in Cambodia continues growing. In 2015, the number of Japanese-affiliated companies in the country was 224, 3.6 times more than that of five years ago, which is also an outstanding rate of increase compared to other ASEAN member states that average 2.1 times, according to Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This trend will likely be further accelerated as the long-awaited direct flight between Tokyo and Phnom Penh went into service on Sept. 1, allowing more and more businesspeople, along with tourists to travel to Cambodia. These visitors totaled 203,474 in 2015 and the flight should expand visits between the two countries.

These developments will increase regional production networks involving Cambodia as Japanese companies are leading the way in creating regional value chains in the ASEAN region. Cambodia and Japan will become closer partners.

I believe that the Kingdom of Cambodia, as a vibrant and powerful member of ASEAN, would play an important role in further developing stronger and closer ASEAN-Japan relationships. I look forward to continuing working with the people of Cambodia to fortify cooperation bilaterally and within the framework of the ASEAN region.

Finally, I cordially extend my heartfelt wishes of happiness and further prosperity to the Kingdom of Cambodia.



Independence Monument in Phnom Penh EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

Sister-city agreement highlights long-term development efforts

Kenji Kitahashi
MAYOR OF KITAKYUSHU



Allow me to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

It brings me great pleasure to be given the opportunity to deliver this congratulatory message. Kitakyushu has been involved in exchange and cooperation with Cambodia, mainly through waterworks projects, since 1999. Our city proudly contributed to what

has been dubbed as the "Miracle of Phnom Penh" that dramatically improved the waterworks of Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh. Thanks to the efforts of everyone involved, today the city's water supply coverage is over 90 percent and water quality has improved where the previously undrinkable tap water is now drinkable. Recognizing our achievements, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia H.E. Hun Sen visited Kitakyushu in July 2015. During his visit he proposed that Phnom Penh and Kitakyushu become sister cities, and on March 29 we entered into a sister-city agreement.

The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Japan

H.E. Chea Kimtha also attended the signing ceremony.

I hope this sister-city partnership leads to international cooperation in the field of the environment, as well as the fields of water supply and sewerage, contributes to the improvement of Phnom Penh's urban environment and brings about exchange in other areas such as the economy and culture. We will make every effort to do our part to help further the development of Phnom Penh and the entire Kingdom of Cambodia.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere hopes for the continuing development of Cambodia.

Congratulations
to the People of Cambodia
on the Occasion of
the 63rd Anniversary of
Cambodia's Independence
on 9th November 2016

Eat Well, Live Well.
AJINOMOTO

AJINOMOTO (CAMBODIA) CO., LTD.
Phnom Penh Special Economic Zone (PPSEZ)
National Road No.4, Khan Posenchey, Phnom Penh,
Kingdom of Cambodia
TEL: +855-23-729 391~396 FAX: +855-23-729 397

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Non-Stop Flight
Narita-Phnom Penh

ANA
Inspiration of JAPAN

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on 9th November 2016

FORVAL

<http://www.forval.co.jp/>
<http://www.forval-cambodia.com/>

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Hiroshima ASEAN Association
<http://www.hiroshima-asean.org>

Congratulations
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Cambodia's Independence
on 9th November 2016

Wish to keep on contributing to
Cambodia's economic and cultural development

សម្រាប់ ហ្គ្រុប មីស៊ីប៊ីស៊ី
SATHAPANA BANK PLC.
MARUHAN JAPAN GROUP

Chairman of SATHAPANA BANK PLC.: Han Chang-Woo, Ph.D.
No. 83, Breah Norodom Boulevard, Sangkat Phsar Thmey 3, Khan Daun Penh,
Phnom Penh Capital, Cambodia

Congratulations
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Cambodia's Independence
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Mitsubishi Corporation

Congratulations
to the People of Cambodia
on the Occasion of
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Cambodia's Independence
on 9th November 2016

OJI
Beyond the Boundaries

<http://www.ojiholdings.co.jp/english/index.html>

Congratulations
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Cambodia's Independence
on 9th November 2016

SATAKE

Cambodia National Day

Number of companies growing

Hiroiyuki Ishige
CHAIRMAN AND CEO, JAPAN
EXTERNAL TRADE ORGANIZATION



I'd like to offer my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence of Cambodia.

Cambodia has played an increasingly important role as a hub for Japanese manufacturers in recent years. The number of Japanese companies registered by the Ministry of Commerce of Cam-

bodia has increased to 1,790 in 2016 from 770 in 2009. This growth of 1,000 companies over the past seven years is just one indicator of how the economic relationship between our countries continues to flourish. And it is not limited to the manufacturing industry; companies are also increasing in service fields.

In cooperation with associated organizations of Cambodia, the Japan External Trade Organization Phnom Penh office has supported approximately 70 percent of all Japanese companies entering the country since the office's establishment in 2010. We will remain committed

to contributing to Cambodia's further economic development through activities such as dispatching investment missions, holding trade fairs and fostering human resources.

This year, we saw events that inspired anticipation for even closer economic interaction between Cambodia and Japan in the future. One example is the opening of a new direct flight between Narita International Airport and Phnom Penh operated by major carrier All Nippon Airways. The dramatically shortened travel time is certain to vitalize the flow of passengers and goods between our countries. Another

example is the opening of the Sunrise Japan Hospital Phnom Penh, the first Japanese private hospital in Cambodia, which provides highly sophisticated Japanese-style medical care with a focus on neurosurgery. We hope that it will play an active role in elevating the level of medical care available in Cambodia and fostering its medical human resources.

Finally, I would like to extend my warmest wishes that the economic partnership between our two countries will see further prosperity and for exchange between our people to grow ever deeper.

Exploring mutual business opportunities

Setsuko Komatsu
VICE CHAIR, HIROSHIMA ASEAN
ASSOCIATION



First of all, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of Independence.

The Hiroshima ASEAN Association was established in 2013, the memorable year of marking the 40th anniversary of friendship and cooperation between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Japan, with a view to strengthening partner-

ship between ASEAN member states and Hiroshima through the promotion of trade, investment, tourism and human resource exchanges.

Among various activities undertaken by the association, the first economic mission was sent to Cambodia last February in order to explore business and investment opportunities. Organized in cooperation with the Royal Embassy of Cambodia in

Tokyo, the mission members were honored to have active dialogues with ministers and deputy ministers on trade and investment, who provided them with hands-on information relating to the economic and investment environment of Cambodia. A large number of Cambodian business executives were invited to the business-matching session hosted by the honorable minister of commerce. As a businesswoman myself, I was deeply impressed with the participation of more than 50 businesswomen who were playing a dynamic role in advancing the socioeconomic

development of the country.

Last August during the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, the Ambassador of Cambodia H.E. Chea Kimtha made time in her busy schedule to appear on my radio program as a guest speaker. The interview with her was well received among the listeners who came to know about life and society of Cambodia.

I take considerable pride in the progress of the partnership achieved between Cambodia and Hiroshima and look forward to closer cooperation in further stimulating mutual understanding and prosperity.

Working to promote trade and commerce

Ryu Shionoya
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-MEKONG
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP
ASSOCIATION



I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Kingdom of Cambodia's Independence Day.

This year is also the milestone marking the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Paris Accord. I strongly compliment Cambodia on its rapid development since then, achieving an annual average economic growth of 7 percent in the past five years. In particular, the country has garnered attention as an investment destination following the launch of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Economic Community last year. Investment from Japan to Cambodia has tripled over the past three years.

To improve the investment environment and help strengthen connectivity between Cambodia and neighboring countries, Japan has assisted in facilitating the Southern Economic Corridor, including the Tsubasa Bridge and National Roads Nos. 1 and 5.

Long-anticipated direct flights between the two countries started from September. Through accelerated traffic of people between the two countries, it is expected that friendship and goodwill, as well as mutual understanding, will be further promoted. Furthermore, the Sunrise Japan Hospital Phnom Penh opened in September, and it is anticipated to contribute to promoting the health of the Cambodian people through Japanese-style medical services.

The Japan-Mekong Parliamentary Friendship Association would like to further promote exchanges with Cambodia.

In concluding my message, I wish for the prosperity of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the happiness of its people.



A ceremony celebrating the inaugural direct flight between Narita International Airport and Phnom Penh took place on Sept. 1 at Phnom Penh International Airport. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

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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
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