

Cambodia National Day Special

Stability upholds expanding cooperation and economy

RACHANA UNG
AMBASSADOR OF CAMBODIA



On the auspicious occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Independence of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Nov. 9, on behalf of the Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Tokyo, I have the great pleasure to

convey my wholehearted congratulations to all Cambodian people. Every year, regardless of wherever we reside, we always proudly celebrate this significant event. I wish to join them all in this festive commemoration. The memories of the successful great crusade for Independence by His Majesty, Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, "Preah Borom Ratanak Kaudh," the late King Father of Cambodia, is vividly evoked and cherished by the Cambodian people from all walks of life.

From 1953, Cambodia has been through various political systems and the country's

economy and stability were turbulent. Before 1998, Cambodians never knew real peace and stability—the common desire of people all over the world. Only after 1998 and thanks to a win-win policy of Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the long-awaited dream of the people of Cambodia of having peace, stability and social development has become a reality. This hard-earned peace and stability has provided the country with a golden opportunity to move forward from a country of instability and food insecurity to a country of food exportation, an outstanding performer in poverty reduction and a popular tourist destination. The economic growth of around 7 percent per annum for the past two decades facilitated Cambodia's graduation from a low-income country to a lower-middle income country in 2015.

Democracy in Cambodia is still young. The country has experienced an uninterrupted democratization process for only 25 years since the election organized by the United Nations in May 1993. Nevertheless, Cambodia is committed to upholding the rule of law

and adhering to a multiparty liberal democratic system through universal suffrage to enable people to choose their leader freely. Nearly 7 million voters, or 83.02 percent, of the registered voters turned out during last July's elections to cast their ballots freely without any coercion, threat or violence. Twenty political parties took part in this contest where thousands of domestic and international observers described it as free, fair and credible. The people's votes reflected their desire for peace, stability and sustainable development.

Dear readers, 65 years ago in January, the Kingdom of Cambodia and Japan established diplomatic relations. To mark this festive event, I would like to join the Cambodian and Japanese peoples in their celebration. It is worth noting that the establishment of these diplomatic ties was made even before Cambodia gained full independence, which, in my view, reflects a great significance to the building of strong foundations for close cooperation and strategic partnership between the two countries to date.

During the course of these 65 years, Cambodia and Japan have not only withstood the



His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni

test of time and changes in the international and regional landscapes, but also observed growing and deepening trends. The two countries have enjoyed warm relations and expanded cooperation. Given the growing significance in bilateral relations, our multi-dimensional cooperation was elevated to a strategic partnership in December 2013.

Having said that, I am delighted to highlight that Cambodia and Japan are good friends and partners for both bilateral and multilateral collaboration. A bond of friendship between the two countries has been cemented and cultivated by frequent exchanges of high-level visits, as well as people-to-people exchanges and expanded trade and investment. For instance, this year Prime Minister Hun Sen and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Cambodia H.E. Prak Sokhonn visited Japan in October and September respectively, while Cambodia was pleased to receive Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Taro Kono in April. This is not to mention other interaction by high-level figures on both sides.

The government of Japan has enormously contributed not only to the Cambodian peace process but also to the post-conflict reconstruction and economic development of Cambodia. Its invaluable support has



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

EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

share in a successful story of Cambodia's growth. Japan is one of the biggest overseas development assistance providers to Cambodia. The assistance covers wide-ranging areas, including quality infrastructure, poverty alleviation, good governance, rule of law, human resource development, demining and others.

On the same note, the fast growth of Japan's business and investment in Cambodia is remarkable. Cambodia is home to more than 200 Japanese restaurants and more than 250 Japanese companies. The nation is also becoming more and more popular as a destination for Japanese tourists. A direct flight by All Nippon Airways, which started in September 2016, further facilitates people-to-people exchange. Last year, we hosted more than 203,000 Japanese tourists. I am optimistic that we will host more Japanese tourists this year and in the years to come.

Apart from bilateral cooperation, Cambodia and Japan share common interests in global and regional affairs through close cooperation and coordination. The two

countries have been working very closely for the sake of peace and stability in the region and beyond.

As a newly accredited ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Japan, I will continue my predecessor's work to further foster long-lasting relations between the two countries that happily exist, to new heights and expand cooperation covering areas of mutually beneficial interest.

Before concluding, once again, on behalf of the Royal Embassy of Cambodia, I would like to convey to the government and the friendly people of Japan our sincere appreciation for their great contribution and continued assistance to Cambodia, and our best wishes for continued success and prosperity to the peoples of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Japan.

Last but not least, I also wish to thank The Japan Times for its continued cooperation with the embassy.

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



His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni and Emperor Akihito at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo in May 2010. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA



Prime Minister Hun Sen and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attend a joint news conference at the Prime Minister's Office in Tokyo on Oct. 8. AP



Congratulations to the People of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the Occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Independence, November 9, 2018

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



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Cambodia National Day Special

Lasting impressions of grace, dignity

YASUSHI AKASHI
FORMER SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR CAMBODIA

On the occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the people and government of Cambodia.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the first United Nations-led election in Cambodia. In spite of all kinds of obstacles, the people of Cambodia were able to vote for their deep belief in peace and democracy. As the U.N. official responsible for the



crucial transitional period in Cambodia from 1992 to 1993, I am proud of having played my part in ensuring United Nations' efforts to assist the Cambodian people in the turbulent and crucial period of its modern history. I left Cambodia 25 years ago, but Cambodia has never left my heart. The Cambodian people left deep impressions upon my colleagues and myself, with their grace, dig-

nity, courage and joy of life, as well as their attachment to the cause of democracy.

This year also marks the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Cambodia. I am happy to note that the deep bond of friendship and cooperation between our two countries will be expanded even further. I sincerely hope that bilateral initiatives in trade, investment, tourism, culture, education and other fields will further be deepened.

May I again offer my warmest congratulations to the people of Cambodia on their national day, and wish wholeheartedly for enduring peace and prosperity for the

Kingdom of Cambodia, as well as for the happiness of its people. I also look forward to witnessing the cordial friendship between Cambodia and Japan continue to grow in the years to come.



A woman casts her ballot for the senate election at a polling station in Kandal province, southeast of Phnom Penh, in February. AP



Top: The Independence Monument stands in the center of Phnom Penh and commemorates Cambodia's independence from France in 1953. Left: A busy intersection filled with people on motorcycles and tuk-tuks in Phnom Penh. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA/GETTY IMAGES



A model of Angkor Wat in front of the Silver Pagoda at the Royal Palace complex in Phnom Penh. GETTY IMAGES

Investing in young employees for the future

YOSHIHISA KAINUMA
REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTOR, CEO & COO, MINEBEA MITSUMI INC.

On behalf of MinebeaMitsumi Inc., I would like to express my sincere congratulations and best wishes to the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the auspicious occasion of the 65th Anniversary of their Independence Day.

MinebeaMitsumi Inc. has been operating its business in Cambodia under the company name of Minebea (Cambodia) Co. Ltd., since December 2010 as a pioneer electronic components manufacturer. With strong support from the royal government of Cambodia and hard work by



Cambodia.

Last year, we finished the construction of our third plant to start in-house parts production, and will fill the space with production lines for value-added products. We also opened a sales office with a showroom on Diamond Island in August. This

our dedicated Cambodian employees, we have expanded our plants to a total floor space of 100,000 square meters by investing more than \$100 million over the past seven years in

will transform Cambodia from a country of labor-intensive industries into a country manufacturing high value-added products domestically.

We believe that working passionately with our young Cambodian employees builds a win-win relationship that will continue to make Minebea (Cambodia) Co. Ltd. grow larger while these young Cambodian employees will gain greater and better knowledge and skills, as well as enjoy better living standards while contributing to the development of Cambodia.

In conclusion, I sincerely wish for a deeper partnership between Japan and Cambodia, and for the happiness and prosperity of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Congratulations
TO
THE PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA
on the Occasion of
the 65th Anniversary of Cambodia's Independence
on 9th November 2018

念佛宗 三寶山 無量壽寺 Nenbutsushu Sampozen Muryojuji Buddhist Sect of Japan <https://www.nenbutsushu.or.jp>
「佛教之王堂」 The Royal Grand Hall of Buddhism <https://www.royalgrandhall.jp>

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to the People of Cambodia
on the Occasion of
the 65th Anniversary of
Cambodia's Independence
on 9th November 2018

Respectful greetings from:

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

West Japan-Cambodia Friendship Association
Kazuhiko Egashira, *President*
Kenji Otani, *Executive Director*

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



Congratulations to the People of the Kingdom of Cambodia on the Occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Independence, November 9, 2018

Respectfully greeted from:

- H.E. Mr. UNG Rachana, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Japan and Spouse
- 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 Special

Monument restoration heralds hope

YOSHIAKI ISHIZAWA
DIRECTOR OF THE SOPHIA ASIA CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



Nov. 9 happens to be the anniversary of the independence of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and hence, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has declared this year as commemorating the 65th Anniversary of the friendship between the two nations of Cambodia and Japan. On this memorable occasion, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, to the Cambodian government, and as well as to all the people of the nation.

The first time I was privileged to be granted an audience by Prime Minister Hun Sen was 35 years ago in March 1983. On that occasion, he served as minister for foreign affairs in the Heng Samrin administration that was formed in 1979, despite the fact that at that time, he was a young man, who was merely 28 years old. Due to him calling for international

awareness of the administration, and since he had also requested aid from friendly nations, each day he was constantly on the move. I have clear recollections of my first encounter with him. In fact, his opening words to me at that time were, "Is Angkor Wat okay?"

The first organization to lend a hand toward the rescue of refugees and the rescue of Angkor, was the Sophia Angkor International Mission, also referred to as the Sophia Mission. Peace was established in 1993, and Cambodia began a new phase once more, as a kingdom. At that point, there were five issues the nation had to confront. These issues were to recover from the wounds of the war (the civil war), rejoin international society, shift from desocialization to the transformation of the nation into a market economy, re-establish the nation's reconciliation and cultural identity, and escape from poverty.

In 1979, we launched a campaign extending hands of love to refugees from Indochina, in Tokyo, and thereby commenced the relief of refugees, and at the same time, in the thick of the battle, we entered Cambodia, and appealed to the entire world to come forward and rescue the nation's monuments. We sent out an SOS on behalf of Angkor, but since the Heng Samrin administration was labeled a



274 Buddha statues were discovered at Banteay Kdei, Angkor, in 2001 during Sophia University's excavation training with students from the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh. SOPHIA UNIVERSITY

puppet government at that time, we received no assistance.

Owing to the nation having been victimized by the civil war, and in order to enable the Cambodian people to regain their hope,

courage and vigor, in 1996 we began restoration work on the Western Causeway of Angkor Wat. In order for the footsteps of peace to be heard by all, we sent out pleas to the entire world, along with young Cambodian conservators. The posture we adopt is that the restoration of the monuments of Cambodia should be done by the Cambodians, for the Cambodians. To allow such restoration work on Angkor Wat to be carried out by the Cambodian people themselves, we have trained conservators and stone masons at the site of the Angkor ruins since 1991. I was able to help some Cambodian conservators undergo training at the graduate school of Sophia University as foreign students, and among them, 19 have secured graduate degrees, with eight receiving doctorates and 11 receiving master's degrees. Also, since 2016, we have, with the guidance of these young Cambodian conservators, started the second phase of restoration work on the Western Causeway of Angkor



Dawn at Angkor Wat in Siem Reap. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA



Cambodian stone masons, who were trained by the Sophia University Angkor International Mission, restore the Western Causeway of Angkor Wat in 1996. SOPHIA UNIVERSITY

Wat. This international cultural contribution is a joint project linking Cambodia and Japan, a bond that will strengthen links between our two nations.

Cambodia has sustained a high level of gross domestic product growth rate of 7 per-

cent for the past two decades. The nation's development continues to grow, and it has totally subjugated the five issues it had been faced with since 1993. This indeed is the Kingdom of Cambodia, on the 65th anniversary of its independence.



Left: Then-Sophia University Chancellor Toshiaki Koso and former Deputy Prime Minister Sok An at the inauguration of the restoration of Angkor Wat's Western Causeway in 2016. Right: Education Minister Hang Chuon Naron presented Yoshiaki Ishizawa the Royal Order of Sahametrei on Nov. 2. SOPHIA UNIVERSITY

Congratulations
on the Occasion of
the 65th Anniversary of
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Check out our Exciting Campus Life on
YouTube Tokyo DOKIDOKI Campus LIFE

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<http://reiyukaiglobal.org/>

We are celebrating
our centenary in 2020

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the 65th Anniversary of
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on 9th November 2018

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

ធនាគារ ស្ទាបនា
SATHAPANA BANK

Chairman of SATHAPANA BANK PLC.: Han Chang-Woo, Ph.D
No. 83, Preah Norodom Boulevard, Sangkat Phsar Thmey 3, Khan Daun Penh,
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Since completing Japan Bridge in 1966,
We have enjoyed a history of over 50 years in Cambodia.

Toyota Tsusho Corporation
Phnom Penh Liaison Office

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Cambodia National Day Special

Promoting further economic growth

HIROYUKI ISHIGE
CHAIRMAN AND CEO, JAPAN EXTERNAL
TRADE ORGANIZATION



I would like to offer my heartiest congratulations and best wishes on the 65th Anniversary of Independence of the Kingdom of Cambodia. In recent years, numerous Japanese companies

have been opening new production sites and sales offices in Cambodia, while membership in the Japanese Business Association of Cambodia has increased more than fivefold from 50 in 2010, the year the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) office in Phnom Penh was established, to 260 in September.

This October, JETRO jointly organized the Japan-Mekong Business Forum in Tokyo with the AMEICC — Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN); Economic Ministers; Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI); and Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee, which was joined by His Excellency Prime Minister of Cambodia Hun Sen. With words of appreciation for the forum, the prime minister, before the more than 500 participants, also expressed his gratitude to Japanese investors already active in his country and his intention to welcome all newcomers aspiring to invest in Cambodia with open arms. He encouraged Japanese businesspeople who have not yet visited his country to become familiar with its advantages, and to bring out the maximum profit from them.

Through our office in Phnom Penh, we at JETRO aspire to contribute to the economic growth by promoting two-way trade and

investment. From January to September, approximately 1,000 Japanese businesspeople seeking opportunities in Cambodia visited our office. We continue to provide information on the Cambodian business environment on such things as regulations and tax incentives. To further mobilize investment from Japan, in February, we organized a mission composed of 15 Japanese companies in the service industry to allow them to see the investment environment and meet with local companies. In addition, through the Buyer Invitation Program, JETRO Phnom Penh has dispatched outstanding Cambodian companies in the food-processing, digital, content and gaming industries to business-matching events in Japan, as well as third-party countries.

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

Partnership boasts notable growth

MASATAKA FUJITA
SECRETARY GENERAL, ASEAN-JAPAN CENTRE



On the occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Cambodia's National Independence Day, Nov. 9, it is my great pleasure and honor to deliver a congratulatory message to the people of Cambodia. This year also marks the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Cambodia and Japan; and the two countries have deepened their already strong ties through a series of commemorative events.

The ASEAN-Japan Centre has long conducted promotional activities of trade, investment, tourism and personal exchanges so as to enhance partnerships between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member 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 regional relations, as well as Cambodia-Japan bilateral relations.

It is gratifying that friendly and long-standing Cambodia-Japan relations have been strengthened and broadened year by year in various fields. While Cambodia's nominal gross domestic product more than doubled during the past decade from 2008 to 2017, thanks to its open economy approach and friendly and liberalized trade and investment climate, trade (both exports and imports) between Cambodia and Japan, as well as Japanese foreign direct investment flow in Cambodia grew ever faster, increasing by 9.8 times and six times, respectively, during the same period. Fueled by the strategic location situated in the heart of Indochina, Southeast Asia's dynamic center, the number of Japanese-affiliated companies in the country reached 309 in 2017, 2.5 times more than that of

five years ago, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These developments will increase regional production networks involving Cambodia as Japanese companies are spearheading the creation of regional value chains in ASEAN. As such, Japanese investors have contributed to further expanding Cambodia-Japan relations.

I believe that the Kingdom of Cambodia, as a vibrant and powerful member of ASEAN, would play an important role in developing further stronger and closer ASEAN-Japan relationships. Next year is designated as the Mekong-Japan Exchange Year 2019, and we are anticipating that it will be another momentous year to further deepen Japan's ties with the Mekong countries, including Cambodia. I look forward to continuing work with the people of Cambodia to fortify cooperation bilaterally and within the framework of the ASEAN, as well as the Mekong subregion.

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



The island of Koh Rong in Sihanoukville province. GETTY IMAGES



The Central Market is a landmark in Phnom Penh. GETTY IMAGES



The city of Phnom Penh along the Tonle Sap River. GETTY IMAGES



A traffic jam in Phnom Penh. GETTY IMAGES



A traditional market in Phnom Penh. GETTY IMAGES

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