

# Cambodia National Day Special

## Long-lasting friendship rooted in gratitude and hope

**RACHANA UNG**  
AMBASSADOR OF CAMBODIA



On the auspicious occasion of the 66th Anniversary of Independence of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Nov. 9, I wish to extend my heartfelt felicitations, to all Cambodian people and join them in commemorating this historical event.

I would also like to join the friendly people of Japan in their festive celebration of the enthronement of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito and wish them greater happiness and continued prosperity during the Reiwa Era.

Independence and self-determination are the common desire and inherent rights of all humankind regardless of their background. In celebration of our Independence Day, the vivid memories of the successful Royal Crusade for Independence by His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, Preah Borom Ratanak

Kaudh, the late king-father, are being overwhelmingly recalled. This historically extraordinary accomplishment, which laid the solid foundation for peace, solidarity and socioeconomic development, is cherished in the hearts of Cambodian people from all walks of life. Meanwhile, Cambodia has made a solemn pledge to serve His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihanouk, king of Cambodia, who represents the national unity and eternity of nation.

I wish to recall that only from 1998, thanks to the win-win policy of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, prime minister of Cambodia, we have enjoyed full peace and political stability that attribute to vibrant socioeconomic development. Annual economic growth of more than 7 percent on average for the past two decades promotes Cambodia from the country of instability and food insecurity to the country of food exporter, an outstanding performer in poverty reduction and the country as a popular tourist destination. Bearing these in mind, Cambodia's government and people are unwaveringly committed to safeguarding this hard-

earned peace and stability at all costs.

The successful story of Cambodia's growth cannot be dissociated from enormous assistance and steadfast support from the government and people of Japan, who have substantially contributed not only to the Cambodian peace process, but also to our post-conflict reconstruction and economic development through overseas development assistance.

Cambodia and Japan have made significant developments as strategic partners since 2013; these have been cemented and cultivated by frequent exchanges of high-level visits, people-to-people exchanges, expanded trade and investments. This year, the king and prime minister separately visited Japan and met Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who reiterated Japan's continued support for Cambodia's democratic development.

Japan assisted Cambodia in electoral reforms, including voter registration and the donation of 15,000 ballot boxes for the 2018 election. Around 7 million people, amounting to 83.02 percent of 8.38 million registered voters, turned out to vote for peace, stability and development. Fol-

lowing Cambodia's first democratic election in 1993, and supervised by the United Nations, Cambodia has maintained an uninterrupted democratization process and strictly adhered to the policy of multi-party liberal democracy enshrined in the constitution.

In global and regional realms, our two countries share common interests, in close cooperation and coordination, to promote peace and stability in the region and beyond.

To conclude, I wish to extend to the government and friendly people of Japan our sincere gratitude for their great contribution and continued assistance to Cambodia. May our long-lasting friendship and strategic partnership of cooperation continue to prosper and advance to a new height.



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

## A commitment to stability, progress

**MASAHIRO IMAMURA**  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-CAMBODIA  
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On the 66th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Kingdom of Cambodia, representing the Parliamentary League for the Friendship between Japan and Cambodia, it is my

great honor and pleasure to convey my sincere congratulations to the people of Cambodia.

Since the parliamentary league for the friendship between Japan and Cambodia was established in the early 1990s, we have promoted efforts to reconstruct and gain

stability in Cambodia through parliamentary support and develop closer relationships between the two countries.

The league has met in dialogue with many key figures from the Cambodian government, including Prime Minister Hun Sen and exchanged views passionately. Members of the league were also blessed with innumerable opportunities to meet those striving to deepen the relationship between the two countries through politics, economics, culture and other endeavors. It has been a great pleasure for the league to see the bond between Japan and Cambodia become even stronger over the years, by seeing the launch of a direct flight service between Narita and Phnom Penh and openings of the branches of Japanese businesses in Cambodia.

Cambodia was where the first dispatch of Japanese personnel for the United

Nations peacekeeping operations were sent in 1992. Cambodia, which once suffered a civil war, now boasts economic growth of 7 percent per year. She is now a country to dispatch personnel for U.N. peacekeeping activities instead of one that accepts them. With an average age of 25, this young country will now flourish under the hands of the newer generations. We, the people of Japan, are thrilled to see the Kingdom of Cambodia, with all citizens hand in hand, stabilize its politics and economics to further push its development. And we will always stand beside the people of Cambodia as a partner based on our mutual history and trust.

I wish the very best for the progress and prosperity of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and prayers for the further development of the relationship between the two countries.



King Norodom Sihamoni (center) and Emperor Naruhito at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on Oct. 22. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at a bilateral meeting held in Tokyo on May 31. EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA



## Congratulations to the People of Cambodia on the Occasion of the Anniversary of Their Independence

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

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

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



# Cambodia National Day Special

## Partnership and economic relations steadily flourish in different spheres

**MASATAKA FUJITA**  
SECRETARY GENERAL, ASEAN-JAPAN CENTRE



On the occasion of the 66th Anniversary of Cambodia's National Independence Day, Nov. 9, it is my great pleasure and honor to deliver a congratulatory message.

The ASEAN-Japan Centre (AJC) 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 AJC, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the Kingdom of Cambodia for its

contribution to maintaining amicable ASEAN-Japan regional relations, as well as Cambodia-Japan bilateral relations. It is gratifying that the friendly and long-standing Cambodia-Japan relations have been strengthened and broadened year by year in various fields. Cambodia's nominal gross domestic product more than doubled during the past decade from 2009 to 2018, recording an average annual GDP growth rate of 6.3 percent, due to its open-economy approach and friendly and liberalized trade and investment climate. Fueled by its strategic location situated in the heart of Indochina, Southeast Asia's dynamic center, the country is gaining popularity rapidly among Japanese businesspeople; 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 of Japan.

I believe that the Kingdom of Cambodia, as a vibrant and powerful member of ASEAN, could play an important role in developing stronger and closer ASEAN-Japan relationships. This year is designated as the Mekong-Japan Exchange Year; and Japan and Mekong countries, including Cambodia, are conducting a series of commemorative events to further deepen their ties. AJC pays special attention to capacity building programs for Mekong countries, especially Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, so as to narrow the intraregional development gap and help drive growth in the ASEAN region. AJC looks forward to continuing work with the people of Cambodia to fortify cooperation bilaterally and within the ASEAN region as a whole. Finally, I cordially extend my heartfelt wishes of happiness and further prosperity to the Kingdom of Cambodia.



Angkor Wat temple complex from afar TIM ANGKOR



Phnom Penh's cityscape at night TIM ANGKOR

## Changes made for business environment

**NOBUHIKO SASAKI**  
CHAIRMAN AND CEO, JAPAN EXTERNAL TRADE ORGANIZATION



I would like to extend my warmest wishes and sincere appreciation to the Cambodian people for our long-standing friendship and cooperation on the occasion of the 66th Anniversary of Inde-

pendence of the Kingdom of Cambodia. This May, the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) jointly organized the Cambodia Investment Seminar in Tokyo with the Council for the Development of Cambodia (CDC) and Mizuho Bank, which was joined by His Excellency Hun Sen, prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia. In his keynote speech, the prime minister expressed his gratitude to Japanese companies doing business in Cambodia and warmly welcomed new investors from Japan. He also referred to the deregulation and improvement of the business environment he had announced at the Government-Private Sector Forum held on March 29 in Cambodia, which includes abolishment of inspection by the Cambodia Import Export Inspection and Fraud Repression Directorate-General (Camcontrol) and reduction of fees such as those for scanning containers that is positively affecting the business situation of Japanese companies in Cambodia. At the panel session, the prime minister also announced his decision to abolish the 1 percent prepayment of profit tax. These reforms are clearly attracting more interest in Cambodia among Japanese companies. In fact, JETRO Phnom Penh accepts more than 2,000 business visitors and 730 specific business consultations annually, and these numbers are increasing. Taking the opportunity of the seminar, JETRO signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the CDC that

aims to enhance the economic relationship between our countries, particularly along the Southern Economic Corridor, and promote a favorable environment for private investment from Japan. Currently, there are 268 companies that are members of the Japanese Business Association of Cambodia. Together with the CDC, JETRO will work to respond to issues faced by Japanese investors. To further develop our cooperative relationship with the Cambodian government, JETRO also concluded an MOU with the Ministry of Commerce in September. It clarifies the aim of trade promotion between both countries and specifies the field of partnerships and

cooperation between the signing parties, including for exchange of trade missions, facilitation of business matching and conducting trade seminars. Bilateral trade is expanding and totaled more than \$2 billion in 2018, of which Cambodian exports to Japan amounted to \$1.6 billion in categories such as women's clothing, shoes, suitcases, insoles and electrical equipment. JETRO will continue efforts to strengthen business between our two countries and promote more investment into Cambodia by Japanese companies. With all my heart, I wish for the well-being and prosperity of the people of Cambodia.

## Company hopes to improve livelihood of workers, locals

**YOSHIOHISA KAINUMA**  
REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTOR, CEO & COO, MINEBEA MITSUMI INC.



On behalf of Minebea Mitsumi 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 66th Anniversary of their Independence Day.

Minebea Mitsumi Inc. has been operating its business in Cambodia under the company name of Minebea (Cambodia) Co. since December 2010 as a pioneer electronic components manufacturer. With strong support from the royal government of Cambodia and hard work by 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 eight years in Cambodia. Since the establishment, the company has been making efforts to contribute to local communities through employment, improving the living environment of employees and providing various education opportunities. We also have been working on the "Smart City" project since 2015 by installing approximately 7,359 Smart LED Streetlights in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap and combining a wireless network system and various sensors to resolve issues such as energy conservation and infrastructure development to contribute to the sustainable growth of Cambodia. By working passionately with our young Cambodian employees, we believe Minebea (Cambodia) will grow larger, while our young Cambodian employees will gain better knowledge and skills and enjoy better living standards. 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 Anniversary of  
Cambodia's Independence



「佛教之王堂」 The Royal Grand Hall of Buddhism

<https://www.royalgrandhall.jp/eng>

念佛宗 三寶山 無量壽寺 Nenbutsushu Sampoan Muryojuji Head Temple

<https://www.nenbutsushu.or.jp/eng>

**Congratulations**  
to the People of Cambodia  
on the Occasion of  
the Anniversary of  
Their Independence

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**

Senji Kobayashi, *President*  
Kenji Otani, *Executive Director*

**Congratulations**  
to the People of Cambodia  
on the Occasion of  
the Anniversary of  
Their Independence

**MinebeaMitsumi**  
Passion to Create Value through Difference

<https://www.minebeamitsumi.com/>

Minebea (Cambodia) Co., Ltd.  
Phnom Penh Special Economic Zone,  
National Road 4, Sangkat Phleung Chhes Rotes,  
Khan Posenchey, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
TEL : 855-23-729-371 FAX : 855-23-729-374

**Congratulations**  
to the People of Cambodia  
on the Occasion of the Anniversary of  
Their Independence

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 Sapporo and Spouse  
Mr. Susumu Tai, Honorary Consul of Cambodia in Sendai



# Cambodia National Day Special

## Angkor Wat restoration efforts reflect strength of ties

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



On Oct. 22, His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni was present for the enthronement ceremony of his majesty the emperor of Japan, and on that occasion, we Japanese offered him

a cordial welcome with hearts replete with joy. This was the second visit of the king to Japan. He was born when the previous monarch, His Majesty the late King Norodom Sihanouk, happened to be on a visit to Japan in 1953, and since then, "Tokyo" has been a pet name of his since his infant days. This is testament to the historical bonds of amity between the nations of Cambodia and Japan, and besides, the king also serves as a symbol of the unity of the Cambodian people.

On Nov. 9, on the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the Independence of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I wish to extend my wholehearted felicitations. My wishes go out in particular to the king and sovereign of the kingdom of Cambodia, Prime Minister Hun Sen and all citizens of Cambodia. Thanks to the able guidance of the prime minister, Cambodia has been able to maintain a high level of economic growth, and among the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations it has manifested a stable political situation.

This indeed is a matter of immense joy for us. Annually, about 6 million people from nations the world over visit Angkor Wat, thereby winning admiration for the

country as a land replete with the world's cultural heritage. Since the peace accord of 1993, the Kingdom of Cambodia and Japan, by navigating together the paths of economic activity, cultural exchange and international friendship programs for the development of the young, have succeeded in deepening mutual understanding and cultural cooperation.

During this period, the fact that we have come to realize the truth that international cooperation is cooperation between individuals, and the fact that we have surpassed barriers of language and culture and forged together bonds of trust that are devoid of all obstacles, are causes for joy indeed. I hereafter wish to present three heartwarming cases of exchange between our two nations.

The first concerns the visit the Cambodian prime minister paid to Japan on May 29, despite his tight agenda. At that time he remarked that the Cambodian government was clearly aware of the fact, that the year 2020 constituted the 20th anniversary of the visit to Angkor Wat of late Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi. Reflecting on our history so far, it was a moment that granted me a glimpse of the endless efforts the prime minister intended to make so as to stimulate even more the links of amity between our two nations.

The second is the fact that on Feb. 22, Sackona Phoeurng, who serves as minister of culture and fine arts for the government of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and also as highest authority for the conservation and restoration of the nation's world cultural heritage of Angkor, visited Japan along with five Cambodian conservators, in order to participate in an international symposium at Sophia University.

The symposium was held under the

theme, "The Resurgence of Angkor Wat — 30 Years of Restoration Work by Cambodians for Cambodians." Sackona, Peou Hang, director-general of the national APSARA (Authority for the Protection of the Site and Management of the Region of Angkor), the state body for the security and upkeep of the Angkor area, and Rachana Ung, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Cambodia, reported that the joint efforts at sustaining and restoring the cultural heritage that firmly links Cambodia and Japan, was evolving smoothly.

Due to the aid offered to human resource development by Japan (the Sophia University Angkor International Mission), which extends over a period of around 30 years, when the Cambodian conservators reported that they were accomplishing the restoration work on their own, a loud round of applause arose from the audience, which comprised around 180 people.

The third is that during the current year, when Japan moved from the Heisei to Reiwa era, two distinguished Cambodian officials were bestowed commendations for the current year from the foreign minister of Japan, namely Bunta Ek, deputy-director general in the Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, and Ravy Oum, current vice president of the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

The commendation was granted for the many activities they undertook and remarkable contributions they made, for the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Cambodia. Coincidentally, they are both former international students at the graduate school of Sophia University. It was I who directed



Sophia Asia Center for Research and Human Development Director Yoshiaki Ishizawa with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen in Tokyo on May 29. GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

their theses, and on their graduating from Sophia University with master's and doctoral degrees they returned to their homeland, where their efforts to serve as bridges between Japan and Cambodia, enabled them to attain this award.

On Aug. 25, I met the two in Phnom Penh, and conveyed to them the felicitations of the president and chancellor of Sophia University. On my doing so however, the two of them, reflecting back with deep emotion on their adolescent days, remarked: "During the Pol Pot regime the whereabouts of our fathers

was unknown, and with our having to eat rice for every meal, life for us was awfully hard. Yet, we believed that if we but studied, a time would arrive when we would be able to give our best for our nation. The end result of our effort was we entered graduate school in Japan, as government-sponsored international students. The acclaim for what we now are goes to the people of Japan, and we are grateful for their goodwill."

Aside from the joy of receiving the award, the two of them, in a mood of deep gratitude, spoke of their indebtedness to their Japanese friends, and this turned into a fresh source of joy for them. There is a great deal of heritage in the form of "wisdom" that we need to gain

from Cambodia, and we have also come to adopt the stance of conveying to them the wisdom of Japan. Such a stance has resulted in increasing the credibility and trust of the Cambodian people. By embracing as our credo of global service the motto, "By the Cambodians, for the Cambodians," and through our restoration work on the Western Causeway of Angkor Wat, we have succeeded in achieving interchanges both in culture and technical know-how linked to heritage restoration between our nations.

By so doing we have endorsed even more the development of human resources, and hence we entreat your unbroken support and cooperation with regard to these issues.



Cambodian officials Ravy Oum (right) and Bunta Ek (left) with Director Yoshiaki Ishizawa during the director's visit to Phnom Penh on Aug. 25. SOPHIA UNIVERSITY



Clockwise from top: Minister of Culture and Fine Arts of the Kingdom of Cambodia Sackona Phoeurng; Cambodian Ambassador to Japan Rachana Ung; and APSARA Director-general Peou Hang talk at Sophia University on Feb. 22. SOPHIA UNIVERSITY

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

*Congratulations*  
to the People of Cambodia  
on the Occasion of  
the Anniversary of  
Their Independence

**OJI**  
Beyond the Boundaries

<https://www.ojiholdings.co.jp/english/>

**Congratulations**  
to the People of Cambodia  
on the Occasion of  
the Anniversary of  
Their Independence

We are celebrating  
our centenary in 2020

**REIYUKAI** <http://reiyukaiglobal.org/>

**Congratulations**  
to the People of Cambodia  
on the Occasion of  
the Anniversary of  
Their Independence

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

**សម្ពោធិ ធានា**  
**SATHAPANA BANK**

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

**Congratulations**  
to the People of Cambodia  
on the Occasion of  
the Anniversary of  
Their Independence

Since completing Japan Bridge in 1966,  
We have enjoyed a history of over 50 years in Cambodia.

**Toyota Tsusho Corporation**  
Phnom Penh Liaison Office

Exchange Square, Building Nos.19-20, Unit 1506,  
St.106, Sangkat Wat Phnom, Village 2,  
Khan Daun Penh, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Tel.: +855-(0)23964044 Fax: +855-(0)23964043

**Congratulations**  
to the People of Cambodia  
on the Occasion of  
the Anniversary of  
Their Independence

**YAZAKI**

YAZAKI Corporation  
[www.yazaki-group.com](http://www.yazaki-group.com)

Cambodian Yazaki Energy System Co., Ltd.  
Yazaki (Cambodia) Products Co., Ltd.