

Cambodia National Day Special

Holistic, humanitarian approach central to bilateral ties

RACHANA UNG
AMBASSADOR OF CAMBODIA



On the auspicious occasion of the 67th anniversary of independence of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Nov. 9, I wish to join all Cambodian people to wholeheartedly commemorate, with joy, this momentous event. I sincerely hope that our Khmer compatriots and Japan's friendly people are in excellent and strong spirits while enduring the coronavirus's difficult circumstances.

Cambodian people from all walks of life reminisce about His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, and Preah Borom Ratanak Kaudh, the late king-father, whose Royal Crusade successfully brought Cambodia historic independence, sovereignty and self-determination. We solemnly pledge allegiance to His Majesty Preah Bat

Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihanouk, king of Cambodia, who symbolizes the national unity and eternity of the nation.

History was not very kind to Cambodia. A coup in 1970 dragged the country into a civil war. Subsequently, the country fell under the Khmer Rouge regime, where socioeconomic and state infrastructures were destroyed and intellectuals were purged to near extinction. After its liberation from the regime in 1979, Cambodia struggled to survive amid a total lack of state and institutional capacity coupled with economic sanctions.

Following the 1993 U.N.-supervised election, a hope of national unity and reconciliation emerged. However, hope slowly diminished as the U.N. could not integrate the Khmer Rouge into society and a fear of the return of civil war remained. It was not until 1998 that Cambodia could finally claim full peace and stability following the total dismantling of the Khmer Rouge organization and its armed forces. This was thanks to the triumphant implementation of a win-win policy spearheaded by Samdach Techo

Hun Sen, prime minister of Cambodia.

Full peace and stability gave impetus to country development. Average yearly growth of more than 7% for the past two decades has raised Cambodia's profile from a country of instability and food insecurity to that of a food exporter, an outstanding performer in poverty reduction and a popular tourist destination. Cambodia also maintains an uninterrupted democratization process and rigorously adheres to the multiparty liberal democracy enshrined in the 1993 constitution. From this experience, the Cambodian people are steadfastly determined to safeguard their hard-earned peace, stability and democracy at all costs.

Cambodia has adopted a holistic and humanitarian approach in facing coronavirus challenges. In February, Cambodia, small in size but with a big heart, greeted with open arms some 2,000 stranded passengers and crew representing 41 nationalities onboard the cruise ship MS Westerdam, who were turned away from other countries over coronavirus fears. Before July, foreign and Cambodian nationals who tested positive for COVID-19 were provided with medical care at no cost. As of Nov. 5, Cambodia's infection rate stands at 292, with all cases having originated overseas, 286 patients recovered, a zero fatality rate and no community transmission.

Since January, the government has introduced six economic measures to support people in sectors most infected by the coronavirus, including a cash handout plan

for approximately 600,000 of the most vulnerable households. The government has decided to extend this support program to year-end since the issue hasn't subsided.

Statistically, because of the coronavirus, Cambodia's 2020 economy is expected to experience negative growth of -1.9% this year, whereas the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) suggested -2% and -4%, respectively. On a positive note, growth is expected to bounce back in 2021, with the government, World Bank and ADB projecting 3.5%, 4.3% and 5.9%, respectively.

Our ongoing success in pandemic prevention could not be dissociated from assistance from valuable partners and friendly countries, including Japan. The Japanese

government has extended in-kind contributions, assistance and loans to Cambodia through bilateral and multilateral frameworks, including the Association of South-east Asian Nations, Asia-Europe Foundation and United Nations Office for Project Services. This aid package manifests unwavering support by the Japanese government and its people, who have substantially contributed not only to Cambodia's peace process in the past, but also to our post-conflict reconstruction and economic development through overseas development assistance.

Despite a global impact, the pandemic does not hinder our strategic partnership of cooperation underlined by a successful visit of Toshimitsu Motegi, minister for foreign affairs, to Cambodia last August, when he

called upon Samdech Techo Hun Sen and was warmly received by Prak Sokhonn, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation of Cambodia. The two foreign ministers agreed to further support one another in regional and international frameworks and work closely to encourage synergy from all initiatives to promote peace, stability and inclusive development.

I would like to conclude my message with our deep appreciation to the government and friendly people of Japan for their substantial contributions and sustained assistance to Cambodia and also my strong commitment to boosting Cambodia-Japan's long-lasting friendship and strategic partnership to another level.

Relationship continues to develop, evolve

MASAHIRO IMAMURA
CHAIR, JAPAN-CAMBODIA
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



Representing the Japan-Cambodia Parliamentary Friendship League for the Friendship, I extend my sincere congratulations to the people of the Kingdom of Cambodia as they celebrate

their 67th Independence Day.

In January, I visited Phnom Penh with Yuko Obuchi, the league secretary-general and member of parliament, and Chizuko Obuchi, widow of late Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi. We were invited by Prime Minister Hun Sen on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Keizo Obuchi's visit to Cambodia. That was the first visit to Cambodia by a Japanese prime minister after the peace agreement was reached. Obuchi did all he

could to help remove land mines and support Cambodia's reconstruction. During our visit, we witnessed Cambodia's remarkable development and the further expansion of bilateral ties. As they looked back on Cambodia's development over the past 20 years, Prime Minister Hun Sen and key Cambodian officials offered deep appreciation for cooperative relations between our countries. Chizuko Obuchi told me that full of emotion after the visit, she relayed the visit to her husband in heaven.

Cambodia and Japan are now facing the global spread of the coronavirus. The pandemic has seriously impacted our economies and disrupted active, expanded traffic and exchange. On a positive note, I would like to express my respect and praise for Cambodia's efforts and the people's solidarity that have brought infections under control. Let us help each other to contain COVID-19 through the bilateral provision of medical supplies and equipment. Let us also be creative in enhancing the wide-ranging efforts to maintain private sector coopera-

tion and exchanges.

Cambodia and Japan became strategic partners in 2013. This relationship has grown in importance year by year. The about 270 member companies of the Japanese Business Association of Cambodia support Cambodia's economic growth. Over 10,000 Cambodians are in Japan as technical intern trainees or students, active in wide-ranging areas. Cambodia is located at the center of the fast-growing Mekong region and has grown into a young, dynamic country. Having overcome the civil war, half its population is aged 25 or younger.

In September, travel by long-term residents between Cambodia and Japan was again permitted. I expect short-term business travel will soon follow. Our league aims to make steady efforts to help our countries overcome such challenges and develop even closer relations.

In conclusion, I sincerely wish for Cambodia and Japan's robust development and the happiness and prosperity of the people involved.



Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi meets with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen in Phnom Penh on Aug. 22 ROYAL EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA



Foreign ministers meet in Phnom Penh on Aug. 22 ROYAL 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



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Cambodia National Day Special

Nation a vibrant, powerful ASEAN member

MASATAKA FUJITA
SECRETARY GENERAL, ASEAN-JAPAN CENTRE



On the occasion of the 67th anniversary of Cambodia's National Independence Day, Nov. 9, it is my great pleasure and honor to deliver a congratulatory message to the Cambodian people.

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

This year has been a difficult time for all of us. Foremost, my thoughts are with those who have been affected by the recent heavy rain and Mekong River flood. Also, even though Cambodia's control over the spread of the coronavirus has been a remarkable success, the pandemic is hitting its economic growth and people's lives. However, I am confident that we will recover and be able to deepen our already strong ties throughout this pandemic.

Although the pandemic has affected many of the AJC's activities this year, the AJC has been making efforts to adapt and

timely respond to ASEAN and Japan's current situation. For example, in response to a series of calls at the international and regional levels for strengthening and rebuilding value chains since the outbreak of the coronavirus, the center calculated the degree of risks of value chains to external shocks and identified which industries tend to be more vulnerable to risks. Last month, the AJC published a report, "Resilient Global Value Chains for ASEAN and its Relationship with Partner Countries — A way to mitigate and adapt to the economic impacts of COVID-19." This report proposes that each country and each company in ASEAN engaged in international production networks should examine their vulnerability of value chains to external risks in their respective industry with possible reference to AJC's risk

calculation.

I believe that the Kingdom of Cambodia, as a vibrant and powerful member of ASEAN, will play an important role in developing further stronger and closer ASEAN-Japan relationships. The AJC looks forward to continuing to 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.



National Museum, Phnom Penh, inaugurated in 1920
CAMBODIAN
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

Overcoming the coronavirus together

NOBUHIKO SASAKI
CHAIR AND CEO, JAPAN EXTERNAL TRADE ORGANIZATION



I would like to extend my warmest wishes and sincere appreciation to the Cambodian people for our longstanding friendship and cooperation on the occasion of the 67th anniversary of independence of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

I would also like to take this time to offer my heartfelt sympathy to the people affected by the coronavirus. The disaster has greatly restrained business exchange between Cambodia and Japan.

The pandemic has brought limitations on travel that have caused temporary suspension of business interaction, as well as new needs. In order to work toward economic improvements between our two countries, there are high expectations for people-to-people exchanges. While we wait for government discussions on improvement, there is also a need to find

other means of doing business, such as using digital tools. Information needs via the internet are increasing rapidly, and accesses to information regarding Cambodia on the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) website from April to September reached almost 30,000, accounting for more than 83% of the total views the previous year. As Japan's trade and investment promotion organization, JETRO supports the development of business between Japan and Cambodia, even under the coronavirus circumstances.

In the tide of digitalization, JETRO launched the "Asia Digital Transformation" projects for the purpose of supporting Japanese companies in conducting demonstration projects together with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) companies to contribute to solving socioeconomic challenges in ASEAN member states via digital technologies. For instance, in Cambodia, adopted projects include utilization of digital technology in agricultural areas and the tourism industry.

JETRO has also started the "Japan Mall" project, an e-commerce platform, holding a kick-off event last year that Minister of

Commerce of the Kingdom of Cambodia Pan Sorasak attended. We promote not only the field of digital transformation, but also traditional fields of support such as the manufacturing and nonmanufacturing industries. However, these are merely a fraction of all examples. JETRO continues to boost Cambodia and Japan business activities through various projects.

While digitalization is being promoted because of the coronavirus, the move toward the enactment of the Draft Law on Investment of Kingdom of Cambodia, which includes the advancement and updates from the law in force, will deepen and accelerate the bilateral business relationship. Although it is currently in the draft stage, I expect early enactment that will surely improve the investment environment.

Although the economic and cross-border business situation has been in deep difficulty, 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.



Above, top right: 20th Cambodia-Japan Joint Committee Meeting on Promotion and Protection of Investment, held in Phnom Penh on Sept. 3. COUNCIL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CAMBODIA



Cultural and Economic Diplomacy event attendees in Tokyo on Nov. 2. ROYAL EMBASSY OF CAMBODIA

Congratulations
TO
THE PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA
on the Occasion of the Anniversary of
Their 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

J TRUST
J Trust Co., Ltd. <https://www.jt-corp.co.jp/>

J Trust Royal Bank
J Trust Royal Bank Plc. <https://jtrustroyal.com/>



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. Susumu Tai, Honorary Consul of Cambodia in Sendai

Cambodia National Day Special

Significant monuments worthy of World Heritage site status

YOSHIKI ISHIZAWA

DIRECTOR OF THE SOPHIA ASIA CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



I would like to convey my heartfelt good wishes on the occasion of the 67th anniversary of the independence of the Kingdom of Cambodia, which falls on Nov. 9. These salutations go out to His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni, Prime Minister Hun Sen, Ung Rachana, ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Japan, and to all Cambodian people.

Currently, the world is in the grips of the coronavirus. Nevertheless, restoration work on the Western Causeway of Angkor Wat, which is a joint effort of Cambodia and Japan, continues and is now entering its fourth year. With Cambodian conservation officers at the core of the construction project, the work is proceeding faster than planned. The reason for this is because the officers openly state that Angkor Wat has

the divine protection of the gods and Buddha. Hence, foregoing their food and sleep they ceaselessly concentrate on their work, without even taking a day off.

About 900 years ago, around the first half of the 12th century, Angkor Wat was erected as a Cambodian version of a Hindu temple, at around the same time the Chusonji Konjikido Buddhist temple was built in Japan. Both structures were shiny golden edifices and both were envisioned as virtual Buddhist paradises.

On Sept. 28, an Online Angkor Wat International Conference was organized between Cambodia and Japan, linking Japan to the construction site of Angkor Wat located 4,200 kilometers away. It was sponsored by the National Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem-Reap (APSARA National Authority) and Sophia University, making it possible for us to see the faces of the Cambodian presenters and listen to their reports. At the construction site, they employed high-level stone technology and revealed the skill of the Cambodians. This type of online international conference was realized through the courtesy of the Cambodian ambassador to Japan.

In this online international conference, as a representative of the Japanese side, professor Tsutomu Sakuma, chancellor of the Sophia School Corp., said in his initial address, "I am truly glad that Angkor Wat, a national treasure of Cambodia and pride of its people, is being restored by experts from Japan and Cambodia."

On behalf of the Cambodian side, Hang Peou, director general of the APSARA National Authority declared: "Japan has played a key role in the preservation and restoration of Cambodian cultural heritage. I am grateful to everybody in Japan. The restoration of the Western Causeway is proof of the cordial relationship between Japan and Cambodia. Despite our being amid this coronavirus disaster, we have applied ourselves to working without a single day's rest."

Kim Sothin, deputy director-general of the APSARA National Authority affirmed, "We wish to continue restoring the Western Causeway with technical aid from Sophia University and positively make it a success, because, to put it frankly, the result of the construction is solid proof that we conservationists can restore our own cultural heritage, and this gives us great confidence."

Five conservationists were in charge at the site. Site management of the Western Causeway; reinforcement of the retaining wall; foundation construction in the rainy season; paving stones; management of the actual measurement drawings; and management of safety issues at the construction site, as well as other issues, were presented in detail. This included slides of the restoration work done at the Western Causeway. At the conclusion of the conference, the Cambodian ambassador gave a greeting wherein he said: "Even in the event of the new coronavirus disaster, I would like Japan and Cambodia to continue the consideration of restoration work online. I desire to express my profound gratitude to everyone involved for their efforts." With this, the Online Angkor Wat International Conference came to an end. The cheerful voices of the Cambodian conservators reached Japan from Angkor Wat, hoping for the earliest possible solution to the coronavirus disaster.

Cambodia is a key nation regarding cultural heritage. Its archaeological



Koh Ker (921 to 944 A.D.) is an important archaeological site and a former capital of the Khmer empire. This seven-tiered, pyramid-shaped guardian temple was the site of ritual ceremonies.

SOPHIA UNIVERSITY

ruins, which are worthy of registration as UNESCO World Heritage sites, are said to number about 3,000. Of these, I wish to recommend for registration as a World Heritage site Koh Ker temple (921 to 944 A.D.) that is located about 130 kilometers away from Angkor Wat.

Since December 2000, the Sophia University Angkor International Mission has been carrying out many surveys of the entire Koh Ker archaeological site in collaboration with the APSARA National Authority. The characteristic feature of the Koh Ker ruins lies in the fact that it is a capital city based on novel ways of thinking, with vast contrivances. The capital city was abandoned during construction owing to the death of the king, but what most draws the attention of experts is that its base was established with an orientation that is 15 degrees northwest, indeed a new concept. The main axes of Angkor capital city are north, south, east and west, yet this new capital city has its temples, royal palace and so on, all tilted 15 degrees northwest. The reasons for this are unknown, but the setting appears to have a relationship to Cambodia's unique view of the cosmos. This is the first case of a capital city being established with an orientation of 15 degrees northwest. Koh Ker is a massive capital city designed with a peripheral wall of 1,200 square meters. The enormous temple, the great royal palace and the principal image of the great Shiva Linga within the city are contrivances meant to inform that the political authority of the preceding Angkor capital city had been rejected. The center contains a pyramid-shaped national guardian temple called

Prang, with a foundation base of 55 square meters. Seven tiers of foundations are stacked, and the topmost tier has a central shrine made of wood. There is a large man-made reservoir called Rahal that is 560 by 1,200 meters.

Besides these, new temples are built in 30 other locations. The period referred to is 921 to 944 A.D., and the construction was carried out under the reign of King Jayavarman IV. Having escaped from the Angkor capital city, he asserted the legitimacy of the kingship he had usurped at the newly opened Koh Ker. The Prang Temple is the Koh Ker version of Mount Meru. Within the temple the divine body of the nation, the Linga of Tribhuvanecvara was venerated and the king was viewed as being divine. The new capital city was based on a novel view of the cosmos; it justifies its raison d'être. This Koh Ker capital city was incomplete, yet it conveys to the world the charm of the concept of a capital city where the gods exist.

The city is an archaeological site where one can probe the issue as to how the Cambodians established the capital city.

The ruins are amply endowed with the historical and cultural value necessary for its inclusion as a World Heritage site. When tourists pay visits to the place, they are bound to be charmed by the 15 degree tilt of the baseline, as well as the concepts behind the massive contrivances.

We are aware that like Koh Ker, Cambodia is gifted with vast numbers of archaeological sites endowed with "knowledge to be acquired." Additionally, in exchanges with Cambodia, we have maintained the attitude of speaking about the "knowledge" of Japan. Through comparative study and discussions, this attitude has raised the credibility of the Cambodian people. By adopting the axiom "by the Cambodians for the Cambodians" as our philosophy of international service, we have further promoted within both nations the exchange of archaeological site restoration technology and culture, as well as the development of skilled individuals through our restoration work at the Western Causeway of Angkor Wat. Accordingly, we request the continued understanding and support of all concerned parties.

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



Prasat Balang Linga shrine located northeast of the Rahal reservoir. The use of sandstone is typical at Koh Ker sites. SOPHIA UNIVERSITY

Employee health, dedication key to success

YOSHIHISA 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 67th anniversary of their Independence Day.

Minebea Mitsumi has been operating as a pioneer electronic components manu-

facturing business in Cambodia under the company name of Minebea (Cambodia) Co. since December 2010. With strong support from Cambodia's royal government and our dedicated Cambodian employees' hard work, we have expanded our plants to a total floor space of 100,000 square meters by investing more than \$170 million in Cambodia over the past nine years.

This year has seen the coronavirus pandemic significantly impact Cambodia and the world. Thanks to the Royal Government of Cambodia's pandemic preparedness, the Ministry of Health and relevant ministries, our factory has not suffered. All of our approximately 6,000 employees are working and living healthily. Our business

is doing pretty well with high-value-added products such as precision parts for game consoles and medical equipment.

As of now, our "Smart City" project since 2015 of installing Smart LED Streetlights with a wireless network in overall Cambodia will reach up to 15,000 pieces, including the road construction project at Sihanoukville province by the end of this year. Our Smart LED Streetlights will resolve issues such as energy conservation and infrastructure development and contribute to the sustainable growth of Cambodia.

I sincerely wish for a deeper partnership between Japan and Cambodia and for the Kingdom of Cambodia's happiness and prosperity.



The Japan Cambodia Committee on Technical Exchange and Training reports on Angkor Wat restoration on Sept. 28. SOPHIA UNIVERSITY

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

MARUHAN GROUP

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

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We are celebrating our centenary in 2020

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.



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