



INFORMATION BULLETIN

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CAMBODIA-JAPAN BILATERAL RELATIONS

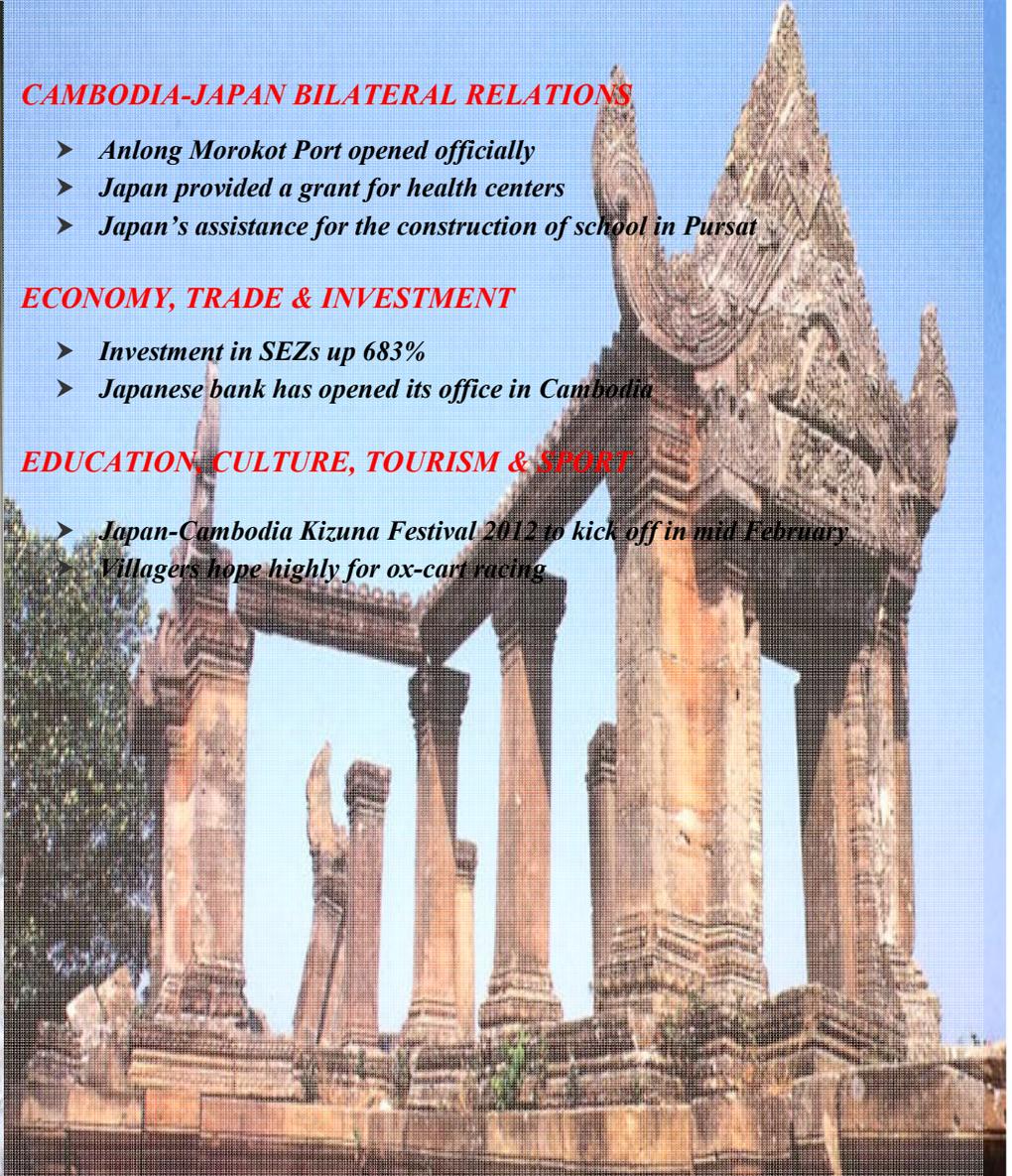
- *Anlong Morokot Port opened officially*
- *Japan provided a grant for health centers*
- *Japan's assistance for the construction of school in Pursat*

ECONOMY, TRADE & INVESTMENT

- *Investment in SEZs up 683%*
- *Japanese bank has opened its office in Cambodia*

EDUCATION, CULTURE, TOURISM & SPORT

- *Japan-Cambodia Kizuna Festival 2012 to kick off in mid February*
- *Villagers hope highly for ox-cart racing*



PREAH VIHEAR, WORLD HERITAGE SITE SINCE JULY 2008

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CAMBODIA-JAPAN BILATERAL RELATIONS

Anlong Morokot Port opened officially

Newly constructed Anlong Morokot port in Thala Borivath district of Stung Treng province, an area adjacent to Cambodian-Lao border, was officially opened in the early February.

The port, constructed under the grant aid of over US\$100,000 from Japan, will contribute not only to the improvement of the province's economy, but also attract both national and international visitors, especially from the neighboring country.

Japan provided a grant for health centers

On February 06, Mr. Kuroki Masafumi, Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia, signed a grant contract with Mr. Schmied Petr, Head of NGO "People in Need", to provide US\$74,333 to extent a delivery rooms at eight health centers in Takeo Province, Cambodia.



People in Need will construct pre/post delivery rooms at the centers which will be enable at least 1,800 mothers to receive proper medical care before and after delivery and is expected to contribute to the reduction of maternal and infant mortality rates in Cambodia.

Japan's assistance for the construction of school in Pursat

Under a grant contracts, signed on February 8 between Mr. Kuroki Masafumi, Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia, and Mr. Ung Pola, Executive Director of Cambodian Organization for Children and Development, Japan will provide US\$65,750 to build a new school building at Kset Borey Primary School in Pursat Province.

Addressing the signing ceremony, the Japanese ambassador said education sector is one of the first priority of Japan-Cambodia cooperation.

Mr. Ung Pola expressed profound thanks to the Government of Japan for continuously providing assistance to Cambodia's development in all fields.

ECONOMY, TRADE & INVESTMENT

Investment in SEZs up 683%

The total values for investment projects in Cambodia's Special Economic Zones (SEZ) increased about 683 per cent year-on-year in 2011, according to a report from the Council for the Development of Cambodia.

The CDC approved 39 projects worth US\$715.25 million in 2011. It was a 683.83 per cent hike compared with 2010's figures, which totalled 22 investment projects worth \$91.25 million.

The CDC report revealed that between 2006 and 2011, Cambodia's SEZs received 96 investment projects worth \$1.15 billion, which created jobs for 61,400 workers.

Several of the 2011 investments included electric equipment assemblers, something



hailed by economists as Cambodia's ascent up the manufacturing value chain.



Last year, Japan's Marunix, a supplier of electronic parts to companies such as Sony, IBM and Canon, and Sumi Wiring Systems Co Ltd invested in the Phnom Penh Special Economic Zone.



Among total 21 SEZs, few of which locate near Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville have seen actively attract foreign direct investors since the Kingdom began developing the areas in 2005.

Speaking at a seminar to promote SEZ development in the early February, General Secretary for CDC Sok Chenda Sophea said that SEZ investment has grown because of improving political, economic and social stability, coupled with skilled labourers, low prices, and the government's efforts to encourage further investments.

Japanese bank has opened its office in Cambodia

Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation opened on February 14 a representative office in Phnom Penh.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, General Manager of Planning at SMBC Hiroshi Irie said Japanese banks are now coming back to Cambodia after 45 years. Cambodia is located in the centre of the Greater Mekong Sub-Region, which is a strategic position for trading in the region.

Moreover, Chairman of the Japanese Business Association of Cambodia Hiromitsu Iwatate said that SMBC's new opening reflected a growing trend amongst Japanese businesses looking to expand in Cambodia and added that Japanese companies have been increasing sharply in Cambodia over the last three years. It has risen from 50 companies in 2009 to 100 now.

According to Suzuki Hiroshi, president of the Business Research Institute for Cambodia (BRIC), the SMBC office will function primarily as an information office for Japanese investors.

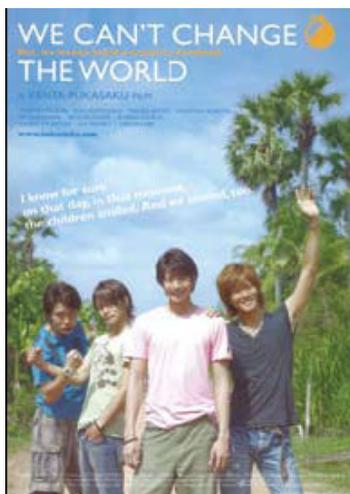
EDUCATION, CULTURE, TOURISM & SPORT

Japan-Cambodia Kizuna Festival 2012 to kick off in mid February

The Japan-Cambodia Kizuna Festival will be held on February 16-19 at Cambodia Japan Cooperation Center (CJCC) with various cultural events and exhibitions, aiming at introducing Japanese traditional and modern culture in Cambodia and promoting cultural exchange between the two nations.



The four-day event will be organized by the Embassy of Japan in collaboration with CJCC, according to a press release of the Embassy of Japan.



The Opening Ceremony of the festival will be highlighted by a music performance by AUN, a world famous unit of traditional Japanese musical instruments along with Cambodian musicians.

Another highlight of the festival is the Premier Roadshow of a Japanese movie titled "WE CAN NOT CHANGE THE WORLD. But we wanna build a school in Cambodia", featuring major Japanese actor Mr. Osamu MUKAI, Japan-Cambodia Goodwill Ambassador. The movie is based on a real experience of a Japanese student who built a school in Cambodia.



The festival features more events such as Karate-do and Kendo demonstrations, Japanese cinema show, Honda YES Awards

Ceremony, Japanese Speech Contest, various lectures by Japanese scholars, flower arrangement, Origami, Mochitsuki, Science Show and so on.

Villagers hope highly for ox-cart racing

The residents of Prey Ta Ouk village, Kampong Speu province have usually raced the Khmer traditional ox-cart after the rice harvest.

The tradition of ox-cart racing began in the village a long time ago, but was lost during the Khmer Rouge regime, according to Pok Saoly, one of the race's organizers, adding that the sport has seen a resurgence since 2007.

The Prey Ta Ouk race is held twice a year – once to celebrate the January harvest and once a few days before Khmer New Year – and has become so popular that organisers hope to hold more races throughout the year.



Khmer traditional ox-cart

Even though competitions have already spread to different places in the Kingdom, the organizers hope ox-cart racing will someday reach all Cambodians on television like other sports and expect to create a national championship in the near future.
