



# INFORMATION BULLETIN

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## **CAMBODIA-JAPAN BILATERAL RELATIONS**

### **Japan donated demining equipment to Cambodia**

Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun and Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia Mr. Masafumi Kuroki on February 17 presided over the handover ceremony of the demining equipment worth US\$5.5 million donated by the government of Japan to the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) to support its demining operation.



Through the past over 17 years of the joint work of CMAC (Cambodian Mine Action Center), the Royal Armed Forces and International Demining Organizations, Cambodia has cleared 520 square kilometers of land, found and destroyed 2.7 million mines and UXO, but estimate suggested there remains 670 square kilometers of land needs to be cleared.



Addressing the ceremony, Cambodian premier expressed profound thanks to the government and people of Japan for providing the precious equipment to Cambodia and reemphasized that Cambodia will host the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on the Implementation of Ottawa Convention, which will be held in November or early December 2011.

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### **More Japanese investors are interested in investing in Cambodia**

At the meeting with Mr. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, on February 11, Mr. Hideo Ohkubo, head of the delegation of the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and chairman of Forval Cooperation said that he is encouraging more Japanese investors to invest in the Kingdom and added that there is a need to organize tours for Japanese investors to see with their own eyes the Cambodia's real situation and investment potential.

Mr. Ohkubo also informed that the Forval Corporation will open its office soon in Cambodia and cooperate with the government to facilitate Japanese investments in the Kingdom.

In response, Mr. Sok An said Cambodian government is soon to set up an information centre, where national and international investors could obtain accurate information about Cambodian investment potential.

Total of Japan's investment value in Cambodia between 1994- 2009 was US \$105.18 million, according the figures provided by the Office of the Council of Ministers.

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## **Cambodia to conduct agricultural census**

According to the announcement of the Ministry of Planning on February 15, Cambodia would seek US\$5 million from development partners and international organisations to conduct a census on agricultural production in the Kingdom, which the result would be available in 2012.

Minister of the Ministry of Planning Mr. Chhay Than said the agricultural census is part of a broader programme to create reliable statistical data on population, the economy and agriculture under the Statistics Law passed in 2005 in order to better assess national economic growth.

Mr. Mosafomi Koroki, Japan's ambassador to Cambodia, said the Japanese government had provided substantial funding and technical support in an effort to enhance the Cambodian government's ability to gather and analyze data, and to produce reliable statistics with which to improve national development strategies.

Cambodia conducted its last population census in 2008. The survey, which cost \$7 million, found that the Kingdom's population had risen to 13.4 million people, up from 11.4 in 1998, the year that the government conducted its first postwar national census.

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## **JICA pumping-well projects were inaugurated in Kampong Cham province**

Cambodian minister for Rural Development Mr. Chea Sophara early February presided over the opening ceremony of 135 pumping-well projects which donated by Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to the local people in 72 villages and 14 communes in Kampong Cham province.

Minister expressed thanks to JICA for its assistance and said the 135 projects of pumping well are given to coincide with strategic plan and objective of the Ministry of Rural Development for the years to come in ensuring to support all sectors and promote the community to be aware of the benefit of handling the clean water.

In the past, JICA gave clean water supplies to the rural Cambodians by building 500 wells, said Mr. Suzuki Yasujiro, president of JICA.

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## **INTERNATIONAL RELATION & COOPERATION**

### **U.S. Ambassador to ASEAN visited Cambodia**

The United States Ambassador for ASEAN affairs and deputy assistant secretary of state for its East Asia and Pacific Bureau Mr. Scot Marciel paid an official visit on February 8-9 in Cambodia.



In the meeting with the U.S. Ambassador on February 9, Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong has sought the U.S. government's support to Cambodian candidacy as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2013-2014 and asked the U.S. to consider writing off or turning 70 percent of



Cambodia's debt amounting over US\$300 million into development aids.

For his part, Mr. Scot Marciel said he will submit Cambodia's request to his government.



On the same day, Mr. Marciel held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers Sok An on Khmer Rouge Tribunal, Preah Vihear Temple, Cambodia-Thailand border dispute and anti-corruption law.

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### USS Patriot made port in Sihanoukville

The USS Patriot, an Avenger-class countermeasures vessel from the 7<sup>th</sup> fleet based in Hawaii made port in Sihanoukville on February 15 to visit and to conduct exercises with the Cambodian Navy.



This was the fifth visit by a U.S. naval ship since the resumption of military to military engagement between the U.S. and Cambodia in 2006.

“Every visit is new, because each ship brings along its own unique capabilities,” said US embassy spokesman John Johnson, adding that this exercises focused on damage control, search and seizure and at sea rescue techniques.

In addition naval surveyors, traveling on the ship, also assisted their Cambodian counterparts in taking sides scan surveys of the port area to check for possible obstructions in commercial shipping lanes.

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## NATIONAL POLICY AND SOCIETY

### Hun Sen visited troops in Preah Vihear and Battambang provinces

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen made a visit to Preah Vihear temple on February 06, during which premier accused neighbouring Thailand of planning to invade Cambodia and called on troops to defend the Kingdom's borders.



“The border issues with Thailand have to be resolved through negotiation, but we will use force when Thai troops are invading Cambodia. The tanks and weapons are not here for exhibition only – they are here to fight against the enemy and invaders,” premier said.



In addition to his trip to the temple, Samdech Techo Hun Sen attended the opening of a nearby school and distributed gifts and supplies to local villagers and also visited the site near the temple of a market that was destroyed by Thai rocket fire last April. There Cambodian premier said it was up to Thailand to decide whether to pay compensation for the incident.

On February 27, Samdech Hun Sen also visited the Cambodian soldiers near the Thai border in Battambang province and claimed that Cambodia will conduct military exercises early March in the western province Kampong Chhnang.

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### **Google to review Cambodian map over Preah Vihear Temple**

On February 5, the Cambodian government sent a protesting letter to Google stated that the frontier line between Cambodia and Thailand in the section of the Temple of Preah Vihear has been very wrongly marked, which is radically misleading and totally misleading, therefore requesting Google to withdraw this wrong map and replace it by an internationally recognized map "Annex I" used by the International Court of Justice to settle the issue of Preah Vihear Temple which was awarded to Cambodia in 1962.

The protest came after Google has disseminated internationally a wrong map setting the yellow line to be a frontier

between Cambodia and Thailand in the region of the Temple of Preah Vihear, which is devoid of truth and reality that places almost half of the Temple of Preah Vihear in Thailand.

In response to the letter, Mrs. Ross LaJeune, head of the firm's public policy and government affairs for Asia Pacific, said the company is going to review a map of the 11<sup>th</sup> built century temple of Preah Vihear and expressed that the Google Earth has combined satellite imagery, borders and place name data from a variety of public and private providers and this can lead to visible inaccuracies.

She also said that the Google, who is always interested in improving the mapping data quality, recommended Cambodia to express her concerns directly to Tele Atlas who provided the Cambodia-Thailand border data.

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### **Cambodian Red Cross develops long-term strategy**

The Cambodian Red Cross closed its 2010-2020 strategy development workshop on February 19, under the presidency of Lok Chum Teav Bun Rany Hun Sen, CRC President.



The purpose of the meeting made in harmony with the strategy of International Red Cross and Red Crescent, the royal



government’s strategy and policy, the development of the world situation relating to climate change, and the development in all field of Cambodia on behalf of a humanitarian institution assisting the public authorities.

To celebrate its 55th anniversary this year, CRC president expressed that CRC continues to build its capacity and good cooperation with the government by implementing the government’s role in poverty and vulnerability reduction.

CRC has so far been very active in providing humanitarian relief to victims of both man-made and natural disasters in Cambodia.

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**Cambodia harvested more rice than 2008**

In the First National Farmers’ Congress held on February 11, Mr. Chan Sarun, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said that Cambodia harvested 7,037 million tons of paddies and had 3,037 tons of surplus paddies (more than 2.09 million tons of rice) or an increase of 0.133 million tons as compared with the year 2008 and added that the aim of the congress is to gain some experiences from farmers and share those experiences among the farmers across Cambodia.

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**CULTURE,  
TOURISM, EDUCATION & SPORT**

**Visak Bochea Day to be held in Siem Reap**

Visak Bochea Day to commemorate the birth day of Buddha will be held on April 27-29 at a square of Bayon Temple in Siem Reap province.

The preparation for the event was made on February 11 in the presence of Samdech Chaufea Vaing Kong Sam Ol, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Royal Palace.

Visak Bochea Day was recognized by the United Nations and will be celebrated in countries that practice Buddhism, said Samdech Kong Sam Ol.

Visak Bochea Day is expected to attract a lot of local and foreign tourists to visit Angkor Wat because the day is treated as an International Day for Buddhism and the national culture.

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**Cambodian Drama Festival opened**

A National Drama Festival, which has opened from February 18 to March 3 by the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts under the theme “Preah Vihear Temple is the Khmer Works and the World Heritage Site”, is aimed to congratulate 12<sup>th</sup> cultural day as well as to promote the Cambodian arts.

On the event, 27 Cambodian drama stories have contested by 1,250 artistes and 25 art troupes across the country.

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