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HAPPY KHMER NEW YEAR 2010

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CAMBODIA-JAPAN BILATERAL RELATIONS

Cambodian premier received JETRO Chairman

Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on March 10 received Mr. Yasuo Hayashi, chairman of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO).



On the occasion, Mr. Yasuo Hayashi said that his delegation's visit attended the opening of the JETRO office in Phnom Penh in a bid to promote Japanese investments in Cambodia and external trade between both countries, adding that Japan will help train the industrial sector in Cambodia for export orientation and the trade-related information from Cambodia to investors in Japan.



The premier stressed that the new JETRO office would contribute to the national development of Cambodia by promoting Cambodia-Japan cooperation in bringing Japanese investors to Cambodia in processing

products for exports to Japan and other countries.

Earlier on the same day, JETRO office was officially opened in Phnom Penh with the participation of Cham Prasidh, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce and Kuroki Masafumi, Japanese ambassador to Cambodia.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Cham Prasidh said that through this office, the trade sector will be further developed in the Kingdom.

Last year, imports from Japan to Cambodia fell 39.4 percent year on year, while exports from Cambodia climbed 18.3 percent to US\$143 million.

Samdech Techo Hun Sen received Okada Cultural Foundation president

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen warmly received on March 22 Mr. Takuya Okada, President of Okada Cultural Foundation and also President of AEON Company of Japan.



On the occasion, Samdech Techo Hun Sen expressed deep thanks Okada Culture Foundation for its great assistance to various fields in Cambodia and also added that the expo of Khmer artifacts in Japan, organizing by the foundation, contributes



to enhance and disseminate Khmer culture to the world.

For his parts, Mr. Takuya Okada told Cambodian premier that many Japanese volunteers will come to Cambodia to help in the environmental and cultural fields.

Since 1998, the Okada Cultural Foundation, in cooperation with the Sofia University of Japan, assisted Cambodia in the fields of health, culture, infrastructure construction, education and disabled people totaling value of approximately US\$10 million.



The foundation is also planning in 2010-2011 to plant trees on an area of 5 hectares in the Angkor resort.

Japan provided grant aid to Cambodia

The Japanese Government provided up to the amount of ¥2,859,000,000, in grant for the implementation of four development projects in Cambodia.

The Exchange of Notes on the extension of the said grant aid was signed, under the presidency of Samdech Prime Minister Techo Hun Sen, on March 18 by Deputy Prime Minister Hor Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and Mr. Kuroki Masafumi, Japanese ambassador to Cambodia.

According to the Notes, some ¥239 million will be used for the Construction of

Neak Loeung Bridge (detailed design), ¥720 million for the Introduction of Clean Energy by Solar Electricity Generation System, ¥1,000 million for the Improvement of Capabilities to Cope with Natural Disasters Caused by Climate Change, and the rest (¥900 million) for the Forest Preservation Programme.



Japan supports CMAC's activities

According to the agreement signed by Director General of Cambodian Mine Action Centre (CMAC) Heng Ratana and Japanese Ambassador to Cambodia Kuroki Masafumi on March 12, the Government of Japan provided a grand aid totaling of US\$676,537 to CMAC for the Project for Supporting Humanitarian Mine Clearance in Provinces of Preah Vihear, Kampong Thom and Oddar Meanchey.

Through the project, approximately 9,000 people around the areas will be able to live a better life in the demined land for development activities, which is expected to contribute to the social and economic development.

Mr. Kuroki Masafumi recognized the recent efforts of the Royal Government of Cambodia in reducing significantly the number of casualties, stressing that the Japanese Government has put particular



importance on assisting demining activities in Cambodia.

Japan helps build and renovate Senate's office buildings

According to Senate's Secretary General Oum Sarith, Japan provided a grant aid totaling of US\$700,343 to build two new buildings and renovate office buildings of the Senate.

This donation is a new testimony in reflecting the peak of the long time friendship and cooperation between the two countries and to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the Treaty of Amity between nations.

For his part, Mr. Kuroki Masafumi, Japanese ambassador to Cambodia, said the government of Japan decided to take part in helping the Senate to renovate and build new offices in order to ameliorate the effectiveness of its works and to broaden its role as a legislature body.

This is the fifth donation made by the government of Japan in helping building the office of the Senate. The previous fourth times were made between 1999 and 2006 with the total amount of over US\$1.3 million.

Japan provided over US\$185,000 to Cambodian local authorities

The Japanese ambassador to Cambodia Mr. Kuroki Masafumi and representatives of the local authorities of Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Thom and Prey Veng provinces on March 25 signed the contracts to provide a grand aid totaling of US\$185,010 to the Cambodian local authorities.

According to the contracts, some US\$84,336 will be given to Cheap Commune Council for the construction of a bridge in Teuk Phos district, Kampong Chhnang, while US\$23,426 to Provincial Health Department in Kampong Thom Province for the Project for Improving Mother and Child Health in Kampong Thom Referral Hospital.

The rest, US\$77,248 will be extended to Prey Veng Provincial Teacher Training Center for the construction of a Science and Mathematics Laboratory.

On the occasion, the Japanese ambassador hoped that the above projects will contribute to improve Cambodian people's basic needs.

Cambodia provides experience to Afghanistan's health officers

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) hosted a training course in Cambodia in order to promote the cooperation and share experiences on health system between Cambodian and Afghan health officers.

"After a civil war was in the country for years, Cambodia is successful in the health system rehabilitation, and this training would be an opportunity to share the health experiences with Afghan officers" said Mr. Kobayashi Yukihiro, representative of JICA to Cambodia.

From 2007 to 2010, Afghanistan has sent 15 health officers to train in Cambodia, according to a report of JICA.



Cambodia and Japan signed a document on capacity building project

On March 5, Mr. Sim Eang, director general of Taxation General Department, Kingdom of Cambodia, and Mr. Kobayashi Yukiharo, representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a document on the project of the Capacity Building of Taxation Officials Phase II (2007-2010).

This project provided new experience and knowledge of audition-accounting and taxes services to Cambodian tax officials.

**INTERNATIONAL
RELATION & COOPERATION**

King installed in French Academy



His Majesty King of Cambodia Norodom Sihamoni on 12 March 2010 has officially become member of the French Academy of Inscriptions and Belles-lettres for his role in saving the arts, songs, ancient dances, historical and archeological researches and Khmer patrimonies.

The French Academy of Inscriptions and Belles-lettres was founded in 1663 to serve the study of humanities. It is one of the five academies of the Institute de France. The Academy of Inscriptions mobilizes scholars and senior researchers of French nationals and foreign nationals and publishes the

works of researches on the humanity around the world.

Cambodian premier to attend the First Mekong Summit in Thailand

Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, will lead a delegation to Thailand to attend the First Mekong River Commission Summit to be held on April 4-5 in Thailand, at the invitation of his Thai counterpart Abhisit Vejjajiva.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Koy Kuong said that there were no plans for Samdech Techo Hun Sen and Thai premier to hold bilateral talks during the meeting.

The Declaration on “Meeting the Needs, Keeping the Balance: Towards Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin,” will be adopted at the end of Summit.

Cambodian Foreign Minister met Spanish Secretary of State

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Hor Namhong, minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and Ms. Soraya Rodriguez Ramos, secretary of state for International Cooperation of Spain on February 25, 2010 signed a Memorandum on boosting the relationship and cooperation between two countries.

Deputy prime minister hailed the decision made by Spain to open its embassy in Cambodia as the promotion of the relationship and cooperation between the two nations and also thanked the Spanish government for the assistance to the national development in Cambodia.



The agreement also was related to the implementation of millennium development goals, the prevention of poverty, the sustainability of development, the promotion of human rights and freedom with equity.

EU and WB delegations praised Cambodia

The European delegation and the World Bank officials are pleased with the adoption of the Cambodian anti-corruption law and said they will continue to support the Kingdom for development.

In a separate meeting with Mr. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in Charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Wenmer Langen, Chairman of the EU Parliamentary Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, said that EU is pleased with the country's progresses especially the adoption of the anti-corruption law.



“There have been lots of progresses in Cambodia such as human rights, good governance, freedom of expression and fighting against corruption and than EU will continue to support the democratic process in Cambodia,” said Mr. Langen.

Later on Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister also met with Mr. James Adams, World Bank's Vice President, who is satisfied with the Cambodia's passing the anti-corruption law, expressing that he is very much appreciated and never get skeptical

with that Cambodian government is serious of fighting against corruption.

Mr. Sok An told the EU and WB delegations that Cambodia has taken the issue of fighting against corruption seriously.

Cambodia to host the 6th General Assembly of ICAPP

Returning on March 1 from attending the Standing Committee Meeting of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in Charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers Sok An said that Cambodia would host the Sixth General Assembly of the ICAPP in Phnom Penh in December 2010.

The 12th Standing Committee Meeting of ICAPP which held from 26-28 February 2010 in Kathmandu, Nepal, focused on how to make the Asian region stable, peaceful, and developed in the whole region.

During his stay in Nepal, Mr. Sok An met with Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, Nepalese Prime Minister, who invited Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen to pay an official visit to Nepal in an appropriate time and also affirmed Nepal's support to Cambodian candidacy as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Cambodia hosted the 45th SEACEN Governors' Conference

The National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) hosted on February 26 in Siem Reap the 45th South East Asia Central Banks (SEACEN) Governors' Conference, under the theme “The central banks' role in sustainable economic rehabilitation and



financial stability,” to focus particularly on strategies for exiting stimulus measures and low-interest rates that had been designed to spur recovery.



The governors of the central banks of 16 countries members of SEACEN (Brunei, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam) and two observer members (Laos and Togo), managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for Asia-Pacific, ADB Vice President and representatives from SEACEN partner institutions, including the American, Japanese, German and English central banks participated in this conference.

The NBC became member of SEACEN in 2006.

Cambodia Climate Change Alliance was launched

The Royal Government of Cambodia on February 25 launched the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA) program, a multi-donor initiative aimed at addressing climate change in the Kingdom.

The first project will focus on capacity building for key players to manage the reduction of coastal vulnerability to climate change like as a flood, drought and irregular

rainfall for agriculture, and ecological imbalance in the coastal areas.

The CCCA is a partnership between the government and international donors, European Union, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), who have kicked in US\$8.9 million in funding to support the effort.

The creation of the CCCA comes after Cambodian authorities last October called on international donors to provide funding that would assist the Kingdom in preparing for climate change’s expected effects.

NATIONAL POLICY AND SOCIETY

Anticorruption draft law approved

The National Assembly and the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia respectively on March 11 and 19 adopted unanimously the anti-corruption law, consisting of 9 chapters with 57 articles.

According to the law, the National Anticorruption Commission whose 11 members will be chosen by the King, Senate, National Assembly and eight other government institutions, and the Anticorruption Unit, under the Council of Ministers, will be set up.

The court is empowered to seize assets of those found guilty of corruption, and will face a maximum jail term of 15 years.

The law was first proposed 15 years ago, but the final draft was made available after



it was seriously scrutinized by concerning ministries.

Cambodia launched a penal code

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen on March 10 presided over the launching of the penal code which was approved by the National Assembly and Senate.

The implementation of the penal code is a proof that the legal framework was formed according to the judicial and legal reform of the royal government under the leadership of Samdech Techo Hun Sen, and also to the royal government’s commitment to the international community.



Mr. Jean-François Desmazières, French Ambassador to Cambodia, hailed the launching of the penal code as a step forward for and the Cambodian royal government’s commitment to forming the important legal system and also said that the penal code is important and necessary to give education and dissemination to law-enforcement officers and Cambodian citizen to ensure the effectiveness of the law implementation.

**ECONOMY
TRADE & INVESTMENT**

NBC marked 30th Anniversary of Riel reintroduction

The National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) on March 22 organized the national seminar on “Currency and Sovereignty” to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the reintroduction of Cambodia’s national currency, Riel.



At the opening ceremony Mr. Chea Chanto, Governor of NBC, said that the seminar aimed the participants to learn more the role of financial institution in the national economic development during the past 30 years and also recalled the first Cambodian currency, called “Prak Sleung”, issued in early 16th century AD.

After gaining independence from France on 9 November 1953, Cambodia started to establish the central bank and issued its own currency. The currency was completely abolished during the Khmer Rouge regime and was reestablished on 20 March 1980.

Construction of hydroelectric dam was opened

The construction site of the Stung Tatai hydroelectric dam was opened on March



29 in Koh Kong district of Koh Kong province.

With the total investment value of US\$540 million, the Stung Tatai hydroelectric dam will be built at the Tatai River, and put into operation in late 2013.

Once finished, the dam will contribute to providing electricity to Phnom Penh Capital, Koh Kong and Preah Sihanouk provinces.

**CULTURE,
TOURISM, EDUCATION & SPORT**

Cambodia to hold the trail of civilization and art performance in Siem Reap

The Cambodian Ministry of Tourism will organize a great Buddhistic tourism event in Angkor, Cambodia – Kingdom of Wonder, next month.

This significant event will show religious processions and artistic performances about Biography of Buddha, while he was born, achieving Enlightenment and attaining Nirvana, by Cambodian and foreign artistic performance groups from April 27 to 29.

HAPPY KHMER NEW YEAR 2010



The Royal Embassy of Cambodia to Japan wishes all readers of Cambodian Monthly Journal “Information Bulletin” a Happy and Prosperous Khmer New Year 2010.

Bermuda tourist ship docked at Preah Sihanouk province

A Bermuda tourist ship carrying some 1,890 multinational tourists with British majority called at Preah Sihanouk province’s autonomous seaport on March 16.



The 245-meter long and 36.8 meter wide ship, named Arcadia, has traveled across Vietnam and Cambodia before proceeding to Thailand.
