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CAMBODIA-JAPAN BILATERAL RELATIONS

Statement on April 26 by Mr. Satoru Satoh, Press Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, on the Cambodian-Thai Border Situation

Concerning the clashes in the border region between Cambodia and Thailand, since the clashed occurred in February 2011, Japan has called on the two countries for a peaceful resolution of the situation. The international community has also worked toward improving the relationship between the two countries.

Despite these efforts, clashes have occurred again since Friday, April 22, and Japan is concerned about the situation.

Japan strongly expects that the two countries pay heed to the mediation efforts by ASEAN and its chair country Indonesia, and quickly bring the situation to close in a peaceful manner through dialogue.

Seminar on Bridge Engineering



At the Seminar on Bridge Engineering held in Phnom Penh on March 30, Mr. Tram

Iv Teuk, Minister of Public Works and Transport, said that JICA has invited six Japanese professors specializing in civilian engineering construction to make presentation on new technologies in enhancing the quality management for bridge construction.

The professors also presented to the Cambodian engineers the latest information on current infrastructure transportation between Cambodia and Japan.

INTERNATIONAL RELATION & COOPERATION

ASEAN-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Disaster Management and Prevention



On April 09, the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and Japan have met for a special ministerial meeting in ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, to discuss cooperation in responding to the strong earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on March 11.

The meeting was opened by Indonesian President, Susilo Bambang



Yudhoyono which urged ASEAN to display solidarity with Japan in their construction efforts as Japan is always ready to assist ASEAN countries.

DPM. Hor Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs, said that there is no doubt that Japan-with its great determination, strong character and adequate resources-will be able to emerge from this immense suffering. There is a need for all countries to rethink about setting up nuclear power plant which can easily acquire it, but to have technology to deal with the radiation when there is an accident is another more complex problem.



Meanwhile, Japan’s Foreign Minister Matsumoto said Japan will do its best to overcome the disaster and that the country will continue to provide other countries with information on the crippled Fukushima No.1 nuclear power plant. He also expressed his willingness to increase Japan’s contribution in disaster prevention cooperation with ASEAN.

Financial contributions to the ECCC

According to the ECCC press released on April 11, the Government of Great Britain

and Northern Ireland has confirmed a new contribution of £1 million (Approx. US\$1.6 million) to the international component of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Court of Cambodia (ECCC). With this latest contribution, the UK has provided financial assistance to the ECCC exceeding US\$ 5.7 million.

Meanwhile, according to the ECCC press released on April 21, the Government of Norway has also confirmed a new contribution of over US\$ 1.1 million to ECCC. Norway has so far provided financial assistance exceeding US\$ 3.9 million to the ECCC.

The ECCC was set up in June 2003 with the aim to try leaders of Khmer Rouge regime responsible for the death of nearly 2 million people and for serious crimes committed during 1975-1979.

More U.S. support for mine action

On April 23, CMAC Director General Heng Ratana had presided over a US-funded building for the repair of Handheld Standoff Mine Detection System (HSTAMIDS) of Cambodian Mine Action Center Training School in Kampong Chhnang province.

According to Mr. Sean Burke, Program Manager at the U.S. Humanitarian Demining Research and Development, the U.S. is the only country with modern mine clearance facilities. HSTAMIDS is the latest facility that possesses high capacity in demining brought in to Cambodia since 2006.



The U.S. has been supporting Cambodia in demining since 1993 with the total of almost US\$21 million.

**NATIONAL
POLICY AND SOCIETY**

ADB raises growth estimate

The ADB has released its annual Asian Development Outlook report for 2011, predicting Cambodia’s GDP would jump 6.5 percent this year, from its previous prediction for 2011 of 6 percent growth made late last year.

The services sector, including tourism, was expected to reach 5.3 percent growth this year. Agriculture was on track for an incremental tick up to 4.3 percent growth. And industry, which includes garments – was expected to grow at 10.8 percent in 2011.

The ADB’s report also rectified that Cambodia’s GDP had increased 6.3 percent in 2010, from its previous prediction of 5.0 percent.

Employees added as garment sector grows

According to an ILO’s report released on April 07, domestic garment factories have added workers as the sector rebounds from the global financial crisis.

Some 305,832 workers were employed at domestic garment factories in October, a 3-percent increase on 296,800 a year earlier, according to the ILO’s survey of 131 factories.

Two changes to the global garment market would likely benefit Cambodia. Rising wages for Chinese, Vietnamese and Bangladeshi workers meant foreign producers could continue to diversify supply chains, while the European Union’s Everything But Arms initiative also makes exporting from Least Developed Countries more attractive.

**ECONOMY
TRADE & INVESTMENT**

Hyundai begins assembling vehicles in the Kingdom



Hyundai's first Cambodian car assembly plant, cost amounting to US\$ 62 million, in the Special Economic Zone, Koh Kong province, will officially launch in coming weeks, but is already assembling up to 100 vehicles per month.

Mr. Sun Dara, Deputy Governor of Koh Kong province, said on April 5 that the factory will foster the province’s economic development.



Royal Group receives right to launch first Cambodian satellite

Royal Group received a concession from the Government to launch Cambodia’s first satellite into orbit, creating what the company sees as another integral step forward for the ASEAN economy, officials said on April 17.

Mr. Kith Meng, Chairman of Royal Group, said that the building of this satellite will cost US\$250 million to US\$350 million and is set to launch in the first quarter of 2013.

The firm plans to first sell services into the Cambodian market, and then branch out into Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and other ASEAN nations.

Kingdom Beer wins Le Monde selection gold medal



On April 22, Mr. Peter Brongers, CEO of Kingdom Breweries (Cambodia) Ltd, announced that “Kingdom Beer” won a gold medal from the International Institute for Quality Selection, Le Monde Selection, in Brussels, Belgium. It is the first time for Cambodia’s brewery to get such a prestige

and award. The Awards Ceremony will be held in Brussels on May 24.

“Kingdom Beer” was among 100 different beers to join the international competition held in Brussels to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Independence Committee of the International Institute for Quality Selection.

Le Monde Selection, founded in 1961, with the mission to test consumer products – beers, wines, soft drink, etc; – and grant them a bronze, silver, gold or grand gold quality award.
