



Cambodia-Japan Bilateral Relations

Cambodia inaugurated Japan-funded bridge across Mekong River



The Japan-funded Tsubasa Bridge over the Mekong River is inaugurated in Cambodia on Monday

On 6th April 2015, Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen and H.E. Mr. Akihiro Nishimura, Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, presided over the Opening Ceremony for Official Use of Neak Loeung or "Tsubasa" Bridge in Kandal province.

The suspension bridge with the length of 2,215 meters along National Road No. 1 crossing Mekong River by connecting Kandal and Prey Veng provinces was built at a cost of ¥119.4 equivalent to US\$127 million under the Grant Aid of the Japanese Government.

During the Opening Ceremony, Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen said "I've hoped to have a bridge for many years, so today my dream came true." On behalf of himself and Cambodian people nation-wide who benefit from this bridge, the Prime Minister thanked Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the Japanese people for their contribution.

The Prime Minister also emphasized that the bridge, seen as a vital trade passage between Phnom Penh and Ho Chi Minh City, will be

instrumental in the development of the region and for all of Cambodia.

H.E. Mr. Akihiro Nishimura, representative of the Japanese government, read out a message from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe saying the bridge is expected to not only contribute to economic development of Cambodia, but also the wider Mekong region.

He noted that the bridge's inauguration coincides with the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Cambodia and Japan and the formation of an ASEAN Economic Community.

Cambodia, Japanese PM Focuses on Relation between Japan and Cambodia



The meeting between Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen (right) and H.E. Akihiro Nishimura (left), Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan at Peace Palace

Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen, on 6th April 2015, received visiting H.E. Akihiro Nishimura, Vice Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, at Peace Palace.

During the meeting, H.E. Akihiro Nishimura informed Samdech Techo Hun Sen that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has paid attention to relation between Japan and Cambodia, along with Cambodia's development and contribution to development in the whole South East Asia region.

The Vice-Minister also emphasized

that Japan has so far helped Cambodia on infrastructure sector and has been studying in assisting Cambodia on administrative procedures in Sihanoukville Autonomous Port.

H.E. Akihiro Nishimura expressed his hope that with both countries signing an agreement on airline service recently, there will be a direct flight from Japan to Cambodia and vice-versa, which make ease for investors, politicians and tourists of both countries.

For his part, Samdech Techo Hun Sen expressed thanks to the Government of Japan and Japanese people-

for their assistance to develop Cambodia and sent his regard to Japanese Prime Minister H.E. Shinzo Abe.

On that occasion, Samdech Techo Hun Sen also addressed that Cambodia's development cannot be separated from the contribution of Japan and requested Japan to further help Cambodia during the upcoming ASEAN Integration, especially gap reduction between new ASEAN members and old ASEAN members.

Japan Considers Demining Machine Provision to Cambodia

Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen received a courtesy call from Mr. Akihiko Tanaka, President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on 7th April 2015 at Peace Palace.

During the meeting, Mr. Akihiko Tanaka informed Samdech Techo Hun Sen that Japan considers providing Cambodia with demining machines which Japan used to help Cambodia so far in response to the request of premier's request.

Mr. Akihiko Tanaka expressed his pleasure to participate in the inauguration ceremony of Neak Loeung or Tsubasa Bridge on 6th April 2015 as the bridge and National Road No. 1 have represented the quality of Japan, a new note of Cambodia-Japan relation.

Mr. Akihiko Tanaka also informed Samdech Techo Hun Sen about his meeting with H.E. Aun Porn Moniroth, Minister of Economy and Finance, to seek for comprehension



Mr. Akihiko Tanaka (left), President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) pays a courtesy call on Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen at Peace Palace

about politics in industrial sector in Cambodia, and showed his support and consideration for assisting Cambodia's industrial field to be processed in the future.

For his part, Samdech Techo Hun Sen thanked the Government of Japan and Japanese people who have helped Cambodia in infrastructure construction and other domains.

The Prime Minister added that, with-

out creation, making agriculture and promoting agricultural sector cannot be done. To further implement this mechanism, the Royal Government of Cambodia, therefore, issued the policy in industrial sector by maintaining labor-intensive industry and promoting more value-added industry with the use of existing raw materials in the country to become final products and semi-final products.

Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Cambodia Dispatches 461 Cambodian Blue-Helmet Troops to Mali and Sudan

On 7th April 2015, H.E. Gen. Pol Saroeun, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) and Mr. Roger Carter, the United Nations Security Advisor and Representative of the UN Resident Coordinator in Cambodia presided over the send-off ceremony to dispatch a total of 461 Cambodian Blue-Helmet Troops, of whom 29 are women, to participate in the United Nations' Peacekeeping mission in the Republic of Mali and the Republic of the Sudan.

During the ceremony, H.E. Gen. Pol Saroeun emphasized that the dispatch of the troops this time was the ninth year for allowing Cambodia to send its forces to join in the UN mission, which provided the op-



461 Cambodian peacekeepers, including 29 females, prepare to leave for Mali and South Sudan for a UN Mission

portunity for the RCAF to strengthen its capacity to seek peace for people in the world.

H.E. Gen. Sem Sovanny, Director General of the National Center for Peacekeeping Forces, Mine, and ERW Clearance, said the 461 troops was added to 135 troops who fulfilled mission in Mali on

March 03, 2015.

Since 2006, Cambodia has sent a total of 2,816 Blue-Helmet Troops (of whom 81 are women) to UN peacekeeping mission in seven countries such as Sudan, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Chad, Syria Lebanon, and Mali.

**The Royal Embassy of Cambodia's Greetings
on the Traditional Khmer New Year(the Year of Goat)**



Dear All Readers

On the occasion of the upcoming Khmer New Year on 14th -16th April 2015, the Embassy wishes to extend our warmest greetings and best wishes to all readers, and may you and your families be blessed with good health, prosperity, happiness and success.

In the upcoming Khmer New Year, the Embassy will not post the weekly news bulletin on the second week of April 2015, but re-post on the third week. In this regard, we will meet you again on 24th April 2015.

