



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

Cambodia, Japan to Strengthen and Broaden Relationship

His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and His Excellency UENO Atsushi, Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia, expressed satisfaction with the state of the relationship between the two countries and shared the commitment to deepen the ties, during a courtesy call by the new Envoy on 19 January 2023.

The Deputy PM recalled with appreciation the exchange of high-level visits during 2022 such as those by Prime Minister FUMIO Kishida, Samdech Techo Prime Minister HUN Sen, Foreign Minister HAYASHI Yoshimasa, then Defense Minister KISHI Nobuo, and General HUN Manet, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Armed Forces (RCAF) and Commander of the Royal Cambodian Army, and so on.

The Deputy PM was pleased to note that the friendship and multifaceted cooperation between the two countries remain strong and continue to thrive despite the COVID-19 pandemic as evidenced by strong trade recovery close to the pre-COVID-19 level, strong investment, enhanced military cooperation and the continued support by Japan in all fields. The Deputy PM and Japanese Envoy noted with satisfaction the elevation this year of the bilateral relations from "Strategic Partnership" to "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership".

Deputy PM PRAK Sokhonn thanked Japan for the Official Development Assistance provided to Cambodia for its socio-economic development and Japan's contribution to help the country fight against Covid-19 through the provision of 1.3 million doses of vaccine, USD 416 million loan for Cambodia's post-pandemic recovery and other health equipment. He also appreciated Japan's prompt response to support the Kingdom's "Mine-Free Cambodia 2025" goal.

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The Deputy PM and Japanese Envoy discussed ways to further enhance the cooperation in various fields including trade and investment, peace building, demining, human resource development, human rights and democracy, culture, people-to-people ties, tourism, among others. They also shared the view to push for the early resumption of direct flights between the two countries to boost tourism.

Both the Deputy PM and Japanese Ambassador touched on the preparation for the upcoming official visit of His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn to Japan, during which he will hold a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister HAYASHI Yoshimasa, followed by an official dinner hosted by his Japanese counterpart. He will also preside over the Reception to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations at the Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Tokyo.

Deputy PM PRAK Sokhonn and Ambassador UENO Atsushi also had an exchange of views on the current regional and international developments as the Ambassador underlined Japan's commendation for Cambodia's successful 2022 ASEAN Chairmanship and the endeavors of the ASEAN Chair's Special Envoy to help Myanmar return to normalcy. The Deputy PM, in turn, thanked Japan for its support to Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship. .

Phnom Penh, 19 January 2023