



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

**Nation Religion King**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

# **INFORMATION BULLETIN**

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## **Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen Attends ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit**

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. **Junichiro Koizumi**, Prime Minister of Japan, Samdech **HUN SEN**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia led a high delegation to attend the **ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit** held on 11-12 December 2003 in Tokyo, Japan.



*Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen is warmly welcomed by  
Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan (Photo: WorldPhotos.com)*

The delegation included His Excellency Senior Minister **HOR Namhong**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and other senior government officials.

During this Summit, a **Tokyo Declaration for a Dynamic and Enduring ASEAN-Japan Partnership in the New Millennium** was signed by Heads of State/Government of ASEAN countries and Japan.

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**Address by Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen  
at ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit  
«Overview of Japan-ASEAN Relations»**

Following is the integral text of the Address delivered by Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit “ Overview of the Japan-ASEAN Relations”, on 11 December 2003:

*Your Excellency Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi,  
Madame Megawati Sukarnoputri, Chairperson of the Meeting,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am honored and delighted to participate in the *ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit* here in the marvelous capital city of Tokyo. To begin, let me express my deep personal appreciation for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements for the summit.

The strong bonds of friendship between Japan and ASEAN date back to the historical policy announcement made in 1977 by the former Prime Minister of Japan, H.E. Takeo Fukuda, when he called for all partners to focus greater importance on Japan-ASEAN relations. At the initiative of H.E. Fukuda, the ASEAN Cultural Fund was established, and in 2003 we have celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the ASEAN Cultural Fund, by setting 2003 as the *ASEAN-Japan Exchange Year*.

Japan-ASEAN relations have entered a new era, when H.E. the Prime Minister of Japan Junichiro Koizumi proposed in January 2002 that ASEAN and Japan should be "*sincere and open partners*" who "*act together and advance together*" in the twenty-first century and proposed the five initiatives encompassed in Japan's policy toward ASEAN under the banner of "*Cooperation for the Future*", announced during the ASEAN-Japan Summit held in Phnom Penh in November 2002.

Our relationship has evolved in scope and in nature. In the beginning, Japan was a major donor to the ASEAN. Japanese ODA has been critical in creating conditions for foreign direct investment from Japan into ASEAN countries, especially new ASEAN member countries. Now Japan has become a major trading partner of ASEAN and our economies have grown increasingly interdependent. ASEAN-Japan's two-way trade and investment from Japan to ASEAN exceeds the \$100 billion mark respectively. I am convinced that in the future, through our utmost efforts, we will create, over the long run, a caring and sharing East Asian community, and we will witness the enhanced movement of people, goods, and funds among our economies.

Japan represents a strategic anchor for the region, having positioned herself at the core of the political and economic landscape of East Asia. Cambodia sincerely appreciates Japan's role in strengthening regional security and stability, as well as in promoting the development in the region.

Together, we have established a viable ASEAN+3 framework, in which Japan has played an active role. The Chiang Mai Initiative has been successfully implemented with the establishment of a network of bilateral currency swap arrangements. These innovative finance mechanisms will help avert any future crises. We are now deliberating on the development of the Asian bond market in order to further mobilize regional savings and strengthen the region's financial architecture.

Furthermore, networks of bilateral *Free Trade Areas* between ASEAN members and the +3 countries are evolving into more concrete form. The *ASEAN+3* Foreign Ministers have been meeting at least annually to consult on unfolding political and security issues which are of mutual concern. The other Ministers of the *ASEAN+3* nations are also forging cooperation agreements in other areas.

Historically, Cambodia and Japan have had a long-standing relationship. I am pleased to say that Cambodia is now celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Cambodia and Japan. This friendship has enabled our people and two countries to develop the tradition of mutual respect and support, in various aspects of the development process, including politics, economy, culture, social affairs and religions. On behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, I convey our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the people and government of Japan.

Japan is a rare and exceptional friend of Cambodia. The Royal Government and people of Japan have provided continuing and significant help and support to Cambodia in all fields and in all circumstances. Japan is not only the biggest donor to Cambodia. Japan also plays an important role in Cambodia's national reconciliation efforts that have successfully ended the protracted wars and brought full peace to the entire nation.

Cambodia is forward looking to another new level of relationship for the mutual benefit between Cambodia and Japan through enhancing growth of tourism, trade and investment inflow of Japanese private sector into Cambodia.

Before I end my remarks, allow me to inform you that as a member of international community, Cambodia has seriously fulfilled all her commitments and obligations in the United Nations and has extended all kinds of support and cooperation to this World Organization, especially in preserving and enhancing international peace and security. Nevertheless, since Cambodia becomes a member of the United Nations in 1955, we have not received any important role within this important institution. With this argument, Cambodia wishes to receive a status of

non-permanent member in the UN Security Council for 2006-2008. I hope that Excellencies, Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and Japan will support this appropriate aspiration of Cambodia.

As I emphasized earlier, ASEAN and Japan has a long-standing relationship, linked by heart-felt friendship and solidarity. I am convinced that our *Commemorative Summit* represents another great momentum to strengthen and expand ASEAN-Japan cooperation in many aspects including politics, security, trade, investment, industry, education, science, technology and culture.

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**Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen 's Address  
at ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit:  
Future of Japan-ASEAN Relations**

Following is the integral text of the Address delivered by Samdech Prime Minister HUN Sen at the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit: Future of Japan-ASEAN Relations, held in Tokyo, Japan, on 12 December 2003:

*Your Excellency Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi,  
Madame Megawati Sukarnoputri, Chairperson of the Meeting,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am greatly delighted and honored to share my views on the future of the relations between the ASEAN and Japan. Once again, I would like to echo H.E. Junichiro Koizumi, that the ASEAN-Japan relationship has been a **sincere** and **open partnership** among nations that **act together and advance together**.

The proposed Tokyo Declaration for a dynamic and enduring ASEAN-Japan Partnership in the New Millennium and its Action Plan that we are going to adopt during this Summit will guide the strategic partnership between Japan and ASEAN in the 21st century.

I am convinced that in the long run our cooperation within the ASEAN+3 framework will evolve gradually into an East Asian process that will help attain our shared goal of sustainable development and common prosperity.

**Political and Security Relations**

The ASEAN-Japan strategic partnership is critical to ensuring peace, stability and prosperity in the region. In this regard, Cambodia warmly welcomes Japan's intention of accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. We sincerely appreciate Japan's role in strengthening regional security and stability, and in promoting regional development.

On this basis, I would like to see more coordination of positions between ASEAN and Japan on regional and global issues. This requires us to look forward to enhancing our cooperation in political and security matters so as to consolidate regional peace and security, and especially working together in the peaceful settlement of regional disputes, bilaterally or through the ASEAN Regional Forum and other regional and international fora.

### **Economic Relations**

The heart of our partnership is the "Initiative for ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership", proposed by H.E. Koizumi in 2002. This initiative, which is projected to be realized by 2012, will promote not only the liberalization of investment and trade in goods and services, but also encourages advanced cooperation in a wide range of fields, from tourism to human resources development and the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises.

I would like to thank Japan for granting special and differential treatment to the ASEAN Member-Countries and taking into account the economic level and sensitive sectors in each ASEAN member country and Japan, including the extension, by another five years, of the deadline for completion by the new ASEAN Member Countries of their existing commitments.

I am encouraged by the emergence of new areas of cooperation, particularly in science and technology, including research and development, industrial development, tourism, and in ensuring safe and efficient transport networks. At the same time, I believe that strengthening our financial and monetary cooperation in areas such as capital market development, capital account liberalization and currency cooperation will create a new era of financial cooperation between ASEAN and Japan.

### **Development Relations**

I take this opportunity to reiterate Cambodia's full support for the "Koizumi Initiative-IDEA" and Japan's "Initiative for Reinforcing ASEAN Integration". I share H.E. Koizumi's view that foreign direct investment, market integration, trade and investment, in conjunction with Official Development Assistance, play a significant role in the economic

development of the ASEAN countries, especially for the new members. I am pleased that we have implemented the good tradition of East Asia where countries at different levels of economic development help and complement each other. In this regard, I am grateful to Japan for supporting the full implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI), including Japan's continuing assistance for the development of infrastructure, human resources and information and communication technology (ICT) in ASEAN, especially in the newer member countries.

While we thank Japan for taking concrete steps to support the development in the GMS, such as the first East West Economic Corridor, connecting Viet Nam, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar and the Second East West Corridor which will connect Cambodia with her neighbors by the Neak Loeng Bridge. I would like to propose that Japan also consider contributing to the building of ASEAN's rail links, especially in the construction of the missing rail link between Phnom Penh to Ho Chi Minh City.

Overall, I would like to emphasize that GMS programs are of vital importance to us, because they help bridge the gaps in the development status among the members of the ASEAN – especially the newer members. In this sense, I highly appreciate the decision of Japan in attaching priority to this important program and its commitment to enhancing partnership with donors and other international institutions concerned including the ADB, the World Bank, ESCAP and the Mekong River Commission.

### **Social and Cultural Relations**

At present, when ASEAN and Japan are entering upon a new stage in our history of cooperation for a shared peace, stability and prosperity, trust between our people is essential. Only trust that can ensure to build a foundation of shared knowledge, understanding and appreciation of regional and community identity, especially our ties of regional history and the awareness of the heritage and culture of each nation.

To this end, we need to project our cooperation to the world beyond, through the hubs of international media, linked to the centers of global political and economic power, to those who make decisions in investment, trade and tourism. Therefore, we must strengthen cooperation among our representative institutions, public information agencies and all other media units and thereby harness and more efficiently use information and communications technology in disseminating information about ASEAN and Japan in our countries and in the international arena.



Thus, we need an Action Plan with concrete projects that benefit both ASEAN and Japan. We must also strengthen the existing funding mechanisms for effective coordination and implementation of the Declaration and the Action Plan. In this sense, I welcome Japan's commitment to providing additional resources required for the above objective.

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### **Intervention by Senior Minister HOR Namhong at ASEAN-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting**

Here is the integral text of intervention delivered by Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, at the ASEAN-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting, held in Tokyo, on 11 December 2003:

- 1) First of all, I wish to express our deep appreciation to the Government of Japan, especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and H.E. Madam Kawaguchi, for an excellent arrangement of this ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit and also for a warm hospitality accorded to us.
- 2) I also wish to express Cambodia's gratitude to the Government of Japan for convening this very meaningful and timely ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit.
- 3) I believe this Summit is an auspicious occasion for both ASEAN and Japan to signify the strategic importance of ASEAN-Japan partnership as we gather here for the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit in Tokyo.
- 4) I am confident that the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit will advance the common prosperity and stability as a whole, not only just between ASEAN-Japan bilateral relations, and thus contributing to build East Asia community, which is our common goal in the future. This is certainly in the spirit of "**Acting together and advancing together**".
- 5) Moreover, this Summit will certainly contribute to strengthening peace, security and stability in Asia.
- 6) On this occasion, Cambodia appreciates Japan's strategic move to accede to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, which will bring us—ASEAN and Japan—much

closer together at this important juncture. And I would like to felicitate H.E. Madam Kawaguchi for having accepted a compromise reached by our SOM leaders on Japan's accession to TAC.

- 7) As far as the implementing mechanisms of the Tokyo Declaration and ASEAN-Japan Plan of Action is concerned, I believe that these documents are very crucial for not only acknowledging the past achievements and successes of our ASEAN-Japan relations during the past 30 years, but more importantly for setting a clear vision for our future relations.
- 8) The ASEAN-Japan Action Plan is very broad and covers many areas of cooperation. So, it is important for us to focus on implementation.
- 9) While the Tokyo Declaration can be considered as a charter in guiding the future direction of our growing dynamic ASEAN-Japan relations and the ASEAN-Japan Plan of Action to be a roadmap for implementation, I think what we still need is a follow-up by our SOM leaders who from now on will meet once a year, instead of every 18 months. This is a decision that we, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers, have just taken before coming here.

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### **Press Conference by Senior Minister HOR Namhong on ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit**

After returning to his homeland from Japan on December 13, 2003, at 7:45 p.m., H.E. Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, granted a press conference on the result of ASEAN- Japan Commemorative Summit.

The Senior Minister stated that Japan approved \$ 1,500 million grant aid to Human Resources Development in ASEAN members countries particularly less developed countries including Cambodia. Japan also provided another \$ 1.500 million grant aid to Great Mekong Sub-region countries for their rehabilitation and restoration infrastructure such as roads, railways and harbors.

Meanwhile H.E. Senior Minister made known that Samdech HUN Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia highlighted a link of railways from Singapore to Kunming, China, which was already in

complete construction except one part remaining from Cambodia to Vietnam - Sisophon-Phnom Penh and Phnom Penh to Lokninh Vietnam borders.

H.E. Hor Namhong added that during the Summit, H.E. Zhunichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan, agreed to grant 100 million dollars to combat epidemics diseases in ASEAN countries, and he pledged in 5 years to receive 10, 000 ASEAN youths to Japan in a bid of relationship exchange.

H.E. Senior Minister mentioned that Japan decided to offer low-interest loan to Cambodia in the second phase for Sihanouk Ville seaport restoration with an amount of more than \$ 40 million. Japan also gave its confirmation for Neak Loeung bridge construction and National Route N° 1 rehabilitation.

During the summit, 10 ASEAN Head of States and Government and Japan signed a Joint Declaration on cooperation and plans in actions between ASEAN countries and Japan.

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### **Senior Minister HOR Namhong has discussion with Canadian Delegation**

On 5 December 2003, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, granted a courtesy course to Canadian delegation led by Mr. James Fox, Director General of South and South East Asia, and held talks with them.



*Senior Minister HOR Namhong holds talks with Canadian delegation*

During the meeting, Senior Minister briefed Canadian delegation on the development of the situation in Cambodia, especially the achievement of the RGC 's political reforms, the improvement of democracy, the successful preparation for the last year commune election, and the last July general election in Cambodia. The Senior Minister also highlighted the process of building democracy in the country.

The Senior Minister stressed on the result of last July general election which was free and fair, and the negotiation between the three main political parties under the sponsorship of His Majesty the King for the formation the new parliament and government.

Meanwhile, Senior Minister HOR Namhong expressed his strong belief that Cambodia would find good ways in the near future.

In return, Mr. James Fox informed Senior Minister HOR Namhong about Canadian impression on Cambodian achievements in restoring its nation, and improving the democracy in the country by taking Cambodia as a model for other countries, especially for all countries in the region.

Senior Minister also expressed sincere thanks to Canadian Government for its assistance in various fields to Cambodia.

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## **Senior Minister HOR Namhong requests UN to consider budget for Khmer Rouge trial**

Up on his arrival from Japan on December 13, 2003 at Phnom Penh International Airport, Senior Minister HOR Namhong, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, held talks with Mr. Karsten Herrel, Coordinator for United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trial. During the discussion, His Excellency Mr. HOR Namhong requested the UN to consider beforehand the budget for the Khmer Rouge trial of not depending on Cambodian side which is being in critical financial condition.

During the meeting, Mr. Karsten Herrel informed his counterpart about the satisfactory improvement of the negotiation between the RGC's working group and UN delegation on important aspects concerning the establishment of the Khmer Rouge trial court.

Senior Minister HOR Namhong also expressed his satisfaction on the fruitful negotiation and informed Mr. Karsten Herrel about RGC's intention and its People willing to establish Khmer Rouge trial court as quickly as possible.

Senior Minister told Mr. Karsten Herrel that Cambodia was ready to provide office and assured security and safety for the court.

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Son Excellence Monsieur HOR Namhong Participe à la 19ème  
Session de la Conférence Ministérielle de la Francophonie

A l' invitation de Son Excellence Monsieur **Ghazi El Aridi**, Ministre de la Culture du Liban et Président de la Conférence ministérielle de la Francophonie, Son Excellence Monsieur **HOR Namhong**, Ministre d' Etat, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération Intemationale, a participé à la 19<sup>ème</sup> **session de la Conférence ministérielle de la Francophonie** qui s'est tenue à Paris, les 18 et 19 décembre 2003.

La session ministérielle a examiné des questions politiques et, économiques et d'actualités internationales, ainsi que de la coopération multilatérale francophone.

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