



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

**Outcomes of the Official Working Visit to Japan of
His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
on 21-24 January 2023**

At the invitation of His Excellency HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Cambodia led a Cambodian delegation to pay an Official Working Visit to Japan from 21 to 24 January 2023. The visit coincided with the celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Kingdom of Cambodia and Japan this year.

During the visit, the two ministers held a bilateral meeting, during which they had a candid and productive discussion on ways and means to further deepen and broaden the two countries' recently upgraded **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** in many sectors, including politics, security and defense, trade and investment, tourism, infrastructure development, mine clearance, and people to people exchanges, as well as the advancement of democracy in Cambodia.

They also expressed their satisfaction over the best level ever in the history of their relations that had been underpinned by frequent high-level exchanges of visits, most notably, the four summit meetings last year between **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and His Excellency **KISHIDA Fumio**, Prime Minister of Japan.

Both Foreign Ministers also welcomed the active cooperation and communication in the fields of security and defense, as illustrated by the exchange of visits between the



two Army chiefs and the visits of Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF)’s naval ships to Sihanoukville Autonomous Port of Cambodia last year.

The **two Ministers** were pleased to see the recovering trade volume, which was close to the pre-COVID-19 level, as well as the strong in-flow of Japan's investment to Cambodia. They also agreed to work closely together in further promoting the growing economic cooperation, including the resumption of the direct flight between Cambodia and Japan.

His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn expressed his deep appreciation to the Government and people of Japan for their significant contribution to Cambodia’s peace process and the Kingdom’s socio-economic development, as well as the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. He also highly valued Japan’s continued support towards the development of Cambodia’s Sihanoukville Autonomous Port and towards the goal of “mine-free Cambodia by 2025”.

On Democracy in Cambodia, the **two Foreign Ministers** agreed to resume the program for young Cambodian politicians, which was disrupted by the pandemic, to gain understanding of the multiparty democratic process in Japan, and expressed their commitment to uphold the existing Dialogue on Human Rights between the two countries. They also positively consider upgrading the current Bilateral Consultation mechanism from Senior Officials level to Deputy Ministers level.

Aside from bilateral cooperation, **the two Ministers** expressed satisfaction on the ongoing trilateral cooperation in demining for Ukraine, and agreed to expand such collaboration to other third countries on humanitarian ground. They also brought up multilateral cooperation and agreed to further boost partnership and cooperation in particular under the United Nations and the ASEAN frameworks.

Minister HAYASHI reiterated Japan's commendation and congratulations on the successful Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2022, while Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn expressed appreciation for Japan’s contribution, and voiced Cambodia's full support towards the convening of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and cooperation later this year.



The two Foreign Ministers also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common concern, including the war in Ukraine and the situation in the Korean Peninsula. Regarding the Myanmar situation, Minister HAYASHI reiterated Japan's appreciation for the efforts by Samdech Techo Prime Minister, as ASEAN Chair and His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn as special envoy of the ASEAN Chair to help Myanmar find peace and stability and return to normalcy, and hope that Cambodia would continue to contribute in this endeavor.

Lastly, His Excellency PRAK Sokhonn reaffirmed Cambodia's consistent support towards Japan's candidacy for a permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council, and Japan's effort in accelerating the resolution of the abduction of Japanese nationals by North Korea. Moreover, the Deputy Prime Minister also expressed Cambodia's support to the three fundamental principles of Japan's National Security Strategy (NSS) focused on proactive contribution to peace, universal values, and co-existence, and co-prosperity with other countries.

During his stay in Tokyo, Deputy Prime Minister PRAK Sokhonn had also attended a reception to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Cambodia-Japan Diplomatic Relations held at the Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Tokyo, and interacted with members of the Japan-Cambodia Friendship Parliamentary League (JCFPL), and the Japan-Cambodia Association (JCA). During those meetings, His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister appraised both institutions for their contributions to the overall development of Cambodia-Japan relationship. In response, the delegations pledged to continue to help deepen the ties of friendship and cooperation, in particular trade and investment between the two countries. ៩.

Phnom Penh, 24 January 2023

