



Furthering Japan and Cambodia's 'rich and diverse relationship'

CHUMREAP suo! It is my greatest pleasure to celebrate the National Day of Japan with the Cambodian people again this year.

I visited Phnom Penh for the first time in 2002 for ASEAN-related summit meetings, accompanying the then Prime Minister Koizumi Junichiro.

Twenty years later, it gives me great pleasure to work, once again, with our Cambodian friends for the success of ASEAN-related meetings.

Although ASEAN is currently facing various challenges, I strongly hope that Cambodia will wisely guide ASEAN during its chairmanship. Japan will support Cambodia's efforts.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs) in Cambodia.

Following the conclusion of the Paris Peace Agreements in 1991, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) began to operate in 1992, headed by Akashi Yasushi.

Cambodia was the first ever country that Japan sent personnel on PKO missions to.

We are proud that Japan has been a major contributor to the peace-building process and the subsequent reconstruction and development of the country.

Linked to this, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Cambodia for its recent active role in contributing to the maintenance of peace in

the world by dispatching its own personnel on PKOs.

In Cambodia, the Covid-19 situation is relatively under control, thanks to the great efforts of the Cambodian government and people, but it is still unpredictable.

The Japanese government has been providing various types of support to Cambodia in order to assist its efforts in tackling Covid-19, including the provision of 1.3 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine manufactured in Japan.

Japan has also provided 100 ambulances and medical equipment, including cold-chain equipment, has been renovating hospitals and has supported the return of migrant workers in cooperation with international organisations.

Japan will also extend its yen loan up to \$185 million, in addition to the \$227 million which was disbursed in 2021.

This has been done to help curb the spread of Covid-19, to restore and maintain economic and social activities, and to support vulnerable people's lives.

Japan has implemented various projects to support improvement in the quality of life of Cambodian people.

These have included large-scale infrastructure developments at locations such as Sihanoukville Autonomous Port and National Road No5.

Recently, Japan has also assisted Cambodia's initiative



Ambassador HE Mikami Masahiro. SUPPLIED

of achieving Industry 4.0 by providing advanced technology, including information and communication technology.

For example, we have decided to provide high-spec, GPS-based survey equipment and a state-of-the-art computer numerical control machine to Cambodia.

We are also providing a lot of community-focused support in the fields of education, health, and water and sanitation through the KUSANONE grassroots grant assistance and other schemes.

Economic ties, including trade and investment, between Cambodia and Japan have also been steadily growing.

There are now more than 300 Japanese companies

operating in Cambodia, and AEON Mall 3 is scheduled to open in 2023.

For further improvement in the investment environment, the Japanese Business Association in Cambodia is diligently working with the Cambodian government through the framework of the Cambodia-Japan Public-Private Sector Meeting, which I chair with HE Sok Chenda Sophea, Minister attached to the Prime Minister and Secretary General of the Council for the Development of Cambodia.

In the field of culture and sport, the Kizuna Festival 2022, one of the largest Japanese cultural events in Cambodia, was held last week.

This year we were able to

hold it in a hybrid format with some face-to-face workshops.

In relation to the Angkor archaeological heritage in Cambodia, I am pleased that the Japanese government and Japanese academic institutions have been contributing to research, conservation and restoration activities for many years.

Many Japanese nationals are also supporting the development of sport.

For example, famous Japanese football player Honda Keisuke is the general manager of the Cambodian national football team.

Moreover, a new organisation for the promotion of professional football leagues has recently been

established, and its CEO is also an experienced Japanese professional. Young Japanese football players are playing for Cambodian football clubs.

I believe that football has the power to unite people with enthusiasm and that the enhancement of Cambodia's football prowess will help to raise the overall level of football in Asia.

These are only some aspects of the rich and diverse relationship between our two nations.

Next year will mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Cambodia.

I would like to work with the government and the people of Cambodia to further promote the strategic partnership that was established by our two prime ministers in 2013.

On the occasion of our National Day, I wish Their Majesties the Emperor and the Empress of Japan, His Majesty King Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, Her Majesty the Queen Mother and the peoples of Cambodia and Japan good health, happiness and prosperity.

I also wish for the friendship between Japan and Cambodia to continue to flourish.

HE Mikami Masahiro, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia.



The handing over of Japanese vehicles for the ASEAN 2022 Summit. SUPPLIED



The opening ceremony of Japan-Cambodia Kizuna Festival 2022 on February 17. SUPPLIED



Japan has provided 100 ambulances to Cambodia. SUPPLIED

Japan continues to improve lives after 20 years

JAPAN'S funding initiatives to improve the wellbeing of local communities in the Kingdom continues unabated even after two decades.

Its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects – designed to stimulate development to meet the basic human needs of people, especially in rural areas – has brought significant progress.

The Japanese government, under the grant assistance to Japanese NGOs, will provide \$728,501 to three organisations to carry out their grassroots projects.

HE Mikami Masahiro, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Cambodia, and the representatives of the three recipients signed the grant contract on January 19.

The key undertakings include the “Project for Enhancing Medical System to Practice Pediatric Surgery” in Kratie province, which received \$125,012 for three years.

The Foundation for International Development/Relief will improve the paediatric surgical care system in Kratie through training the medical of staff provincial referral hospital and health centres, as well as village health volunteers, to improve the quality of surgical practice.

The transportation of patients will also be improved,



Japanese Ambassador HE Mikami Masahiro (fourth right) at the grant signing ceremony on January 19. SUPPLIED

while in communities, a better understanding of medical care will be created.

The project will benefit the medical personnel as well as the residents of the province who may require medical treatment.

Ambassador Mikami, at the signing ceremony for the grant aid on January 19, hailed the importance of the initiative.

“When I saw the patients who are being treated there and the cleanliness of the equipment, I felt it was good

and meaningful support. I really appreciate the activities of the organisation over the years.

“In the third year of the implementation of this project, the organisation will continue to train provincial medical staff, which started from the first year.

“It also plans to implement other activities to strengthen the patient transport system in the province and circulate medical knowledge to the local people.

“I hope that through this

project children will be able to receive appropriate and on-time treatment,” said Mikami.

The second project is the community care and support network for children in Kampong Cham province undertaken by People's Hope Japan (PHJ), which received \$200,906 for over three years.

PHJ aims to reduce the under-five mortality rate and promote the healthy growth of children.

The NGO will continue

to support the knowledge training of medical staff and health volunteers as well as expand their networks with the villagers in communities to achieve its goals.

PHJ will also provide nutrition education through cooking training to improve the knowledge of villagers who have young children and 4,669 children under five-years old will benefit.

The third project to improve to construct a primary school

in Battambang province will undertaken by the Shanti Volunteer Association with \$402,583 funding.

To improve learning and sanitation, the association will construct school buildings with attached libraries, toilets and hand-washing facilities at three primary schools in Battambang.

This will support the safe reopening of schools and enable students to return to learning smoothly after the end of the prolonged school closure.

Through this project, 1,140 students and teachers at the targeted schools will be able to study in a safer and more comfortable environment, and access to quality education.

“Cambodia has been developing rapidly lately, but there are still some challenges that need to be addressed to improve people's quality of life, such as poverty reduction and social development, including health and the educational environment,” said Mikami.

The grant assistance initiative started in Cambodia in 2002 to support activities by Japanese NGOs to help the Kingdom's reconstruction and development efforts at the grassroots level.

Japan has provided more than \$45 million for 138 projects since then, mainly in assisting primary education, health, agriculture and mine clearance. ■

JBAC pivotal in shaping strong bilateral ties

The Japanese Business Association of Cambodia (JBAC) was established in 1992 with the primary aim of promoting Japanese companies in Cambodia, and developing economic activities between the two nations.

Made up of 260 Japanese companies, the members of JBAC are mostly involved in the manufacturing, construction, real estate, trade, transport, commerce, finance, insurance and services sectors.

All its members maintain high standards, and comply with Cambodian social norms and laws, adhering strictly to new regulations and labour laws.

JBAC recognises that the Cambodia-Japan public-private sector meeting – held in accordance with the Cambodia-Japan Investment Agreement – is an important opportunity to discuss about further improving the Kingdom's investment environment.

Meanwhile, the channel of dialogue with the Cambodian government has expanded in recent years, with greater opportunities existing for individual dialogue and discussions with relevant ministries and agencies, while JBAC's voice has been reflected in policymaking decisions.

While the Covid-19 outbreak impacted Japanese investments in Cambodia – with withdrawals and delays in investment decisions – thanks to the Cambodian government's persistent efforts, the number of JBAC members has decreased only slightly compared to previous years.

Existing companies are expanding their investments with confidence, which has become a tailwind for Japanese investors currently considering new investment opportunities.

JBAC, with the cooperation of the Embassy of Japan in Phnom Penh, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) and other Japanese government agencies, has played a pivotal role in expanding Cambodia's economic growth as a public-private unity.

JBAC continues to contribute to Cambodia's economic development by working on business developments that meet the social needs of Cambodians, with Japanese quality every time.

HAPPY JAPAN NATIONAL DAY!



JBAC **カンボジア日本人商工会**
Japanese Business Association of Cambodia



The launch of the implementation of the Civil Code on December 21, 2011. SUPPLIED

A look at the history of implementing the Civil Code on its 10th anniversary

WITH the Civil Code (CC) coming into effect on December 21, 2011, Cambodia now marks the 10th anniversary of the application of the Code.

The Code of Civil Procedure (CCP) – adopted by the National Assembly on June 7, 2007 – has played an important role in facilitating implementation procedures in dispute resolution in the civil sector at all levels of the courts.

A legal cooperation project between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry of Justice began with the aim of assisting in the drafting of the CCP and the CC.

The drafting process was facilitated by the creation of a working group in Cambodia and another in Japan. In drafting both Codes, the Japanese working group was divided into teams. First, the Japanese working group in charge was to prepare a basis for a first draft law after getting the locally relevant information from their Cambodian counterparts. The first draft law was then translated into Khmer and discussed among the working groups.

In discussions for the preparation of both Codes, the Japanese team provided only the contents and other significant concepts that were the basis of the drafting of both Codes. The final decision on the content of the Codes lay

with the Cambodian group's conclusions.

To facilitate discussions between the Japanese and Cambodian working groups, JICA dispatched Japanese long-term experts to the Kingdom to work directly with the Cambodian Ministry of Justice as legal advisers. They also provided training through seminars and workshops.

Decisions on the drafted codes were scrutinised before it was determined whether to use certain Khmer terminologies properly in legal language, to clearly divide them within the law procedure and to thoroughly discuss through one article to another in the drafting of both Codes.

The application of the CC was a watershed for Cambodia to have such a substantial law

that could resolve all types of issues related to the rights and obligations of the citizen regarding civil matters.

'Response to actual needs'

And with difficult roads leading to a beautiful landscape, the difficulties regarding both the drafting process and the implementation of both Codes cannot be escaped.

While there have been opinions hailing the CC and the CCP as modern laws, there has been some criticism of the use of new terminologies in both Codes that could make them difficult to understand and apply.

Responding to the criticism, HE Chan Sotheavy, the current manager of the Legal and Judicial Development Project, said "the provisions related to the civil sector are complicated, so if we do not prepare the content of

each article and use clear terminologies, it could lead to complexity in implementation and would make it impossible to differentiate each article or each procedure stipulated in the law".

"The usage of new terminologies, therefore, is not strange because those could be new to Cambodia, but if we take a look at the law of other countries, those words have been used in the drafting procedure of some countries such as Japan as an example.

"The significant factor in the preparation of law is we must prepare a law that can address all related issues of the civil sector as well as the defence of the people's legal right and legal interest.

"The means to win the hardness, complexity and criticism is that we must jointly put our effort and try to understand the reasons and the

benefits of the usage of those new terminologies, and we shall increase the dissemination both the contents of the Codes and the benefits of using new terminologies extensively to legal professionals and the general public," Sotheavy said.

The only female permanent secretary of state of the Ministry of Justice added that further dissemination of the codes among the public was necessary.

"The enhancement of knowledge on both Codes is strong but in need of more intensely passionate energy from all legal professionals who will take part in helping general citizens to know what the law is about.

"The cooperation of the implementation on Legal and Judicial Development Project has contemporarily advanced to Phase V.

"In this phase, we focus on

the drafting of legal norms related to the CC and the CCP, the drafting of model legal forms to make it easy for legal practitioners to use, and the disclosure of court's decisions for the public all over the country to understand the courts' decisions. The project has already completed the disclosure of 64 civil court decisions.

"The activities of the implementation of this phase is a response to the actual needs of Cambodia," Sotheavy said.

A landmark framework in Cambodian law, the enacting of the CC marked a milestone for the Kingdom's legal system.

And from the drafting of the CC and the CCP until the implementation of Phase V of the project, it reflects great success in cooperation for civil sector development in Cambodia. ■



Legal literature related to the Civil Code and Code of Civil Procedure. SUPPLIED



JTI: A caring corporate citizen



JTI staff deliver food boxes to those affected during the Covid-19 community outbreak in Phnom Penh last year. SUPPLIED

JTI has employees in over 70 countries around the world

118
NATIONALITIES

40,000
EMPLOYEES

395
OFFICES

35
CIGARETTE AND
TOBACCO-RELATED
FACTORIES

8
RESEARCH &
DEVELOPMENT
CENTERS*

33
COUNTRIES
WHERE WE SOURCE
TOBACCO LEAF

JTI – a member of the JT Group of Companies – is a leading global tobacco company with operations in more than 130 countries, including Cambodia.

In Cambodia, JTI has been acknowledged by Prime Minister Hun Sen as one of the largest taxpayers in the Kingdom,

contributing to the development and growth of the Cambodian national economy.

JTI Cambodia is also the first company in the country to have been certified as a Global Top Employer for two consecutive years by the Top Employers Institute in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

It also became one of the first

companies in the world to be awarded EY's Global Equality Standard certificate, which measures equal opportunities and equal pay in the workplace.

Parents at JTI, regardless of gender, receive five months of fully paid leave to take care of their family when they welcome a newborn child.

Investing in communities is a

business priority for JTI. Together with its employees, it has supported the community during the Covid-19 outbreak by providing food packages to vulnerable families.

JTI has significantly supported people with disabilities, senior citizens and the homeless, and provided assistance for communities who suffered from flooding.

It further invests in environmental sustainability by implementing tree planting and recycling projects with its partners.

As a respectful and compliant Japanese company operating in Cambodia, JTI will continue to contribute to the socioeconomic growth of the Kingdom in the years to come. ■



From the Executive Committee and Employees of
JT International (Cambodia) Co., Ltd

