

## REMARKS OF

H.E. Mr. PRAK Sokhonn, DPM,

Minister of FAIC

At the Handover Ceremony of Vehicles Provided  
by the Government of Japan

On 01 November 2021 at 09:00 am at MFA.IC

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- Excellency **MIKAMI Masahiro**, Ambassador of Japan to the Kingdom of Cambodia,
- Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to attend this handover ceremony of 39 vehicles provided by the Government of Japan to support Cambodia's Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2022. This is part of the grant assistance of three hundred million Japanese Yen (¥300,000,000) or approximately 2.7 million USD under Japan's Economic and Social Development Programme that Ambassador MIKAMI and I signed recently. This

package also covers some office equipment to be delivered later this year.

In exactly two months from now, Cambodia will begin its official mandate to steer ASEAN process for the third time, since joining the regional group in 1999. **Samdech Techo Prime Minister Hun Sen**, upon receipt of the ASEAN Chair's Gavel from the Sultan of Brunei last week, announced our 2022 theme - **ASEAN A.C.T: Addressing Challenges Together**. Our aspiration under this theme is to rally ASEAN solidarity as a united family in tackling strategic issues facing our region.

Preparation to discharge our role as the ASEAN Chair has already been well underway since early this year. With good progress in vaccination roll-out across our region, we have great confidence in hosting in-person meetings safely from COVID-19, particularly the two large series of Ministerial and Leaders-level meetings, involving external partners and big delegations. The vehicles and office

equipment provided by the Government of Japan will significantly facilitate our logistical arrangements.

On top of this, Japan has committed another grant package of 300 hundred million Yen to assist the Ministry of Interior with technical equipment to strengthen security and counter-terrorism capacity of Cambodia. This is important for ensuring the safety and security of high dignitaries and delegates attending the ASEAN related events in Cambodia in 2022 and beyond.

As the ASEAN chair, Cambodia is fully committed to working closely with other ASEAN Member States (AMS) and dialogue partners, including Japan, to address critical economic, political and security challenges in our region. There are many pressing issues before us such as adapting to life with Covid-19 and recovering from its social and economic impacts, de-stabilizing developments and climate change, which ASEAN, Japan and other ASEAN partners can work together to address, through

ASEAN-led mechanisms and other regional frameworks.

When facing multi-faceted challenges, Japan has always been a reliable partner for ASEAN through thick and thin, and it always attaches importance to “heart-to-heart” engagement as well as to support positive development in the region with concrete actions. Japan’s commitment to assist ASEAN’s key initiatives related to the Covid-19 pandemic such as the ASEAN Regional Reserve of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies and the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, together with the provision of COVID-19 vaccines, are actions that speak louder than words. During the ASEAN-Japan Summit last week, Samdech Techo Prime minister expressed Cambodia’s support for Japan’s proposal to convene the ASEAN-Japan 50th Anniversary Commemorative Summit in Japan in 2023, while noting with satisfaction the remarkable progress of ASEAN-Japan cooperation.



I strongly believe that the support for Cambodia's successful chairmanship of ASEAN in 2022 will consequently contribute to the achievements of ASEAN in maintaining peace, stability, security and further accelerating ASEAN Community building. On behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government and people of Japan for providing this kind support, and for the continuous assistance to Cambodia for its socio-economic development.

Finally, I would like to thank His Excellency Ambassador **MIKAMI** and his colleagues for the active contribution to further enhance the Strategic Partnership between our two nations and support Cambodia's long-term development.

May I wish all of you present here good health and success.

**Thank you!**