



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

General Department of Asia-Pacific

PRESS RELEASE

“Foreign Ministers of Cambodia and Japan Commit to further deepen the two countries’ Comprehensive Strategic Partnership”

On 17 December 2023, His Excellency **SOK Chenda Sophea**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, had a bilateral meeting with Her Excellency **KAMIKAWA Yoko**, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, on the sidelines of the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit for the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation in Tokyo.

Her Excellency **KAMIKAWA Yoko** expressed her appreciation to His Excellency **SOK Chenda Sophea** for his participation in the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit, while His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister extended his sincere congratulations to Japan for successfully hosting this important event.

The two Foreign Ministers recalled their fruitful telephone conversation on 30 October 2023, and acknowledged that the year 2023 is a meaningful year for Cambodia and Japan as it marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations and the year which the two countries upgraded their relations to “Comprehensive Strategic Partnership” that is the best level in the history of Cambodia-Japan relations.

The two Foreign Ministers reiterated their commitment to further strengthening and expanding the growing bilateral relations and multifaceted cooperation between the two countries, including politics, economy, infrastructure, defense and security, demining, peace keeping operations (PKO), people-to-people exchange, human resources development, digital development, and cyber security. Both sides also



congratulated the successful convening of the first Senior Officials' Talks between the two Foreign Ministries in Tokyo, in November 2023, and stressed the importance of holding such a meeting regularly.

His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister reiterated his appreciation to the Government and people of Japan for their significant contribution to Cambodia's peace process and invaluable support and assistance for the socio-economic development of the Kingdom. With regard to the development cooperation, both Ministers looked forward to the fruitful result of the inter-ministerial meeting between Cambodia and Japan, to be organized by the Council for the Development of Cambodia in Phnom Penh in early 2024 in order to endorse the draft country assistance policy for Cambodia for the period of five years, 2024-2028.

Furthermore, both Foreign Ministers concurred to further strengthen the two countries' cooperation in the regional and international frameworks, including the United Nations and ASEAN-Japan. Both sides also exchanged their views on regional and international issues of common concern such as the situation in Myanmar, the South and East China Seas, the Korean peninsula and Israel-Hamas conflicts.

Phnom Penh, 18 December 2023

