



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

PRESS RELEASE

“Japan renews support for and cooperation with Cambodia”

Phnom Penh, 24 February 2023 – His Excellency OUCH Borith, Minister-Delegate Attached to the Prime Minister, Standing Secretary of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and His Excellency TAKEI Shunsuke, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, expressed satisfaction with the excellent record of bilateral ties, including the further upgraded bilateral relation to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership this year, and renewed the firm commitment to further deepen and expand the thriving cooperation between the two nations during their meeting on 24 February 2023 at the Ministry.

They deliberated the ways and means to further bolster collaboration in the spheres of trade and economy, defense and security, development cooperation, people-to-people exchange, and de-mining efforts. Both sides agreed to renew the joint efforts to ramp up Japanese business in the Kingdom and to push for a resumed direct flight. They noted with contentment the growing defense cooperation, including the port calls.

At the Cambodian side’s request, State Minister TAKEI Shunsuke reaffirmed Japan’s continued support for human resources development, resumption of the program on the understanding of the multiparty democratic process for young Cambodian politicians, mine clearance operation, and dispatching of forty referees to assist the Kingdom’s hosting of the 32nd SEA Games in the coming May.

Minister-Delegate OUCH Borith thanked the government and people of Japan for the kind support and generous assistance in favor of Cambodia's socio-economic development, including the aid in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and welcomed Japanese government's consideration of concessional credit for irrigation and drainage rehabilitation and improvement project in Phnom Penh. The Minister-Delegate also reiterated Cambodia's firm commitment to holding July's national elections in a free, fair, and just manner, the ones reflective of the people's will.

The two sides exchanged their views on regional issues of shared interest and concern and reiterated their determination to enhance trilateral cooperation in the field of civilian and humanitarian mine action.

In the wake of the meeting, the Minister-Delegate and the State Minister signed the Exchange of Notes on the extension of Japanese Grant Aid in the amount of JPY 3,986,000,000 (approximately USD 30,600,000) for a development cooperation project in favor of the expansion of water supply system in Svay Rieng Province. This Exchange of Notes is an amendment to the amount stated in the previous Exchange of Notes signed on 02 March 2022. ENDS