



**KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**  
**NATION RELIGION KING**

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**OUTCOMES OF THE THIRD BILATERAL CONSULTATION AT THE SENIOR OFFICIAL LEVEL  
BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND JAPAN**

**PHNOM PENH, 16 MARCH 2020**

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His Excellency **ISHIKAWA Hiroshi**, Director-General and Assistant Minister, Southeast and Southwest Asian Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan led a delegation to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Senior Official-Level Bilateral Consultation between Cambodia and Japan on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in Phnom Penh. Prior to the consultation, His Excellency **ISHIKAWA Hiroshi** and accompanying delegates made a courtesy call on His Excellency Deputy Prime Minister **PRAK Sokhonn**, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia and had an extensive exchange of views on the progress of cooperation between Cambodia and Japan in bilateral, regional and international frameworks as well as the world's common concerns over the spread and impact of COVID-19.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Senior Official-Level Bilateral Consultation which was co-chaired by Her Excellency **CHEA Kimtha**, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia and His Excellency **ISHIKAWA Hiroshi** proceeded in a cordial atmosphere and mutual spirit of cooperation, covering many aspects of political-security cooperation, bilateral exchange of trade and investment, tourism, development cooperation, as well as human and cultural exchanges.

Both sides briefed each other on political, economic and social situation of their respective country especially at the current time of COVID-19 pandemic. They noted with





satisfaction the excellent bond of long lasting friendship and steady advancement of cooperation in both bilateral and multilateral frameworks, especially after ties between Cambodia and Japan was elevated to strategic partnership in 2013, thanks to the frequent exchanges of high level visits and commitment of the leaders of the two countries.

On political-security cooperation, both sides agreed to continue supporting each other and maintain a constructive position on political issues. They also concurred to enhance cooperation in security field including peacekeeping operation (PKO) under the UN framework, demining, and training program for military officers.

On trade and investment, both sides expressed optimism that the good trend in bilateral trade which increased to over USD 2 billion in 2019, will continue in 2020 despite the COVID-19 pandemic. They expressed commitment to expand trade and investment between the two countries, and also agreed to encourage relevant institutions to work closely together in improving investment environment in Cambodia so as to attract more Japanese investors.

On development cooperation, the Cambodian side acknowledged the active role of Japan in socio-economic development of Cambodia and expressed great appreciation for Japan's enormous support in various fields. The Japanese side reaffirmed Japan's commitment to continue assisting Cambodia, especially in priority sectors such as logistics, infrastructure, industry and human capacity building.


On cultural exchanges, both sides agreed to promote people-to-people exchanges through tourism, youth exchange programs as well as training and scholarship programs. They also supported further expansion of cultural exchange between the two countries.

Apart from bilateral cooperation, both sides expressed common desire to strengthening cooperation and mutual support in regional and international frameworks, including United Nations agencies, Mekong Cooperation, and Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in order to contribute to peace, security, harmony, and sustainable development. Furthermore, the Japanese side reaffirmed support to Cambodia in hosting the 13<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit in 2020, and committed to work closely with Cambodia as well as other ASEM Members to ensure the success of this important event. They also exchanged views on regional and international matters including Korean Peninsula and measures to contain COVID-19 pandemic.



On Mekong-Japan cooperation, both sides welcomed the upcoming Foreign Ministers' Meeting in July in Tokyo and the progress of the Mekong-Japan cooperation based on the Tokyo Strategy 2018. They also appreciated the commitment of member states to implementing the Mekong-Japan cooperation projects.

Following this bilateral consultation, His Excellency **ISHIKAWA Hiroshi** had a separate meeting with His Excellency **NORNG Sakal**, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, to discuss the progress of ASEAN-Japan relations, Cambodia's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2022, and regional and international issues of common concern. The Japanese side reiterated Japan's readiness to provide assistance to support Cambodia's chairmanship of ASEAN in 2022. The Cambodian side expressed deep appreciation for Japan's support to Cambodia and for ASEAN integration process.

The Japanese delegation expressed sincere appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality extended by Cambodian side during their stay in Phnom Penh. 

Phnom Penh, 18 March 2020

