

Joint Statement between Japan and the Kingdom of Cambodia

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia on 16-17 November 2013, upon invitation of Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Royal Government of Cambodia. During his visit, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Prime Minister Hun Sen held a summit meeting. The two leaders celebrated the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Cambodia, and shared a commitment to further broadening the bilateral relationship, based on the robust cooperative relationship to date since the days of the Cambodian peace process as well as the “New Partnership” established between the two countries. Areas for further cooperation will include the following:

1. Political and Security Issues

Building on Japan’s contribution to date for the peace and stability of the region including by playing a leading role in the Cambodian peace process, Prime Minister Abe elaborated his security policy to proactively contribute even further to the peace and stability of the region and the international community from the perspective of “Proactive Contribution to Peace” based on the long-standing principle of international cooperation. Prime Minister Hun Sen highly praised Japan’s achievement as a peaceful nation and supported Japan’s further contribution.

The two leaders decided to further enhance dialogue on political and security issues, using existing fora such as the politico-military dialogue. They also decided to advance further cooperation between the defence authorities of both countries including through capacity building assistance.

2. Democracy and Rule of Law

Prime Minister Hun Sen reiterated his resolve to continue to make every effort in strengthening good governance by forging ahead with various reforms, such as strengthening democratic institutions through electoral reforms, as announced by Prime Minister Hun Sen on 25 September 2013, and enhancing the rule of law through taking anti-corruption and other measures. Prime Minister Abe expressed his expectation that the post-election situation will be normalized expeditiously through dialogue and cooperation among the parties concerned and nation building will be advanced on the basis of national reconciliation. Prime Minister Abe announced Japan’s readiness to assist these reform efforts.

The two leaders reaffirmed that they will continue to work together for smooth progress of the trials in the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, looking towards its successful completion in the future. In this connection, Prime Minister Hun

Sen appreciated Japan's significant contribution to the trials to date, both in terms of resource mobilization and capacity development.

3. Economic Relations and Development Cooperation

Prime Minister Hun Sen appreciated Japan's long-standing development cooperation to Cambodia including through official development assistance in areas, such as socio-economic infrastructure, agriculture, education, human resource development, health, women and governance. Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to continue Japan's assistance in those areas of Cambodia which is full of future economic development potential. The two leaders also concurred on the importance of steadfast development of the South Economic Corridor (SEC), from the perspective of strengthening connectivity in the Mekong region.

They shared the view that landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) from the Cambodian Civil War period still scattered throughout Cambodia constitute an obstacle to Cambodia's economic and social development, and reaffirmed the importance of assistance for the removal of landmines and UXO.

They decided to strengthen cooperation toward enhancement of health and medical care in Cambodia, including through utilizing Japan's advanced medical technologies and systems.

They welcomed an increase in investment by Japanese companies in Cambodia and shared the view that further improvement of investment environment in Cambodia, by using platforms such as the Japan-Cambodia Public and Private Sector Joint Meeting, is essential for facilitating more investment. Prime Minister Hun Sen stated that Cambodia would continue to carry out efforts in order to achieve an environment more conducive to investment, and that he would hope to see the participation of Japanese companies in the development of advanced urban infrastructure in the medium to long term.

4 People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges

Prime Minister Abe expressed his intention to conduct exchange projects with approximately 3,000 participants in the next five years, by taking advantage of various exchange programs such as JENESYS 2.0. Prime Minister Hun Sen welcomed Japan's initiative.

The two leaders praised the measures taken respectively to ease visa requirements for the nationals of the other country, in order to widen opportunities for people-to-people exchange.

They also decided to make further efforts for generating more demand and improving relevant conditions, including examining possibility to conclude an air

services agreement, in order to facilitate direct flight services between the two countries in the future.

They welcomed the successful outcome of cooperation for the conservation and restoration of the Angkor monuments, and decided to advance exchange and cooperation in the field of arts, culture and sports as well as Japanese language education, in order to further strengthen mutual understanding of both countries.

5 Cooperation in addressing regional and global issues

The two leaders decided to promote further cooperation toward regional and global peace and prosperity.

Prime Minister Hun Sen confirmed his participation in the ASEAN-Japan Commemorative Summit and the Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting to be held in December 2013. They decided to work closely with each other for a successful outcome of these Summits. In this regard, Prime Minister Abe extended an invitation to make the trip to Japan an official bilateral visit, which Prime Minister Hun Sen accepted.

They underscored the importance of settling maritime disputes by peaceful means in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), in order to establish the principle of the rule of law in the Asia-Pacific region. They expressed their expectation on an early conclusion on an effective Code of Conduct (COC) which contributes to the effective settlement of conflicts in the South China Sea.

They urged North Korea to fully comply with its obligations under the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions and commitments under the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six Party Talks, and to take concrete actions for its denuclearization. They decided to cooperate with each other towards the resolution of the abductions issue.

Prime Minister Abe expressed gratitude for Cambodia's continued support for Japan's permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council. The two leaders shared the view that they should work actively together to achieve an early reform of the Council, in view of 70th anniversary of the United Nations in 2015.

Phnom Penh

16 November, 2013