

PRESS RELEASE**សេចក្តីប្រកាសព័ត៌មាន****NOTE TO EDITORS-PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

The Departure of 30 Cambodian Teachers to Take Part in Japan's
Friendship Programme for the 21st Century

17th January 1996

The Government of Japan is the major and leading donor to Cambodia, and has spent 373 million US dollars in grants for rehabilitation and reconstruction projects since 1991. But this amount does not include the expense spent for human resources development, to which the Government of Japan attaches great importance.

Since 1989, Japan has invited more than 350 trainees from Cambodia to attend training courses in Japan and has dispatched 42 experts to Cambodia to promote human resources development. Soon, 30 young Cambodian teachers will visit Japan to participate in the Friendship Programme for the 21st Century.

The Friendship Programme for the 21st Century was established in 1984 initially to promote friendship and deepen mutual trust between youths. It is hoped that this programme will help promote world unity in the near future, as these youths of today will be the leaders of the 21st century.

Up until the end of Japan's fiscal year (FY) 1994, 11,921 youths were invited to Japan from ASEAN, Asian, Pacific and African countries for extensive exchange.

During FY 1995, an additional 1560 youths, including the 30 Cambodian teachers, will visit Japan to take part in this programme. This is the first time that this programme has been offered to the education sector. Japan considers this invitation extremely important as education is the major pillar of human resources development.

These 30 teachers will undergo a pre-departure training course before spending 30 days in Japan to attend programmes in both the cities and the countryside. They will also be staying with Japanese families to obtain first hand experience of the Japanese way of life.

Editors are invited to the opening of the pre-departure training course at the Landmark Hotel on Sunday 14th January 1996 at 9 a.m. for reporting and photo coverage.