

**PRESS RELEASE**

**សេចក្តីប្រកាសព័ត៌មាន**

24 April 1997

**NOTE TO EDITORS**

**The Official Visit of  
H.E. Masahiko KOUMURA  
State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Japan  
25-27 April 1997**

*Read  
press  
file*

On 25th April 1997, H.E. Masahiko KOUMURA, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Japan will arrive in Phnom Penh for an official three day visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia. The aim of Mr. Koumura's visit is to strengthen and develop the relationship between the two countries through having open and frank dialogue with Cambodian leaders on a broad range of matters that concern the relations between the two countries.

Mr. Koumura, during his visit, will have the honour of paying a courtesy visit to H.E. Samdech Chea Sim, Acting Head of State and President of the National Assembly at Chamkarmon Palace. Mr. Koumura will also pay a courtesy visit to H.R.H. Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranariddh, First Prime Minister and H.E. Samdech Hun Sen, Second Prime Minister. At each of these courtesy visits, Mr. Koumura will personally hand deliver letters directed from the Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro HASHIMOTO to the Cambodian leaders. Mr. Koumura will also attend a dinner hosted by H.E. Ung Huot, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

On 26th April, Mr. Koumura will attend and deliver a speech at the handing over ceremony for the National Maternal and Child Health Centre (NMCHC) in the high presence of H.E. Samdech Chea Sim, Acting Head of State and President of the National Assembly. This hospital, which has just recently been completed by Japanese Grant Aid, is run in conjunction with a technical cooperation project whose aim is to improve the poor infant mortality rate and maternal and child health care situation in Cambodia. Cambodians have been accepted in to Japan for training and Japanese experts have been working alongside Cambodian doctors, midwives and other maternal and child health workers at the NMCHC for the smooth transfer of appropriate technology.

On 27th April, Mr. Koumura will inspect the activities of the Japanese Government Team for Safeguarding Angkor (JSA) which, organised in 1994, is assigned to implement a four year project to restore selected sites in Angkor. For the implementation of this project, the Government of Japan has five resident experts and dispatches missions three times per year to engage in research and restoration alongside 100 Cambodian staff. Mr. Koumura will attend a ceremony to wish for the successful implementation of the preservation project of the Bayon complex at 8 a.m. at the Bayon.

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*Editors are invited for reporting and photo coverage.*

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

**The Handing Over Ceremony of the  
"National Maternal and Child Health Center" (NMCHC)  
to the Royal Government of Cambodia**

**will be conducted in the high presence of  
H.E.Samdech CHEA SIM  
Acting Head of State and President of the National Assembly**

**at 08:00 a.m. at NMCHC  
(Street France, in front of Preah Ket Mealea Hospital)**

**April 26, 1997**

This ceremony to be held on April 26, 1997 at 8:00 a.m. at the National Maternal and Child Health Center (Street France, in front of Preah Ket Mealea Hospital), will be conducted in the very high presence of H.E. Samdech CHEA SIM, Acting Head of State and President of the National Assembly. H.E. Mr. Masahiko KOUMURA, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Japan will also be attending this ceremony.

On the request of the Royal Government of Cambodia, the Government of Japan provided Grant Assistance for the construction of the National Maternal and Child Health Center. Exchange of Notes to this effect was signed on June 12, 1995 between the Government of Japan and the Royal Government of Cambodia.

Japanese Assistance to NMCHC consists of two parts:

I- Grant Aid for the construction of the National Maternal and Child Health Center for a total amount of ¥ 1,761 million, which includes maternity and gynecology wards (150 beds), an out-patient department, 3 operating theaters, 3 delivery rooms as well as sterilizing and X-ray facilities; a training center with an auditorium, 4 classrooms and lodging facilities for 30 trainees, an administration offices and the provision of all equipment required to run the various above mentioned departments.

II- A five year Technical Cooperation Programme started in April 1995 to ensure the efficiency of the NMCHC by dispatching Japanese experts to the NMCHC and accepting Cambodian trainees in Japan.

This project aims to improve the preventive and clinical care of women and infants by providing hospital facilities and offering basic and specialist training to medical doctors and midwives from all parts of Cambodia. With the construction of the NMCHC, the provision of the equipment and the transfer of the knowledge and know how, maternity health conditions will be upgraded and the mortality rate of mothers and babies will be reduced.

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