



Press Release
Embassy of Japan
in the Kingdom of Cambodia

December 2, 2009

**Participation of Cambodian High School Students in the
Asia International Youth Movie Festival in Japan
(JENESYS Program)**

A Cambodian delegation of 20 people, consisting of 18 high school students and 2 supervisors, will visit Japan for 10 days to participate in the Asia International Youth Movie Festival which will be held on December 5 in Ibusuki City, Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan. This is the first delegation from Cambodia to participate in the festival which started in 2007. They are invited to Japan under the JENESYS (*) Program, and will depart Cambodia on December 2, 2009.

In October this year, a preliminary in-country contest was held in Phnom Penh, and 7 movies (out of 20 movies) were selected to be screened at the final stage of the festival. This year, to celebrate Mekong-Japan Exchange Year 2009(**) and thanks to the initiative of Mr. SUGI Ryotaro, a most famous actor and singer in Japan and Special Ambassador for Japan-Viet Nam Relationship, students from 5 Mekong countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam) are invited to Japan to participate in the festival. A list of the movies is attached.

Apart from the participation in the festival, the participants will visit Japanese schools and cultural and industrial facilities, as well as staying with Japanese host families. It is expected that this program will enable the students to promote mutual understanding, and foster friendship among the young generations of Japan and Mekong region countries.

A farewell party for the Cambodian delegation will take place on Wednesday, December 1, 2009 from 12:30 to 14:00 at the Sunway Hotel.

* The JENESYS Program is based on a plan announced by Mr. Shinzo Abe, the then Prime Minister of Japan, at the second East Asia Summit (EAS), held in January 2007. The plan is to implement youth exchange programs with the budget of 35 billion yen, inviting about 6,000 young people to Japan, mainly from the EAS member states (ASEAN countries, Australia, China, India, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea) every year for five years, with a view to establishing a basis for Asian solidarity by expanding youth exchange. The JENESYS Program sees East Asian youths invited to Japan, Japanese youths sent to East Asia and other exchange activities. The program is expected to deepen mutual understanding among young people who will assume important roles in the future in each East Asian country.

** It was decided at the Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in January 2008 to designate the year 2009 as Mekong-Japan Exchange Year, in order to promote further exchanges between Mekong region countries and Japan. So far, about 50 related events have been held both in Cambodia and in Japan since the beginning of the year, including the Second Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers Meeting in October in Siem Reap and First Mekong-Japan Summit Meeting in November in Tokyo.

Embassy of Japan, No 194 Preah Norodom Blvd., Tel: (023) 217-161/4 Fax: (023)216-162
Official website: www.kh.emb-japan.go.jp