



Press Release

Embassy of Japan in Cambodia

3 November 2014

**Conferral of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette,
upon Mr. Kong Vorn, Head of Board of Directors,
Cambodia-Japan Friendship Middle and High School in Prey Veng
and Director of Cambodia Education Assistance Fund (CEAF)**

On 3 November 2014, the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2014 Autumn Imperial Decorations. Among 57 foreign recipients is Mr. Kong Vorn, Head of the Board of Directors, Cambodia-Japan Friendship Middle and High School and Director of Cambodia Education Assistance Fund (CEAF), who will receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, in recognition of his significant contribution to the development of Japanese language education in Cambodia and the enhancement of mutual understanding between Japan and Cambodia.

- DECORATION: The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette
- SERVICE: Contributed to the development of Japanese language education in Cambodia and the enhancement of mutual understanding between Japan and Cambodia.
- NAME (AGE): Kong Vorn (77)
- MAJOR TITLES:
 - Head of Board of Directors, Cambodia-Japan Friendship Middle and High School
 - Director of Cambodia Education Assistance Fund (CEAF)
- ADDRESS (NATIONALITY): Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

Mr. Kong Vorn worked for the Japanese media in Cambodia from 1970 to 1975. After experiencing forced labor for nearly 4 years during the Khmer Rouge era, he moved to Japan and settled there as a political refugee in 1981. He founded the Cambodia Education Assistance Fund (CEAF) in 1993 and started serving as

Director of the Fund, through which he built 5 schools in Cambodia. He made great achievements in the improvement of the educational system in Cambodia by introducing Japanese school systems and Japanese language education, as well as the enhancement of the reputation of Japan and the Japanese educational system in Cambodia.

In 1999, Mr. Kong Vorn built the Cambodia-Japan Friendship Middle and High School in Prey Veng Province and started serving as Head of the Board of Directors of the School. He invited volunteer teachers of Japanese language from Japan and made a tremendous contribution in promoting Japanese language study in the Province. The School is the only school in Cambodia which has Japanese language classes at the middle and high school level and has been producing many Japanese speakers every year.

Mr. Kong Vorn highly appreciates the Japanese educational system and introduced it to the school education of the Cambodia-Japan Friendship Middle and High School. He enhanced the respect among Cambodian people toward Japan and Japanese people, and the reputation of the Japanese educational system in Cambodia through his activities.

Mr. Kong Vorn also conducted many youth exchange programs between Japan and Cambodia and played a leading role in promoting mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries.

Mr. Kong Vorn worked for the Japanese media between 1970 and 1975 and made prompt and accurate reports of the Indo-china situation at that time for Japanese people. He also published a book regarding his own experiences during the Khmer Rouge and the aftermath through which he made a significant contribution in promoting the study of the modern history of Cambodia among Japanese historians and researchers.

An awarding ceremony will be organized at the Embassy of Japan in Phnom Penh at a future date.

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