



**Message of H.E. Mr. Hidehisa Horinouchi,
Ambassador of Japan to Cambodia,
on the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan**

It is my greatest pleasure to be sending this message to the Cambodian people on the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. Today, the 23rd December, His Majesty Emperor Akihito, turns 83 years old. I am pleased to be able to inform you all that Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, are both in good health and are active in performing their official duties.

This year, 2016, will be remembered as the year that the first regular, direct flights between our two countries were launched by ANA. This marks another important milestone in the bilateral relationship between Japan and Cambodia. I believe these direct flights will help to make Japan's relationship with Cambodia even closer, and will further promote and facilitate the exchange of people between the two countries.

Although it has only been two months since I arrived in Cambodia, I am impressed with the remarkable development taking place here and I am touched by the warm welcome the Cambodian people have kindly extended to me. My experiences in Cambodia have already reinforced my determination to do everything I can to further enhance the relationship between Japan and Cambodia.

On this, the Emperor's birthday, and as we approach the New Year, my wishes are for further friendship between Japan and Cambodia and for good health and happiness of the people of Cambodia.