

Japanese scientists request Cambodian officials to attend the science forum in Japan

PHNOM PENH, March 6, 2010 (PQRU) – Japanese delegation met with the Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Sok An on late Friday in which Japanese scientists requested Cambodian officials to attend the forum of Science and Technology in Society (STS) which will be held in Kyoto in October, 2010.

The Science and Technology in Society (STS) Forum, a non-profit organization, was inaugurated in November 2004 and hold an annual meeting starting in October every year, in Kyoto, Japan. The meeting is aimed at creating a global human network based on trust, and providing a framework for open discussions regarding the further progress of science and technology for the benefit of humankind, while controlling ethical, safety and environmental issues resulting from their application.

Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Sok An met with Mr. Koji Omi, who is a founder and chairman of the Science and Technology in Society (STS) Forum, with the aim of building a worldwide network among scientists, policymakers and business people. Mr. Omi, in the bilateral talk, requested His Excellency Dr. Sok An to send the Cambodian delegation to attend the forum which is to be held from 3rd to 5th October. Mr. Omi was seeking to have between 10 to 20 Cambodian officials from the different institutions to take part in the coming forum.

“Last year the forum received the participants from 85 countries, but so far there are not many delegation from the member countries of ASEAN, especially from Cambodia,” he said referring to 6th Annual Meeting, which was held in October 6, 2009 in Kyoto, Japan. The forum received more than 800 participants including scientists, policymakers, business executives and media leaders from the regional and international organizations. The forum agreed on the needs for more support from the developed countries to strengthen their capacities and human capital for science and technology. They also agreed to maintain investment in the field of science and technology and continue to promote the said field as the driving force for economic recovery and sustainable growth. Nuclear power is crucially important to decrease carbon emissions, they agreed. They also agreed on how to handle the population growth and climate change in the wake of the food crises and the issue of the clean water.

For ASEAN region, where an estimated 500 million population lived, more developments are needed to meet the growing demands in the long run, which intrigued the Japanese scientists to see the participations from the ASEAN Member States for exchange of views for the sustainable developments. “It is very important to have more participants from ASEAN,” he told H.E. Dr. Sok An.

ASEAN, which is the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, consists of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. “There is huge potential development for ASEAN countries, so there is a need for cooperation among the countries to exchange views,” Mr. Omi said.

In response, H.E. Dr. Sok An , who is also the Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, highly appreciates the importance of the participation and agrees that the more participations, the more will be motivated. H.E. Dr. Sok An also informed the delegation that Cambodia is considering the request in line with her financial constraints.

Japanese officials, however, said they are “very much appreciated with the Cambodian officials listened to their explanations about the main goal of the forum”.

(Press and Quick Reaction Unit)