

## **Japan to fund Cambodia center December 27, 2009**

PHNOM PENH (Kyodo) Japan has provided \$2 million to construct a legal document center for the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, the Japanese Embassy in Cambodia said Saturday.

The assistance is to help implement a project by the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) to build a legal document center, which may also house the Bar Association.

"The legal document center of the ECCC will store the records of the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, disclose those declassified documents to the public and enable Cambodian and foreign nationals, who have interests in the tribunal, such as researchers, lawyers and students, to have access to those records," the embassy said in a statement.

"The center will keep the outcome of the tribunal for Cambodian society as a legacy of the ECCC and will serve as a token of remembrance and nonrecurrence of the Khmer Rouge regime," it added.

"It's a good decision. We warmly welcome the decision by the government of Japan. They provide a great legacy for future judicial reform in Cambodia and for the younger generation of Cambodia to learn their history," said Reach Sambath, spokesman of the ECCC.

He said the document center will be located near Phnom Penh International Airport, not inside the ECCC complex.

Since the court began operating in 2006, about \$103 million has been spent on it, and Japan has provided \$47.3 million.