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# news release

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## SECRETARY OF STATE CHAN TO VISIT CAMBODIA, BANGLADESH AND JAPAN

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan will undertake an official visit to Cambodia, Bangladesh and Japan March 4 to 12.

"Bangladesh and Cambodia face enormous development problems, but we are encouraged by recent successes in both countries. Canada remains committed to supporting democratic and economic development in the region. This visit to Bangladesh is the highest level Canadian visit to the country since 1987 and demonstrates the importance of our relations with Bangladesh," said Mr. Ouellet.

"Canada is one of the major contributors to development assistance in Bangladesh and has played a very active role in Cambodia. A Canadian contingent participated in the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, for example, and Canadians are currently assisting in critical demining activities. Canadians can be proud of our role," said Mr. Chan.

Mr. Chan will visit Cambodia March 4 and 5 before leading the Canadian delegation to the second meeting of the International Committee on the Reconstruction of Cambodia (ICORC) in Tokyo March 10 and 11.

In Bangladesh March 6 to 9, Mr. Chan will meet with the Bangladeshi Foreign Minister, the Minister for State Planning, and representatives of international and domestic development and refugee organizations, as well as review Canadian aid projects and mark International Women's Day.

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