



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PHNOM PENH**

MEDIA RELEASE

LAUNCH OF AUSTRALIA AWARDS FOR SELECTION ROUND 2013

On 5 March the Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, **HE Ms Penny Richards**, will launch the 2013 *Australia Awards* scholarships and welcome home 30 recent Cambodian graduates from Australian educational institutions at the Sofitel Hotel Phokeethra. The event will be attended by senior government officials, representatives of the private sector and civil society and prominent Australian alumni. **HE Mr Chea Sophara**, Minister of Rural Development, will deliver the keynote address.

In the 2013 selection round, **55** Australia Awards Scholarships will be awarded for Cambodian students to study either at the Doctorate or Masters level in Australia. Outstanding applicants will be eligible for a Leadership program, which provides an opportunity to participate in leadership forums and networks with other leadership awardees from all over the world. Additional scholarships will be available through the Endeavour Awards for short or long term study and research or professional development in Australia in a broad range of disciplines.

Australia is committed to promoting higher education and building human capacity within the Asia Pacific region. More than 500 students from Cambodia have been awarded post-graduate scholarships to study in Australia since 1994 and nearly 200 Cambodians have received short term training or capacity building under the Australia Leadership Award (ALA) Fellowships since 2006.

These scholarship opportunities are non-discriminatory and open equally to males and females, from urban and rural areas and people with a disability. People with a disability are eligible to receive additional assistance to meet special needs if required. Scholarships are awarded for post-graduate study in areas of health, agriculture and rural development, infrastructure, law and justice, as well as in mining, trade negotiation, gender equality, aid effectiveness, disability and child protection.

Applications for Australia Awards Scholarships are now open and will close on 30 April 2013. The Endeavour awards applications will be open from 1 April to 30 June 2013.

Function details for media wishing to attend:

Date: Tuesday 5 March 2013, from 1730-2030 hours

Venue: Sofitel Hotel Phokeethra, Phnom Penh

For further information, please visit: www.australiaawards.gov.au

**Media Enquiries: Benjamin Nichols, Second Secretary, benjamin.nichols@dfat.gov.au
Australian Embassy, Phnom Penh, 4 March 2013**