



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PHNOM PENH**

MEDIA RELEASE

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AWARDS 54 CAMBODIANS SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDY IN
AUSTRALIA IN 2013**

On 11 December 2012 **H.E. Ms Penny Richards**, the Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, will host a function to farewell 52 Cambodian students who have been awarded Australia Awards Scholarships to undertake postgraduate study in Australia.

These 52 students come from the Royal Government of Cambodia, civil society and the private sector and will pursue their Masters or PhD programs at a range of prestigious universities in Australia in 2013, fully-funded by the Australian Government. They will study in the key areas of health, agriculture and rural development, infrastructure, law and justice, as well as a variety of cross cutting areas including aid effectiveness, social services, financial management and gender equality.

The Australia Awards provide opportunities to people from developing countries across the world to study in Australia. Awardees are high achieving individuals and potential leaders who want to gain the necessary knowledge, skills and expertise to support the long term development of their country.

The Australian Awards foster positive government to government links as well as people to people links. It is these relationships that will help to build the business, academic and social links that will support both local and regional development.

Australia is committed to promoting higher education and human capacity development within the Asia Pacific region. In 2012, 54 Cambodians were selected for fully funded postgraduate study under the Australia Awards scholarships. Since 1994, over 500 Cambodian students have been awarded long term development scholarships funded by the Australian Government. Of these, over 320 awardees have successfully completed their post graduate qualifications and returned to Cambodia with high quality professional skills. Others are still studying in Australia, some are on the pre-departure training in Cambodia, and some are due to depart for Australia in January 2013.

The returned students are making a valuable contribution to Cambodia's social and economic development, with many progressing to senior roles in the civil service, civil society and the private sector.

The Australian Embassy is proud to bid farewell to this impressive and diverse group of Cambodian scholars and wishes them all the best for their personal and academic journey in Australia.

Function details:

Date: Tuesday 11 December 2012; 1800 to 2030 hours

Venue: Cambodiana Hotel, Phnom Penh

For more information about the Australia Awards, please visit: www.australiaawards.gov.au

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