



## AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

### MEDIA RELEASE

#### **WELCOME BACK TO CAMBODIAN HIGH ACHIEVERS**

Twenty-five Cambodian recipients of Australian Awards will be welcomed back home at a function hosted by the Australian Ambassador, Ms Penny Richards, on 6 April 2011 at the Australian Embassy in Phnom Penh. The scholarship awardees have all successfully completed post-graduate study in Australia in the areas of Health, Rural Development, HIV/AIDS, Governance, Social Services, Environment, International Development, Finance and Banking, Management and Education.

Australia has been providing scholarships for Cambodian students study in Australia for 17 years. This demonstrates the high value placed on building long-lasting relationships with Australia's regional neighbours. The talented and dynamic young graduates represent a significant investment in human capital. The skills and experiences that they bring back to Cambodia are a valuable asset to Cambodia's development.

In the 2010-11 Federal Budget, the Australian Government increased funding for scholarships. This will allow AusAID to double the number of scholarships available to Cambodians from government, the private sector and non-government organisations.

With this increased funding, Australia will award up to 50 Masters Degree scholarships to Cambodian students in selection year 2011. Cambodians with leadership potential are also awarded Australian Leadership Awards on a competitive regional basis to pursue Ph.D and Masters degrees, and establish professional networks at the national, regional and global level. In addition, Australian Leadership Fellowships are provided to Cambodians to undertake short professional courses in Australia.

Since the Australian scholarships program was established in 1994, more than 440 Cambodians have been awarded scholarships and obtained post-graduate qualifications from Australian universities. They have returned home to contribute to Cambodia's social and economic development, with many progressing to senior roles in government and the private sector.

For more information on Australia Awards, please visit: [www.australiaawards.gov.au](http://www.australiaawards.gov.au)

#### **Function details:**

Venue: Australian Embassy

Date: Wednesday 6 April 2011, 1500 to 1730 hours

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