



## **AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Australia is helping to maintain safer roads in Cambodia**

This Wednesday 27 July 2011, **His Excellency Tram Iv Tek**, Minister for Public Works and Transport, will host a ceremony in Kampong Chhnang to inaugurate the completion of 87 kilometres of maintenance on National Road 5 between Phnom Penh and Kampong Chhnang under the joint Road Asset Management Project.

The Minister will also mark the commencement of the next phase of 80 kilometres, from Kampong Chhnang to Pursat.

The Road Asset Management Project is assisting the Ministry of Public Works and Transport with periodic maintenance of approximately 950 km of Cambodia's roads and is working with the Ministry to improve the management of these key assets.

The project is a collaboration between the Royal Government of Cambodia, the Government of Australia through Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID). The International Development Association also provides a parallel financial contribution to the project.

“Financial assistance from development partners relieves the burden on the limited budget of the Royal Government of Cambodia in maintaining the country's roads,” Minister Tram Iv Tek said.

“Ongoing maintenance is an important part of protecting roads,” said Jennifer Lean, Acting Counsellor, AusAID.

“Good roads reduce travel times and vehicle operating costs, especially in rural areas. They connect Cambodian farmers to markets within the country and throughout the region.”

As more Cambodians take to the road, the number of road accidents has increased—a risk recognised by AusAID. “Australia's support also includes a road safety campaign, which will raise awareness amongst Cambodians about the importance of wearing helmets and obeying traffic regulations,” added Ms Lean.

Australia has supported infrastructure investments in Cambodia since the 1990s. Australia is currently investing AUD49 million in Cambodia to support four infrastructure projects: the Road Asset Management Project; the Southern Coastal Corridor Project; the Rehabilitation of the Railway in Cambodia Project; and the Rural Electrification and Transmission Project.

#### **Event Details**

Date: 27 July 2011, 8am  
Venue: Kampong Chhnang Provincial Town, Kampong Chhnang province  
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