



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PHNOM PENH**

MEDIA RELEASE

**REACHING OUT THROUGH SPORT: LOCAL NGO RECEIVES GRANT FROM
AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION**

Cambodian NGO Indochina Starfish Foundation (ISF) has been awarded a Sport Development Grant of A\$15,000 under the Australian Sports Outreach Program (ASOP) for 2010-11.

The ASOP Sport Development Grant Program complements larger community development through sport programs in India, southern Africa, the Pacific and Caribbean. The Program is funded by AusAID and managed by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC).

Following a review of over 130 applications, the ASC awarded 23 new grants for projects in 19 countries, with support continuing for a further 5 projects, bringing the total number of countries reached to 21 and funding made available to A\$398,000 in 2010-11.

“We’re absolutely thrilled to receive the grant,” said Ms Kate Griffin, Country Manager for Indochina Starfish Foundation. “The money will benefit more than 2,500 girls and boys and give them the chance to participate in our football program, developing their fitness, self-confidence and team spirit.”

The Indochina Starfish Foundation will use the grant to build the capacity of staff and coaches who deliver a football training program for children from orphanages and street organisations in Phnom Penh, Kandal, Prey Veng and Battambang, in partnership with the Football Federation of Cambodia and the Sports and Leadership Training (SALT) Academy. The training program focuses on developing coaching, leadership and management skills, as well as first aid training.

The ASOP Sport Development Grant Program supports increasing community participation in sport and physical activity. The Program is also intended to offer support to projects which may provide an effective vehicle for addressing broader community issues such as health promotion, leadership and social cohesion through sport and physical activity. There is a strong focus on providing support to developing countries, and encouraging equal participation by women and girls.

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01 November 2010



Above: **The starting line-up: players ready to kick-off in the ISF Boys' Football League.**

Below: **Cambodian girls learn to bend it like Beckham: two teams take the field in the ISF Girls' Football League.**

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