



Joint Media Release

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International World Rice Conference puts Cambodia's rice sector on world stage

The 2025 International World Rice Conference (IWRC 2025) opened this morning in Phnom Penh, amid a critical moment for the global rice industry. The opening session was presided over by H.E. Sok Chenda Sophea Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia along with H.E. Cham Nimul, Minister of Commerce, and H.E. Derek Yip, Australian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The three-day conference provides a forum to discuss the outlook for rice trade and production, including recent shifts in the global rice market, the impact of trade disruptions and policies to support a stronger rice sector. There will also be opportunities to discuss agricultural technologies and approaches to sustainability.

The event brings together major rice producers, traders and experts from around the world, and will include the presentation of the World's Best Rice award – an award that Cambodia has won six times previously for its Malys Angkor variety.

Minister of Commerce H.E. Cham Nimul, stated: "A key goal of the Ministry of Commerce is to boost Cambodian rice exports, particularly the acclaimed premium Phka Romdoul and Sen Kra Oub fragrant varieties, via diverse trade and promotional initiatives. This aims to increase global recognition and build robust branding in regional and international arenas. By hosting the 2025 International World Rice Conference in Cambodia, we demonstrate our dedication to supplying sustainable, nutritious rice worldwide, while supporting global food security and consumer well-being."

Australian Ambassador H.E. Derek Yip said, 'Australia has supported Cambodia's rice sector for more than 30 years. Working with the government and Cambodian agri-businesses, Australia is helping Cambodia to boost local processing capacity, open new export markets and promote sustainable, climate-resilient production practices. Australia is pleased to support IWRC 2025 and to work with Cambodia as it builds the recognition and reputation of its rice on the world stage.'

Mr Jeremy Zwinger, President and CEO of The Rice Trader (TRT) and organiser of the World Rice Conference, said, 'We have a strong belief in the resilience and bright future of the Cambodian

people, with rice playing a vital role in that future. It is with great honour and respect that we hosted this conference in collaboration with the Cambodian government.'

Oknha Lay Chhun Hour, President of the Cambodia Rice Federation, said, 'IWRC25 is an important platform for the rice sector, providing an opportunity for all stakeholders to meet, learn from each other, and gain knowledge on changing regional and global rice trends, as well as technology, finance, research and rice variety development. IWRC 2025 in Cambodia will provide an opportunity for everyone to learn about the development of the rice sector in Cambodia, as well as the socio-economic development of Cambodia.'

IWRC 2025 is organised by TRT and co-hosted by Cambodia's Ministry of Commerce, with support from Australia through the Cambodia Australia Partnership for Resilient Economic Development (CAPRED) program and the Cambodia Rice Federation. The event is expected to attract over 500 participants, including producers, exporters, researchers, policymakers and development partners from across the rice value chain.

The conference features 18 exhibition booths where private companies and agribusinesses showcase a wide range of products, services and innovations – from high-quality rice varieties to cutting-edge technologies. The exhibition offers a unique opportunity for participants to engage directly with industry leaders, explore market-ready solutions, and foster new partnerships.

The event is also supported by the following companies: Golden Orient Ship Management and Agencies Inc, St 25 Rice, City Rice Import Export Co. Ltd, Yasar, Battambang Rice Investment Co. Ltd, Reap, AgriSea and Absortech.

For more information, contact:

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