



## **JOINT PRESS RELEASE**

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## Australia and Cambodia join forces to promote gender equality in industry and MSMEs

Today, the Australian Embassy and the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation (MISTI) launched a consultation workshop to develop MISTI's Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan (GMAP) 2023-2028.

The Action Plan is a roadmap for MISTI to integrate gender mainstreaming and work towards achieving gender equality in its work. This new plan is necessary to reflect the changing context, priorities, and especially the Pentagonal Strategy for the 7th mandate of the new government.

The event was presided over by H.E. Justin Whyatt, Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, and H.E. Hem Vanndy, Minister of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation. Relevant stakeholders from MSMEs, business associations, NGOs, development partners, and relevant ministries attended the workshop.

"We are dedicated to promoting gender equality, disability, and social inclusion in all of our work. This update to our GMAP is an important step towards achieving this goal," said H.E. Hem Vanndy.

"By embracing the principle of inclusiveness, we are also unlocking the untapped potential that lies within our communities and better contributing to the Pentagonal Strategy of growth, employment, equity, efficiency, and sustainability," added H.E. Hem Vanndy.

"We are proud to partner with MISTI on this important initiative. We believe this Action Plan will help Cambodian women to equally benefit from Cambodia's economy. Australia is committed to supporting Cambodia in achieving resilient, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth," said Ambassador Whyatt.

The workshop was supported by the Cambodia Australia Partnership for Resilient Economic Development (CAPRED).

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