



Australian Embassy

Cambodia

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CAMBODIA AND AUSTRALIA DEEPEN DEFENCE PARTNERSHIP

This week Australia’s flagship regional engagement activity, Indo-Pacific Endeavour (IPE), returned to Cambodia with specialist Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel to conduct training with the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF).

The visit is part of annual defence engagement to promote security and stability in the region. During the visit, five ADF instructors visited Cambodia’s National Centre for Peacekeeping Forces, Mine and Explosive Remnants of War Clearance (NPMEC) to deliver peacekeeping and Gender in Military Operations training to RCAF personnel as they prepare for UN peacekeeping deployments. The visit focused on peacekeeping and gender, peace and security including participation in a women’s networking event for military personnel as well.

“The activities and exchanges we have shared with the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces this week have built friendships and understanding between our forces. Cambodia is a major peacekeeping contributor. The opportunity to meet and share knowledge with Cambodian personnel preparing to deploy on peacekeeping operations has been invaluable,” said Air Commodore Ruth Elsley, Commandant of the Australian War College.

His Excellency Justin Whyatt, Australian Ambassador to Cambodia said, “We highly value our defence relationship with Cambodia, which dates back to the 1990s. Australia and Cambodia work together on key areas such as peacekeeping, maritime security, and strategic policy development, as well as English language training.”

“We are pleased the training supports Cambodia’s ambition to increase the proportion of women as part of RCAF forces deploying on UN peacekeeping operations.” Ambassador Whyatt added.

IPE 2023 has conducted activities with Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Thailand and Vietnam.

Royal Australian Navy ships, Australian Army detachments and Royal Australian Air Force aircraft also supported exercises and engagement activities, sharing information and providing training opportunities throughout IPE 2023.

IPE supports the Australian Government’s focus on deepening diplomatic and defence partnerships across Southeast Asia and the Northeast Indian Ocean, and reinforces Australia’s commitment to a peaceful, secure and prosperous region.

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