



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

2 December 2019

AUSTRALIA RECOGNISED FOR LONGSTANDING DEMINING SUPPORT

The Australian Embassy has agreed to accept an award from the Royal Government of Cambodia in recognition of Australia's longstanding support for demining in Cambodia.

Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, Her Excellency Angela Corcoran, will receive the Royal Order of Sahametrei Grand Cross medal from Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Monday, 2 December.

"I am pleased that the Cambodian Government recognises the important role Australia has played in supporting landmine clearing in Cambodia for the past 25 years," said Ambassador Corcoran.

"When we first commenced our demining work in Cambodia, more than 4000 people were being killed each year in landmine accidents. Australia's assistance has helped bring that number down to 58 casualties last year," she added.

The Australian Government's support for demining in Cambodia commenced in 1994 and has involved financial contributions totalling more than A\$100 million.

Since 2006, Australia has been partnering with the United Nations Development Programme and the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) to clear landmine-contaminated land and raise community awareness about the risks of landmines. Through this partnership, over 239 square kilometres of land have been cleared and released to local communities for farming.

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