



## **AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

24 August 2021

#### **AUSTRALIA TEAMS UP WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH AND SPORTS FOR A VIRTUAL BOOK DONATION**

The Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, His Excellency Pablo Kang, was pleased to join with the Minister of Education Youth and Sports, His Excellency Dr Hang Chuon Naron, at a ceremony to donate books to the Preah Norodom Primary School and other local schools in celebration of Australian Book Week (21-27 August).

Australia is a proud supporter of the right to education for all Cambodian children and presented 1,308 books to Preah Norodom Primary School and other local schools donated by Australian Embassy staff and families, community members and Mr Meng Hieng owner of Monument Books.

“Focusing on literacy and the joy of reading is now more important than ever while schools are closed or online due to COVID-19,” said Ambassador Kang.

“Australia is committed to strengthening educational links with Cambodia. This book donation is just one way the Australian Embassy continues to engage with Cambodian schools with the hope that they will soon be able to re-open in a COVID-safe way,” said Ambassador Kang.

Ambassador Kang said that the event helped to emphasise the importance of literacy in Cambodia.

Book Week was established in Australia in 1945 to bring children and books together through activities such as book competitions, storytelling, reading and book character costume parades.

Ambassador Kang thanked H.E. Dr Hang Chuon Naron for supporting the event and facilitating the book donation to Preah Norodom Primary School and other local schools.

“While it has been challenging to find ways to educate children at home during the pandemic, Book Week reminds us that reading can inspire us and we can all take time to enjoy a good book with our children,” said Ambassador Kang.

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