



## **AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH**

MEDIA RELEASE

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### **ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY SHIP VISIT TO CAMBODIA**

The Royal Australian Navy ship HMAS Anzac arrived in Sihanoukville Port this morning to begin a three-day visit. This is the first time since 2016 that an Australian Navy vessel has come into port in Cambodia.

HMAS Anzac is part of Australia's flagship regional engagement activity - Indo Pacific Endeavour (IPE). In 2021 this has seen a small taskforce of Australian naval ships visit ports, conduct military exercises, provide humanitarian and medical assistance, and exchange new ideas and perspectives on security matters with Australia's partner countries in Southeast Asia.

During a wharf ceremony, H.E. Pablo Kang, the Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, gifted 800kg of COVID-related medical and personal protective equipment to H.E. Kong Vitanak, the Deputy Governor of Sihanoukville Province, and H.E. Vice Admiral Ouk Seyha, Deputy Commander of the Royal Cambodian Navy.

The Ambassador thanked Cambodia for making IPE21 a success, and stressed the importance of mutual support and cooperation in addressing COVID-19. "The visit reinforces Australia's commitment to supporting Cambodia's future development, including its health and economic recovery from COVID-19 and our bilateral defence cooperation" said Ambassador Kang.

He added that "this visit occurs in the week of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Paris Peace Agreements which paved the way for the end of decades of conflict in Cambodia. The Agreements led to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia in which many women and men of the Australian Defence Force served with distinction."

During the visit, the crew will also conduct a virtual seminar on Women, Peace and Security with RCAF representatives, which will build on Australia's financial and policy support for the successful Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Women Peace and Security Forum hosted by the Cambodian Ministry of Women's Affairs last week.

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