



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

MEDIA RELEASE

1 December 2021

AUSTRALIA AND CAMBODIA JOINTLY LAUNCH NEW CLEAN WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY IN BATTAMBANG AND LANDMARK STUDY ON PIPED WATER SUPPLY IN THE KINGDOM

Australian Ambassador to Cambodia His Excellency Pablo Kang and Senior Minister and Minister of Industry, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MISTI), His Excellency Cham Prasidh, today jointly launched a water treatment facility in Battambang, and the 'Provincial Investment Plan for Piped Water Supply in Cambodia (PIP)'.

Ambassador Kang visited the Battambang facility in September and was pleased to see Australian technology treating raw water into clean drinking water for Cambodian villagers. The facility uses Australian ultrafiltration (UF) membrane technology and storage to deliver 120,000L of safe drinking water per day to around 5,000 people in 12 villages in Prek Chik Commune.

Australia's flagship AUD 49.4 million *Investing in Infrastructure (3i)* program partnered with the Australian Water Association (AWA) and Cambodian Water Supply Association (CWA) to bring this water treatment technology to Cambodia.

DuPont Australia provided the membrane technology and Tiger Water Solutions manufactured the 100,000L steel tank, partnering with Cambodian water operator WE Venture to set up this facility.

This technology uses substantially less chemicals than existing water treatment approaches in Cambodia, reducing operating costs and environmental impact, providing new options for the evolving water sector.

Through 3i, Australia supported MISTI to develop the PIP – which maps piped water coverage across 22 provinces – finding that 50 per cent of villages are connected to a piped water network and Cambodia needs at least USD 150 million in infrastructure investment to deliver clean water to villages suitable for piped water supply. The PIP also provides policy tools to finance that investment efficiently.

"I am proud to see Australian companies bring safe and environmentally friendly water treatment technologies to Cambodia" said Ambassador Kang.

"We hope the PIP will also provide a useful roadmap and policy tools for the Cambodian Government to achieve its goal of providing clean water to all Cambodians by 2030."

"Today, we are witnessing the display of an Australian water treatment technology using ultrafiltration which is a technology of interest for producing clean water in Cambodia," said H.E. Cham Prasidh. On the PIP, H.E. Cham Prasidh said "the partnership between MISTI and 3i through the PIP study establishes an important strategic direction for the development of Cambodia's clean water sector."

3i is providing training to MISTI officials in both Phnom Penh and the provinces on data management and piped water planning to help implement the PIP.

Through 3i, Australia has worked with nearly 80 private water operators over the past five years to provide treated piped water to rural households in Cambodia. The program will enable access to clean piped water for more than one million Cambodians.

Media enquiries: Media.Cambodia@dfat.gov.au