



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

MEDIA RELEASE

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EXHIBITION TO MARK THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF COMMENCEMENT OF UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA (UNTAC)

Last night, Australian Ambassador Pablo Kang joined His Excellency Lieutenant General John Murray Sanderson AC, Former Force Commander of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), His Excellency Ly Thuch, Senior Minister and First Vice President of the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority and other dignitaries to open a photo exhibition marking the 30th Anniversary of UNTAC at Raffles Hotel Le Royal.

The photo exhibition is organised by the Australian Embassy and supported by the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies and the Asian Vision Institute, to commemorate the 30th anniversary of UNTAC and as part of the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and Cambodia.

UNTAC was an historic period for Cambodia and a great example of effective international political and security cooperation. It was established by the United Nations in 1992 to oversee the implementation of the Paris Peace Agreements, the safe repatriation of Cambodians displaced by the civil war and the 1993 national elections.

“Australia has a long friendship with Cambodia, including as one of 19 countries that signed the Paris Peace Agreements in October 1991, which paved the way for the commencement of UNTAC”, said Ambassador Kang. “We look forward to marking this 30th anniversary of UNTAC, reflecting on our shared history and those who have worked tirelessly to shape the Cambodia of today”.

Australian Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC commanded UNTAC’s large multilateral force consisting of 12 infantry battalions and support units, military observers, and civilian police, totalling 22,000 personnel from around 40 different countries. In addition to providing the command of the military component, Australia also contributed over 1,200 personnel to UNTAC.

The Embassy is also hosting a weekly lunch-time speaker series throughout the exhibition on the Embassy Facebook with diplomatic missions, Cambodian Government counterparts, academia and students. The UNTAC photo exhibition is open to the public from 7:00am to 9:00pm every day from 29 April to 28 May.

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