



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY  
PHNOM PENH**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

31 May 2022

**AUSTRALIA PARTNERS WITH CAMBODIA ON IMPROVING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Australian Government's Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I) initiative has officially launched in Cambodia, as part of an integrated package of support to drive the region's recovery from COVID-19 through inclusive, sustainable growth.

P4I provides over \$120 million to partner with Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) across the transport, energy, utilities and telecommunications sectors.

On 31 May 2022 in Phnom Penh, the Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, H.E. Pablo Kang, opened a launch event alongside Keynote Speaker H.E. Pheng Sovicheano, Secretary of State at Ministry of Public Works and Transport and Representative of H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Public Works and Transport. H.E. Om Macthearith, Director General of the General Department of Public Private Partnership delivered Closing Remarks highlighting his positive reflections of working with P4I in recent months.

In Cambodia, P4I is already actively working with the Ministry of Economy and Finance to improve financing and cost recovery in the wastewater sector, strengthen public investment management, and build capacity to attract more quality private investment in Cambodian infrastructure through public-private partnerships.

P4I is also in discussions with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport to update road standards and design a National Wastewater Strategy, and is engaging with the Telecommunications Regulator of Cambodia, the Ministry of Mines and Energy and others to expand Australia's engagement with Cambodia in the telecommunications and energy sectors.

During his opening remarks, Ambassador Kang said that the P4I initiative would build on Cambodia's 70-year relationship with Australia and accelerate quality infrastructure development to drive resilient and inclusive growth in the country.

"Australia has a longstanding and trusted reputation for supporting quality infrastructure development in the region and in Cambodia," said Ambassador Kang.

"Cambodia has expressed an interest in accessing Australian infrastructure expertise and experience to meet the country's diverse infrastructure needs and to drive an inclusive, resilient economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to seeing the benefits of this new infrastructure partnership in Cambodia."

H.E. Pheng Sovicheano, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, expressed appreciation to Australia for its enduring friendship with the Kingdom of Cambodia and commitment to support the nation's infrastructure priorities through P4I.

"As a country, we are faced with a growing population, increasing urbanisation, and climate change risks that must be addressed. In our ASEAN Chair year, we are also seeking to strengthen connectivity across borders to expand markets and enhance trade," said the H.E. Pheng Sovicheano.

"To do this, we need substantial infrastructure investment and development. We welcome the assistance of Australia to build our country's capacity to plan and deliver inclusive and resilient infrastructure projects for the benefit of all Cambodian people."

P4I provides rapid access to high-calibre experts from Australia, the region and around the world to improve infrastructure design, financing, and governance. It also supports the formation of new partnerships among Australian and Cambodian government infrastructure entities to share knowledge and further develop our two countries' people-to-people links.

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