



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIA SUPPORTS THE CAMBODIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE 70 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH CAMBODIA

The Australian Embassy is supporting the Cambodia International Film Festival (CIFF) for its 11th edition this year, as part the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Cambodia and Australia. The CIFF runs from 28 June to 3 July with the Gala Opening happening on Tuesday, 28 June at 5:30pm at Chaktomuk Conference Hall.

This is an important year for Australia-Cambodia relations. Cultural and artistic exchanges are a way to celebrate the strong people-to-people links between Australia and Cambodia. The support from the Australian Embassy for the festival is designed to help connect cultures, find common ground and build a shared sense of community. The films on display will reflect a contemporary Australia – its diversity, creativity, and complexity. The film festival is a chance for all Australians and Cambodians to reflect on the journey of the bilateral relationship over the last 70 years, as well as what can be done in the next 70 and beyond.

Australian Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Andreas Zurbrugg said, "Like many other areas in the creative industry, film festivals had been impacted by COVID-19 over the past two years. We're pleased that the Cambodia International Film Festival is back this year for its 11th edition after a two-year break".

"To celebrate our 70th anniversary of bilateral relations between Cambodia and Australia, we will screen about 20 Australian films produced during this period, 1952-2022. The films include community and educational films highlighting issues on Mekong environmental and water management, agriculture, Indigenous groups and gender equality", Mr Zurbrugg added.

In addition to more than 170 screenings, we will also have three Australian film personalities coming to participate in this year's CIFF: Richard Kuipers - variety film critic and festivals curator; Allison Chhorn - Australian Cambodian artist and filmmaker; and James Gerrand - veteran filmmaker.

Australia looks forward to continuing to work together for the next 70 years and beyond to strengthen our bilateral relationship and address common challenges.

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