



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

MEDIA RELEASE

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INDO-PACIFIC ENDEAVOUR 22 STRENGTHENS AUSTRALIA-CAMBODIA DEFENCE PARTNERSHIP

Australia's flagship regional engagement activity, Indo-Pacific Endeavour (IPE), visited Cambodia this week with Australian Defence Force (ADF) instructors. The instructors worked at the Institute for Peacekeeping and Mine Clearance (IPMEC) in Oudong to provide peacekeeping training to RCAF personnel preparing to deploy on UN operations. Five ADF instructors worked with their RCAF colleagues to deliver UN Child Protection and Gender in Military Operations courses to around 40 RCAF personnel. This was followed by a women's networking event.

IPE is visiting 14 countries from late September to late November to support the Australian Government's commitment to strengthen military partnerships across Southeast Asia and the Northeast Indian Ocean. IPE reinforces Australia's commitment to an open, inclusive and resilient region; activities include military exercises, workshops, training, sporting and cultural events.

During a closing ceremony today, Major General Kathryn Toohey, the senior Australian military representative, said she was delighted to return to Cambodia, having served in the United Nations Transitional Authority Cambodia (UNTAC) in 1992-1993, "Australia is proud of its peacekeeping legacy, including in Cambodia where we mark the 30th anniversary of UNTAC this year. We remain keen to further develop our defence cooperation, including through peacekeeping."

Ambassador Pablo Kang thanked Cambodia for hosting the training courses and making IPE22 a success. He stressed Cambodia's growth from a peacekeeping recipient to a major peacekeeping contributor today and said "Australia is committed to working with Cambodia to shape an Indo-Pacific region that embraces engagement, cooperation and strategic equilibrium."

He added that "this visit occurs shortly after the 31st 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 UNTAC in which many women and men of the Australian Defence Force, including Major General Toohey, served with distinction."

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