



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

MEDIA RELEASE

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2022 ANZAC Day Commemoration in Phnom Penh

To commemorate those Australians and New Zealanders (Anzacs) who have served and died in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations, the Australian Embassy hosted the 2022 ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the Australian Embassy, Phnom Penh today.

This was the first in-person ANZAC Day Dawn Service in Phnom Penh since 2019. Due to the COVID-19 situation in Cambodia, and in the interests of everyone's safety, the Embassy did not hold an in-person ANZAC Day Dawn Service in 2020 and 2021.

Around 100 people attended the Dawn Service. Amongst the veterans and currently serving military personnel was His Excellency Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC, former Australian Commander of the military component of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), who gave the ANZAC Address.

His Excellency Ambassador Pablo Kang, Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, introduced Lieutenant General Sanderson who spoke of the courage and sacrifice of the original ANZACs and those who followed. After World War II, Australia increased its focus on Asia and this year marks 70 years of diplomatic relations with Cambodia. ANZACs helped overcome 20 years of conflict and civil war in Cambodia through service for the United Nations Advanced Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) and UNTAC. This year marks the 75th Anniversary of Australia's Involvement in Peacekeeping Operations and the 30th Anniversary of UNTAC. Lieutenant General Sanderson reflected on his personal experiences during the UNTAC period and the service of those personnel who contributed towards peace in Cambodia.

Anzac Day commemorates the landing of Australian & New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) on the Gallipoli peninsula on 25 April 1915. The 'Anzacs', as they were referred, together with British, Indian and French forces, met fierce resistance from the Turkish defenders in battles that lasted for months, and many did not return home. Their endurance, sacrifice and mateship is at the heart of the ANZAC spirit, and has left an indelible impression on Australians and New Zealanders to this day.

Lest we forget

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