



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

MEDIA RELEASE

AUSTRALIA SUPPORTS CAMBODIAN HIGH ACHIEVERS

Eighteen Cambodians awarded with Australian Development Scholarships will be welcomed back home at a function hosted by the Australian Ambassador on 1 October 2009. Following 1-2 years study in Australia, the scholarship awardees have all successfully graduated from Australian universities with Masters degrees in law, public administration, accounting, development studies, education, public health and agricultural science.

“These talented and dynamic young people represent an enormous investment in human capital. The skills and experiences that they bring back will be valuable assets to Cambodia’s public and private sectors,” said Ambassador Margaret Adamson.

“Australia has provided scholarships to Cambodia for many years, going back to the days of the Colombo Plan in the 1950s. This demonstrates the high value we place on building long-lasting relationships with our regional neighbours,” she added.

Every year, up to 1000 Australian Development Scholarships are awarded in 31 countries to address the priority human resource and development needs of partner countries. Since 2006, the number of scholarships in the Asia Pacific region awarded by the Australian Government has doubled to 19,000, representing a commitment of A\$1.4 billion over five years.

In Cambodia, Australia awards up to 25 Masters degree scholarships each year. Cambodians with leadership potential are also awarded Australian Leadership Awards on a competitive regional basis to pursue Ph.D and Masters degrees, and establish professional networks at the national, regional and global level, with 19 awarded since 2007. In addition, Australian Leadership Fellowships are provided to up to 40 Cambodians each year to undertake short professional courses in Australia.

Since the Australian Development Scholarships program was established in 1994, nearly 300 Cambodians have been awarded scholarships and obtained tertiary qualifications from Australian universities and technical colleges. They have returned home to contribute to Cambodia’s social and economic development, with many progressing to senior roles in government and the private sector.

For more information on Australian scholarships, please visit:
www.ausaid.gov.au/scholar/default.cfm or www.australianscholarships.gov.au

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