



## AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY AND MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

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### JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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#### **Australia Supports Better Prison Conditions**

New health facilities and fencing at national Correctional Centre 3 (CC3) in Kampong Cham, will be opened by HE Nouth Sa An, Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior and Ms Arthi Patel, First Secretary, Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

“There are 13,000 prisoners in Cambodia in facilities built to hold 8000 people. Joint investments in prison infrastructure by the Australian Government and the Royal Government of Cambodia are critical to provide safe, secure and humane conditions for prisoners. These facilities at CC3 are the first to be completed under Australia’s \$A1.25m investment in prisons, through the Cambodia Criminal Justice Assistance Project Phase 3”, said Ms Arthi Patel, First Secretary, AusAID, speaking at the Opening ceremony on 26 March.

HE Nouth Sa An, Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior, said the new health centre and better fencing have contributed to the prison reform effort led by the General Department of Prisons. The work at CC3 will improve the mental and physical health of convicted prisoners. A new health centre and equipment will allow for primary health care to be provided inside the prison, reducing delays, security risks and costs associated with transport to hospital. Prisoners can now be treated to prevent the spread of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis. Improved internal security fencing will allow prisoners to be out of their cells every day, ensuring access to exercise and fresh air.

“The cooperation between AusAID and the General Department of Prisons construction team has greatly contributed to improving the design of Cambodian prison facilities. Lessons learned from the original model prison built by Australia in Kandal Province in 2006 have set a new standard for new prison infrastructure in Cambodia.” said HE General Heng Hak, General Director, General Department of Prisons.

Australia has supported reform across the criminal justice system in Cambodia since 1997. The Cambodia Criminal Justice Assistance Project Phase 3 (2007 – 2012) works with the Royal Government and NGOs to improve prisons, policing, courts, crime prevention and community safety in six provinces.

#### **Event Details**

Date: 26 March 2010 8am  
Venue: Correctional Centre 3, Kampong Cham province  
Media contact: Arthi Patel Australian Embassy ph 023 213 470