



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PHNOM PENH**

MEDIA RELEASE

**AUSTRALIANS RAISE OVER \$75,000 FOR CAMBODIAN VICTIMS OF HUMAN
TRAFFICKING**

The Australian Ambassador HE Margaret Adamson today welcomed the arrival in Phnom Penh of 21 riders from Australia, Canada and the United States who are riding across Cambodia to raise money to promote greater public awareness of human trafficking and sexual abuse of women and children.

The 489km charity ride was organised by the Look 2 the Future organisation as part of its Futures 09 Project. Look 2 the Future's founder, Ms Stephanie Lorenzo, a young Australian from Sydney, is participating in the ride.

The Ambassador and Ms Lorenzo presented Ms Somaly Mam, President of AFESIP Cambodia and founder of the Somaly Mam Foundation, with a cheque for US\$75,000 from riders' sponsors.

"These young people have been motivated to make a personal contribution to a serious global issue, many of them after reading about the heroic efforts of Somaly Mam, the Cambodian founder of AFESIP. I am very proud of their magnificent efforts so far in raising so much money for such a worth cause," said Ambassador Adamson.

The trafficking of women and children for sexual or labour exploitation is a serious problem confronting many developing countries, including Cambodia. Australia supports several projects in the Mekong sub-region that aim to reduce the incidence of women and children trafficked and improve the protection, recovery and reintegration of women and children who have been trafficked.

The Australian Federal Police and AusAID are actively cooperating with the ministries of the Interior, Justice and Women's Affairs to combat human trafficking.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.aisaid.gov.au/country/peopletraffick.cfm>

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