



## AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

### MEDIA RELEASE

#### **Launch of Australia Awards for 2011**

Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, H.E Ms Penny Richards, will be hosting the launch of the 2011 *Australia Awards* scholarships at the InterContinental Hotel on 16 March. The launch will be attended by senior government officials, representatives of the private sector and civil society and prominent Australian alumni. H.E Dr Mam Bunheng, Minister of Health, will deliver the key note address.

The Australian government has recently increased the number of scholarship awards for international students to study in Australia. The Australia Awards comprise Australian Leadership Awards (ALA), where students have the option to study either a masters or doctorate degree; Australian Development Scholarships (ADS) that support study for masters degrees; and the Endeavour Awards that support short or long term study, research or professional development in Australia in a broad range of disciplines. More than 50 scholarships are on offer for 2011. This makes Australia one of the largest donors that fully fund postgraduate scholarships for Cambodians to study overseas.

Australia is committed to promoting higher education and building human capacity within the Asia Pacific region. A total of 440 students from Cambodia have been awarded either ADS or ALA scholarships since 1994.

These scholarship opportunities are non-discriminatory and open equally to males and females, city and rural candidates and people with a disability. Scholarships are awarded for post graduate study in areas of health, agriculture and rural development, infrastructure, law and justice, as well as in aid effectiveness, social services, gender equality and governance. Many returning Alumni have gone on to take up positions of influence across all sectors and have made substantial contributions to the development of Cambodia.

Applications for Australian Development Scholarships (ADS) and Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) are now open and will close on 31 May 2011.

The Endeavour awards applications will open 1 April 2011.

***Function details:***

*Date: Wednesday 16 March 2011, from 1800-2100 hours*

*Venue: InterContinental Hotel, Phnom Penh*

For further information please visit <http://www.australiaawards.gov.au>

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