



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PHNOM PENH**

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Launch of Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development in Cambodia

Today Australian Ambassador Angela Corcoran launched a new program to promote quality research and evidence-based policy making in Cambodia.

Ponlok Chomnes: Data and Dialogue for Development is a three-year, AU\$2.9 million (2019-2022), initiative that aims to strengthen the capacity of Cambodian think tanks and other research institutions to undertake quality research. The initiative also aims to encourage the use of research to inform public policy analysis and dialogue in Cambodia.

The initiative, which is being implemented by The Asia Foundation, will encourage evidence-based policy dialogue between policy makers, think tanks, universities, consulting firms and non-governmental organizations.

“Cambodia aspires to be a high-income country by 2050. To reach this goal, it will be critical for policymakers to use solid evidence to inform their decisions in the coming decades. The Ponlok Chomnes program will help civil society and government prepare for the increasingly complex challenges Cambodia will face as national wealth increases,” Ambassador Corcoran said.

“Ponlok Chomnes will complement the longstanding policy development links between Australian and Cambodian institutions in areas such as agriculture, health, trade and economic reform.”

Ponlok Chomnes will also help build connections between Cambodian organisations and research institutions in other ASEAN countries and Australia.

Two funding opportunities for knowledge sector institutions were announced at the launch today. Interested organisations can visit www.policypulse.org for more details.

Media Enquiries: Australian.Embassy.Cambodia@dfat.gov.au