

## AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **AUSTRALIA GIFTS EWATER SOURCE MODELLING PLATFORM**

Yesterday, Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, His Excellency Pablo Kang and Minister of Water Resources and Meteorology His Excellency Lim Kean Hor presided over a ceremony to formally gift to Cambodia access to Australia's national water modelling platform, eWater Source. This forms part of Australia's ongoing support for sustainable water management throughout the Mekong region.

eWater Source, Australia's national hydrological modelling platform will assist the Cambodian Government to better understand the availability of water resources throughout the country. It will provide a stronger evidence base on which to make decisions about the development of water infrastructure and the allocation of water for a range of users – cities and towns, farming and freshwater fisheries, hydropower and industry.

With a highly variable climate, Australia has developed unique tools and technologies, such as eWater Source, to assist in understanding water resources over time and to enable transparent decision-making over how water is allocated between competing users.

"We are pleased to share an important Australian innovation – the eWater Source platform – with our neighbours and friends in Cambodia, because doing so will help ensure water governance is based on solid evidence and can contribute to Cambodia's post-COVID recovery" said Ambassador Kang.

"The sustainable manage of Cambodia's precious water resources is crucial to support the socio-economic development of our cities and of our growing agriculture and energy sectors, while preserving our unique environment" stated His Excellency Lim Kean Hor.

"We welcome the offer by the Government of Australia to provide both technical tools and capacity building support so that Cambodians can learn from the Australian experience and improve our management of water resources for the entire country."

Australia has been supporting Cambodian and other Southeast Asian countries to strengthen the management of shared water resources since the 1990s. Australia's regional Greater Mekong Water Resources Program supports the Mekong River Commission and Mekong countries to make evidence-based decisions about the use of water resources throughout the region.

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