



## AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

### MEDIA RELEASE

7 October 2020

#### **ASSISTING CAMBODIA'S FIGHT AGAINST FALSIFIED MEDICINES**

The Australian Government is pleased to provide AUD 1 million dollars in funding to strengthen the national drug quality laboratories of Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic. The grant, to be provided through the specialist non-government organisation *United States Pharmacopeia*, will be provided over two years (2020-2022).

Australia's support will assist Cambodia's National Health Product Quality Control Laboratory to improve its quality management systems, national laboratory strategy and business plan, and to increase testing and reporting of substandard and falsified (SF) medical products.

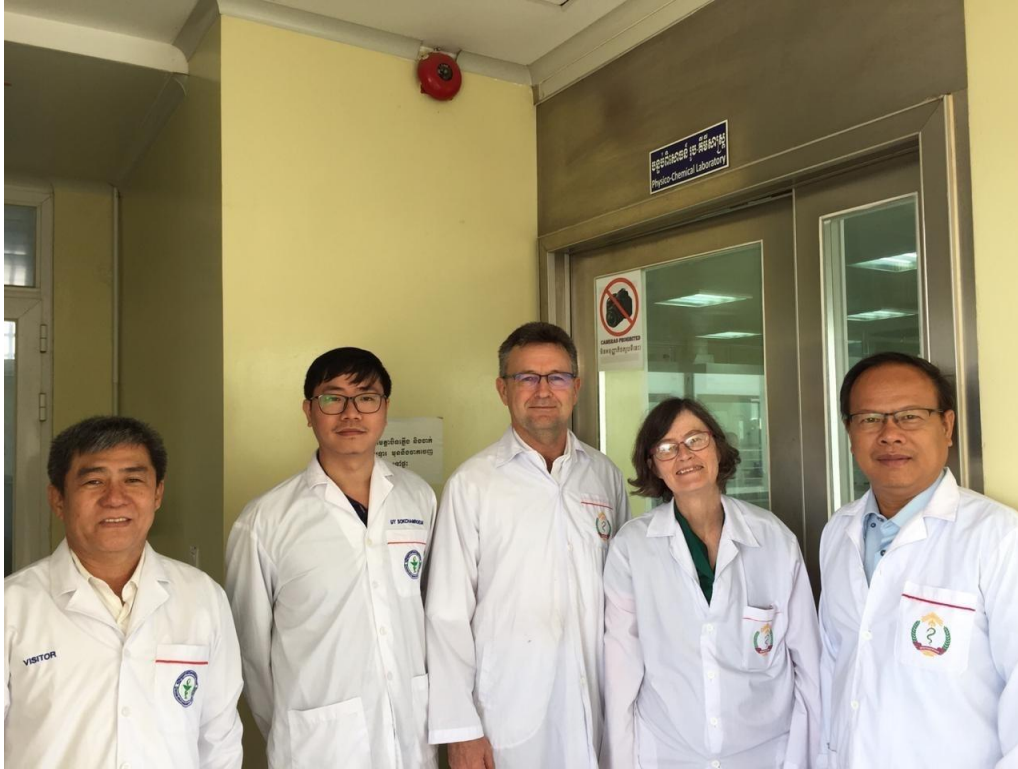
"National quality control laboratories are critical to safeguard against substandard and falsified medical products. As such, Australia is proud to support Cambodia's National Health Product Quality Control Laboratory to attain WHO prequalification accreditation," said His Excellency Pablo Kang, Australia's Ambassador to Cambodia.

Australia is a strong supporter of the WHO's Global Surveillance and Monitoring System (GSMS) work to improve the quantity, quality and analysis of accurate data on SF medical products, and to use that data for better prevention, detection and response to protect public health. The GSMS is helping create a clearer picture of the type and extent of SF medical products, with some cases numbering in the millions.

WHO's 2017 GSMS report quoted studies indicating the observed failure rates of SF medical products in low and middle income countries is approximately 10 per cent: that is, potentially one in every 10 consumers being exposed to falsified antibiotics, antimalarial, cancer and other medicines. More effective regulation is critical to ensuring access to safe, effective and quality medicines and vaccines.

Australia's latest support for Cambodia is in addition to the AUD 50 million we currently provide to the Health Equity and Quality Improvement Project (H-EQIP).

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**Photo: from left to right**

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2. Uy Sok Chamroeun, Deputy Head of Technical Bureau Responsible for Physico-Chemical Laboratory
3. Robin Davies, Head Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security
4. Prudence Borthwick (then) Assistant Director Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security
5. Tey Sovannarith, Deputy Director, Quality Assurance Manager