



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

MEDIA RELEASE

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FAREWELLS 40 CAMBODIAN AUSTRALIA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Today the Australian Ambassador, H.E. Ms Alison Burrows, and H.E. Suos Kong, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Rural Development, farewelled 40 high-achieving Cambodians who have been awarded Australia Awards Scholarships to study in Australia in 2014.

Australia Awards Scholarships are prestigious international awards offered by the Australian Government to the next generation of global leaders for development.

The 40 Awardees farewelled today will undertake postgraduate study at universities across Australia in the key areas of health, agriculture, rural development, infrastructure and law, as well as a variety of cross-cutting areas including aid effectiveness, social services, disability studies, financial management and gender equality.

Speaking at the farewell ceremony, Ambassador Burrows said that “the Australia Awards Scholarships are a very important part of Australia’s development cooperation, not only in Cambodia but also across the Asia-Pacific region and around the world. Scholarships are an investment in human resource development and help to build long-term and enduring personal, professional and academic links across the region and the globe”.

The Australia Awards provide opportunities for Cambodians to gain the necessary knowledge, skills and expertise to contribute to the long term development of Cambodia. Awardees are selected for their leadership potential and, most importantly, their potential to impact on development challenges in Cambodia.

Returned awardees are making a valuable contribution to Cambodia’s social and economic development, with many playing leading roles in projects, teams, organisations, community groups, academic institutions, government and bureaucracies.

Australia is committed to providing education opportunities to improve living standards and stimulate economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region. Since 1994, over 500 Cambodian students have been awarded long term development scholarships funded by the Australian Government. In order to further encourage a genuine two-way flow of students with the region, the Australian Government has recently announced a signature initiative, called the New Colombo Plan, which will support Australian undergraduate students to study or conduct internships in to Asia. The pilot phase of the New Colombo Plan will take place in 2014 in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan and Singapore. The New Colombo Plan will be then be fully implemented from 2015.

For more information about the Australia Awards, please visit: www.australiaawards.gov.au

Media Enquiries: Dave Gordge, Deputy Head of Mission, 023 213 470

Australian Embassy Phnom Penh

11 December 2013