



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH

29 June 2017

YOUTH, SKILLS & THE WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE CHALLENGE

The Australian Government is partnering with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Solve initiative and the Atlassian Foundation to deliver a Youth, Skills & the Workforce of the Future challenge.

While rapid advances in technological innovation has generated jobs and increased labour productivity, it has also created job displacement and widened the skills gap. Today's generation of young people now face a world in which nearly half of today's jobs globally are at risk of becoming obsolete due to automation and technological advancement in the coming decades.

This new initiative will harness innovative ideas to answer how disadvantaged youth can learn the skills they need to prepare them for the workforce of the future.

To generate ideas from Cambodia's best and brightest, the Australian Embassy is working with SolveMIT and the Impact Hub to host a Solve-a-thon design workshop.

The Solve-a-thon will take place at Impact Hub Phnom Penh from 9.00am – 1.00pm on 2 July.

"This is a great opportunity for people in Cambodia to be part of a global initiative to tackle a global challenge," Australian Ambassador Angela Corcoran said.

"Solve-a-thon participants will have the opportunity to meet and collaborate with other innovators, entrepreneurs, and change-makers as we crowd solve new solutions," the Ambassador said.

The Australian Government is contributing up to AU\$1.4 million in grant funding to the best ideas from around the world that will have impact in developing countries in the Indo-Pacific region. The Atlassian Foundation is offering up to US\$1 million to winning ideas for disadvantaged youth worldwide.

Media interested in covering Ambassador Corcoran's opening remarks at the Solve-a-thon from 9.00am-9.30am on 2 July should register no later than 5pm Friday 30 June at Australian.Embassy.Cambodia@dfat.gov.au.