



AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PHNOM PENH

EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE

Cambodia's capacity to investigate child sex cases in Cambodia will be boosted by a new project to be undertaken by the Australian Government in Cambodia.

The project will take place under Australian Federal Police's Law Enforcement Cooperation Program and will provide the Police Anti-Human Trafficking & Juvenile Protection Department with the logistical capability to investigate child sex cases in Cambodia.

The Project commenced today and will see the Anti-Human Trafficking Department provided with:

- assistance with IT capability along with associated training
- technical equipment for use in surveillance operations and suspect interviews
- motor vehicles and motorcycles for use in investigational activity
- furniture fit out for the Department's headquarters; and
- some operating expenses for its headquarters.

The Australian Federal Police will provide funding of about US\$85,000 for this project. This is in addition to US\$ 320,000 in equipment and other costs associated with the operation of the AFP sponsored Cambodian National Police Transnational Team. That Team has undertaken a number of successful international Child Sex Tourism investigations over the past 2 years.

"The sexual abuse of children is unacceptable. It robs the victims of their childhood and innocence and impacts on their future lives. This ultimately has an impact on the health and development of a society", said the Australian Ambassador, H.E. Lisa Filipetto.

The new project was announced during the people trafficking conference taking place in Phnom Penh from 16-17 November. The Australian Government is one of the sponsors of this conference.

For media inquiries, please contact Guy Ruediger, Australian Embassy, Telephone 213-470.

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