



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
PHNOM PENH**

PRESS RELEASE

**AUSTRALIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO CONTROL THE
OUTBREAK OF AVIAN INFLUENZA IN CAMBODIA**

Australia will contribute USD 50,000 to assist in fighting the spread of Avian Influenza in Cambodia. The funds will be earmarked for the mobilisation of field teams from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries for disease outbreak prevention, investigation and control.

Australia's contribution will be pooled with those of other donors through an existing FAO Trust Fund to be administered by the FAO Office in Cambodia.

Australia is also considering technical assistance to the Department of Animal Health and Production to further strengthen its capacity to deal with such a crisis in future. Australia has expertise in the agricultural systems of Southeast Asia as a result of many years of research and is recognised as having an advanced bio-security framework in place.

On 29 January Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Alexander Downer, committed up to AUD 1 million to help meet the immediate needs of the Asian region in dealing with the outbreak of Avian Influenza virus. The new funds for Cambodia are additional.

Australia's aid to Cambodia is expected to be approximately AUD 44.4 million this financial year. Focal sectors include agriculture, law and justice, governance, food security and mine action.

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