



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Partnerships for
INFRASTRUCTURE
AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

AUSTRALIA-CAMBODIA: COLLABORATING ON QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Partnerships for Infrastructure (P4I) is an Australian Government initiative partnering with Southeast Asia to foster inclusive growth through sustainable infrastructure.

Australia partners with Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to attract quality investment, address infrastructure gaps, and drive inclusion and climate-resilient development.

Through P4I, Australia provides infrastructure advisory services, facilitating technical knowledge exchanges, building partners' technical capacity and supporting government-to-government and other partnerships between Australian and Southeast Asian organisations.

Since 2021, P4I has worked with Cambodia's Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT), the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPTC) and the Telecommunication Regulator of Cambodia (TRC) to improve infrastructure investment decision-making, transport standards and capability building, and telecommunications regulation.

Core to the principles of modern, resilient infrastructure, P4I supports policy and regulatory reform that embeds climate and disaster resilience and enhances inclusion and accessibility.

Delivering results

P4I worked with the **Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT)** and **Austroads** to update **Cambodia's road design and construction standards**, integrating disaster- and climate-resilience principles. These standards are now officially adopted for use.

P4I is supporting the **Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MPTC)** and **Telecommunications Regulator (TRC)** to overhaul key policies and regulations governing radio frequency spectrum. This ensures critical communications are stable and protected for domestic and international aviation and maritime users. This work also includes a roadmap to enable mobile operators to transition to 5G services across multiple frequency bands – contributing over 60 per cent of the expected 5G-driven GDP growth in Cambodia by 2030.

P4I provided rapid review on Cambodia's **Draft Law on Cybersecurity** and further technical assistance on a critical infrastructure protection law to protect Cambodia's critical information infrastructure assets.

P4I and the **Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance** are working with the newly established **Cambodian Cost Efficiency Department (CED)** to build their capability to screen and prioritise all major infrastructure projects in their role as secretariat to **Cambodia's Public Investment Committee**. P4I is piloting new approaches for investment proposals to the CED.

P4I and the Cambodia's **Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF)** partnered on **public-private partnerships (PPP)** capacity building workshops for 70 senior officials. The workshops built on **MEF's** PPP policy design and project planning capacity to better leverage private sector expertise on complex infrastructure projects to drive our nation's development.

Continuing commitment to Cambodia's infrastructure priorities

Since 2021, Australia has supported:

12

Australian organisations and 5 Cambodian counterpart organisations supported to engage in technical and policy exchanges to advance priority infrastructure issues.

330+

infrastructure professionals per year from Cambodia have built deeper technical and policy understanding in collaboration with Australian government and infrastructure professionals.

In line with Australia's International Development Policy, specifically the Cambodia Australia Development Partnership Plan, and *Invested: Australia's Southeast Asia Economic Strategy to 2040*, P4I is focused on:

- ✓ Supporting **improved infrastructure investment decision-making** through improved project appraisal and procurement.
- ✓ Facilitating **quality outcomes on Cambodia's transport infrastructure investment** through improved infrastructure technical standards, regulation, and leadership capability.
- ✓ Embedding **global best practice in telecommunications sector regulation**.

Partnership highlight: Strengthening women's influence in infrastructure

In Cambodia, women are significantly under-represented in leadership roles within legislative and executive bodies, holding only 10.7 per cent of ministerial positions, with no women in senior ministerial roles. This under-representation limits diverse perspectives in infrastructure governance.

Together with Cambodia's Ministry of Public Works and Transport's (MPWT) Techo Sen Institute, P4I piloted a mentorship program connecting Cambodian infrastructure professionals with women leaders from across Australia's transport infrastructure sector. Australian mentors were drawn from a range of P4I's government-to-government partners, including the Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance, the Victoria State Tolling Company and Austroads.

One of the mentees will join the forthcoming secondment program, which is a collaboration between P4I, MPWT and Queensland's Department for Transport and Main Roads (TMR). Four MPWT road and bridge engineers will spend six months in Cairns or Brisbane, working with TMR to expand their knowledge base, enhance their capabilities, and develop their skills by working closely on road or bridge projects in Queensland.

