

## Supporting people with disability in Cambodia



CEO, Mike Smith, presents scholarships in Cambodia

Fifty disabled Cambodians will receive vocational skills training after being awarded a training scholarship with the Khmer Association for Vocational Training and Vocation (KAVTV) in Cambodia.

As many as seventy percent of the 600 million people with disabilities worldwide live in developing countries. In Cambodia, based on the 2008 National Census, people with disabilities make up 1.4 percent of the total population, yet only 0.5 percent of them receive vocational training.

For the past two years we have partnered with KAVTV to provide funding for vocational training scholarships for people with a disability in Cambodia. This year, 50 scholarships were awarded to recipients by our CEO, Mike Smith, at a presentation ceremony in Phnom Penh on the 18th of January.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony, KAVTV Executive Director, Mr Phang HEM, said, "Being disabled myself, I know how the lives of persons with disabilities and their families are. I know what we want to be, how desperately we want to help ourselves and how we want to be assisted to reach this dream."

"That is why, KAVTV came into existence. It was established with the goal of enabling people with disability to live independent lives, enriched by meaningful engagement and believable hope," he said.

Students participating in the electronics training program at KAVTV learn how to repair household appliances including radios, amplifiers, cookers, irons, televisions. Handicraft students learn to work with a range of materials to produce quality handicrafts.

All students also learn essential small business management skills attending a number of seminars conducted by volunteer experts on customer service, sales, time management and financial literacy.

"The training provided leads to greater employment opportunities, with students going on to work in or run their own repair shops or use their new skills to produce quality handicrafts for sale," Mr Phang HEM said.

### Learn more:

- [Khmer Association for Vocational Training and Vocation \(KAVTV\)](#)

## Features

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- [New Zealand looks to boost savings](#)

## Working with clients and NGOs in the Mekong



New housing being built in the Mekong region

We have facilitated a visit by the Uniting Church in Victoria and Tasmania to a hydroelectric project in the Mekong region in Laos after representatives of the organisation approached ANZ concerned about social and environmental aspects of the project.

Supported by our customer, a senior official of the organisation undertook a three-day visit to the hydroelectric project in Laos.

Prior to the visit, we worked with our customer and the organisation to identify social and environmental issues of concern to the organisation.

ANZ has specific policy settings to guide our involvement in sensitive sectors such as energy, mining and defence. In addition, we also work closely with our customers and stakeholders to better understand issues of concern and facilitate dialogue.

With our support, our customer provided the stakeholder organisation with the opportunity to see first-hand how issues of concern are being managed and how our customer is working with local people and seeking to make a positive contribution to the economic and social development of impacted communities.

Importantly, our engagement has also opened an ongoing discussion between the customer and the stakeholder to help ensure issues are brought to our customer's attention in a timely way.

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## New Zealand looks to boost savings



The New Zealand (NZ) Government is in the process of considering the final report of the Savings Working Group established last year to look at strategies to boost savings and stimulate public discussion on savings issues.

As NZ's largest bank and the largest KiwiSaver provider, we have a key role to play in contributing to the public discussion about NZ's rate of savings and investment, particularly in the Government and household sectors.

In our submission to the Working Group, ANZ New Zealand said the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) had brought home the importance of better financial management to New Zealanders, including the need to reduce debt and save.

While adjustment post GFC has been slow and painful, our submission highlighted that there are signs people are moving from a spending to a savings mentality and that this shift creates an important opportunity to change poor and deep-seated attitudes to consumption and investment on the part of too many New Zealanders.

John Body, MD of our Wealth business in NZ said, "There is opportunity in the new economic climate for New Zealand to embed this new attitude to the value of saving and investment, and transform our prospects for long-term economic growth."

"While there is no magic bullet to quickly grow New Zealand's rate of saving and investment, there are a number of actions we proposed to the Savings Working Group that will support the steady growth of financial assets held in New Zealand," John said.

These actions include:

- Enhancing KiwiSaver to encourage increased enrolment and ensure members continue to contribute through their working life
- Improving investor confidence and New Zealand standards of financial and investment literacy
- Having a tax regime more supportive of savings and investments
- Developing a wider range of investment opportunities in local capital markets
- Agreeing a multi-party, national savings and retirement income strategy based on certainty, transparency, fairness, choice and security

**Learn more:**

- [The NZ Savings Working Group final report](#)
- [ANZ's submission to the Treasury in response to the](#)

[discussion paper: 'Saving in New Zealand – Issues and Options'](#)

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