



Australia Awards

Australia Awards Cambodia

Regional Alumni Workshop:
Education for All

Guidelines & Application Form

Phnom Penh, 2 - 3 November 2023



Background

Through its Human Capacity Pillar, the Mekong-Australia Partnership aims to contribute to a Mekong subregion where men and women leaders have the skills and capacity to make good decisions in the interests of their populations, where policymakers have access to high quality advice and expertise on which to make sound decisions, and where there are strong personal and institutional connections with Australia, as well as in the subregion.

Through previous Australia Awards investments, Australia has been building the capacity of countries in the Mekong subregion to address development challenges and provide opportunities for strengthening strategic partnerships. Over the past decade, this has included Australia expanding beyond traditional long-term scholarships to offer a sophisticated suite of education, and short-term training and professional development opportunities.

This Regional Alumni Workshop is an opportunity for Australia alumni (Australia Awards Scholarship, Australia Awards Short Course, privately-funded alumni) to present their work, share their experiences with peers formally and informally, and build and strengthen relevant professional networks across the region. This extends the alumni experience beyond the local level and brings an enhanced professional development aspect to alumni engagement.

Workshop Topic: Education for All

Australia has been investing in education in the Mekong subregion for decades. Australia's development policy, Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability (2014), identified education as a critical sector for investment. The Government's Strategy for Australia's aid investments in education (2014) outlined how the Government works with partner governments to deliver comprehensive and high-quality education services, of which disability- and gender-inclusive education are priorities.

Closely aligned with this, the Government's Development for All: Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia's Aid Program (2015) reaffirms Australia's commitment to supporting people with disabilities in developing countries to improve the quality of their lives and inclusive education is a key priority within this Strategy.

These Strategies align with the Global Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education, which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Investment in human capacity development through the Australia Awards program is an important complementary modality to Australia's other education investments. In recent years, some 1,037 professionals from the Mekong subregion have studied in the field of education through an Australia Awards Scholarship.

The workshop will be facilitated by [Professor Suzanne Carrington](#). Professor Carrington works in The Centre for Inclusive Education (C4IE) and is a member of the Faculty of Creative Industries, Education and Social Justice. She is also a member of the Editorial Board for the International Journal of Inclusive Education.

Her areas of expertise are in inclusive education, ethical and transformative leadership for inclusive schools, disability and teacher preparation for inclusive schools. She has engaged in research to inform policy and practice in Australian and international education contexts. She has published over 100 journal publications, books, book chapters and research reports.

She was the Program Director of The School Years for The Cooperative Research Centre for Living with Autism (Autism CRC). Her work appears in leading international journals including Autism, Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review, Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology, Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, BMC Public Health, Teachers and Teaching: Theory and Practice.

Objectives

The Regional Alumni Workshop 2023 is designed to:

- i) Foster linkages between Australia Awards alumni in the Mekong subregion region working in the education sector, with emphasis on those working in inclusive education
- ii) Provide a professional development opportunity to these alumni, particularly by i) teaching them how to apply transformative leadership principles for change and engage others in powerful collective action to advance equity and inclusion and ii) building their knowledge and understanding of inclusive education policies and practices in the region.
- iii) Provide alumni with an opportunity to collaborate on and publish an academic journal article based on their experiences in their particular area of expertise in the field of inclusive education.

Participants Selection Process:

The two-day workshop in Phnom Penh will be open to approximately 25 Australia Awards alumni from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. There will be a nominal quota of five participants per country.

Participants will be selected through a competitive process through which they will need to demonstrate their professional and academic experience in the education sector, outline what they can contribute to the workshop, and explain how they would use new skills, knowledge and professional networks developed in the workshop to contribute to the education sector in their home countries.

The selection process will be managed by individual Australia Awards country teams in the region except for applicants from Thailand who will be assessed by Australia Awards Cambodia.

Eligibility Criteria:

Australian Alumni from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam with a) Australian qualifications in the field of education or related fields, or b) individuals who are working in the education sector in general, or inclusive education sector in particular, are eligible to apply.

Selection Criteria:

- Relevant experience in inclusive education
- Relevant qualifications in education-related program
- Relevant work in education in general and inclusive education in particular
- Potential impact to disseminate learning to colleagues and peers
- English language skills equal to an IELTS total score of at least 5.0

Expenses:

Australia Awards Cambodia will cover all expenses related to travel such as airfares, accommodation, airport transfers, visa fees, travel insurance, per diem and other workshop-related expenses of the selected participants for travel to Phnom Penh.

Reasonable support will also be provided to the carers of any people with disabilities who are selected to attend. This will include, at a minimum, airfares, accommodation, airport transfers, visa fees, travel insurance, per diem and other workshop-related expenses.

Workshop Structure:

The first day of the workshop will be a conference during which each of the country teams will deliver a presentation based on their professional experiences in one or more of the following topics:

- The role of government in facilitating inclusive education
- The private sector and inclusive education
- Disability-inclusive education practices
- Gender-inclusive education practices
- Socially-inclusive education practices
- Geographically-inclusive education practices
- Inclusive education in schools (culture, policy, practice)
- Community & Engagement

Professor Carrington will work closely with the teams to produce and quality assure the preparations and presentations beforehand. The presentations will be followed by a Question & Answer Panel Session where Professor Carrington will facilitate discussion to provide feedback and to gather ideas about common challenges for implementing inclusive education in the region. Guest speakers may be invited to participate as well.

The second day of the workshop will comprise two parts:

- 1) The cohort will be split into groups and each group will go on a field visit to a local organisation or project implementing inclusive education, and
- 2) The groups will return to the workshop venue and participate in a roundtable reflection on the lessons learned during the workshop and the field visit

How to Apply:

Interested alumni that meet the eligibility criteria are encouraged to submit their application online along with an up-to-date CV by 9am Monday 28 August 2023 through this link:

<https://bit.ly/EDU4ALL>



