

## Media Release

19 February 2015

### **ANZ Royal to provide support for community arts and development opportunity**

ANZ Royal today announced a USD20,000 sponsorship package to support Phare Performing Social Enterprise (Phare) to develop the arts within the Cambodian community, as well as to provide opportunities for underprivileged youth to participate in a range of cultural activities.

ANZ Royal and Phare will work together to deliver the programs, with ANZ Royal funding a number of community events and progressive workshops throughout 2015.

Grant Knuckey, ANZ Royal CEO said: "We have a strong commitment to the communities in which we live and work. Our core corporate responsibility is to help create sustainability through education."

"Through this initiative, we will develop knowledge and create opportunities for less privileged youths. Phare is a great partner because it supports education and provides inspiration, especially for Cambodian youth. It is the alignment of values between ANZ Royal and Phare that makes this partnership compelling," Mr Knuckey said.

Dara HUOT, Phare Performing Social Enterprise CEO said: "The message in arts is universal, easily understood and effectively transmitted. The audience smile, cry and laugh and remember the key take away messages from the artists. That is a very important tool for social behavioural change and education. The partnership with ANZ Royal allows Phare artists to inspire and bring forward, positive change and creativities in Cambodian youth. ANZ Royal's strategic partnership with Phare reflects the company's commitment in corporate social responsibilities in Cambodia."

Through this partnership ANZ Royal and Phare will work collaboratively to:

- Run a circus workshop for kids
- Give away free tickets to see Phare The Cambodia Circus and have dinner for two to inspirational community members nominated through a special campaign
- ANZ Royal will sponsor the annual Tini Tinou International Circus Festival in May. The festival brings together circus artists from across Cambodia and overseas for a 10-day celebration of art and knowledge-sharing in Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Battambang. With the support of ANZ and other sponsors, the festival will host troupes from other countries – growing the reach and impact within Cambodia.
- Hold financial literacy workshops for Phare artists and staff, as well as other groups within the community in order to help broaden their future careers and lives.
- Present free shows within the community

## **About ANZ Royal Corporate Sustainability Framework**

ANZ Royal is committed to Cambodian communities through the provision of financial, in-kind, as well as employee volunteering support. Through sustainable partnerships with local non-government organisations and charities, ANZ Royal is focused on enhancing education and employment opportunities for marginalised and disadvantaged individuals. It is also committed to supporting emergency and disaster relief through fundraising, and regular blood donation drives held on ANZ Royal premises.

In 2014, ANZ Royal provided around USD100,000 in financial support to local charities. In addition, staff contributed in excess of 3,000 hours of volunteer community service, in partnership with more than 20 different organisations to support education, health and environmental initiatives.

## **About Phare Performing Social Enterprise (Phare)**

Phare is a pioneering social enterprise in Cambodia that creates, produces and presents live shows and other cultural products in Cambodia and abroad. Phare artists come from disadvantaged backgrounds and have benefited from the training provided by the Phare PonleuSelpak Association which has been active in Cambodia for 20 years.

Phare sees artistic creativity as a strategic asset for the development of a flourishing society and a vibrant economy. It creates high-quality jobs, secures tourism benefits for the benefit of the local population, strengthens the Cambodian cultural identity and improves access to education for dispossessed young people.

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