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PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTE OF CAMBODIA

STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY CAPACITY



PIC PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW

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ABOUT

the PIC Parliamentary Review

The PIC Parliamentary Review provides an overall picture of the wide range of activities in which Cambodian Parliamentarians are involved and in which they have had support from the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia (PIC). PIC was established in 2011 at the request of Members of Parliament from all political parties to contribute to the strengthening of the Cambodian Parliament. Since then, it has contributed to the capacity development of Members of the Cambodian Parliament and parliamentary staff, and shared its experience with the Parliaments of other countries in the region.

The Review will be published twice a year and will focus on events that have taken place in the Cambodian Parliament during the previous six months.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1

Forum on the Empowerment of Women in Politics, *Page 1*

2

Officials from the Secretariat General of the Senate visit the Indonesian Parliament to learn about their approach to Public Consultations, *Page 3*

3

Cambodian Parliamentarians visit Japan to learn about Human Rights and Education, *Page 5*

4

Legislation dealt with by the Cambodian Parliament, *Page 7*

5

Research papers produced as part of PIC's capacity development program for parliamentary researchers, *Page 7*

6

Parliamentary activities supported by the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia (PIC), *Page 8*



Forum on the Empowerment of Women in Politics



(Photo by: Senate)

A Forum focusing on Women in Political Development took place on 5 October 2016 at the Conference Hall of the Senate of Cambodia, presided over by Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdey Say Chhum, President of the Senate. The event was co-organized by the Women Senator Group, with support from the General Secretariat of the Senate, the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia, the Associations of Sub-National Administration Councils, and the EU-UNDP/ACCESS project. The 350 participants included members of the National Assembly and the Senate, female representatives from commune councils and different ministries, and line agencies from national and sub-national levels.

The aim of the forum was to gain a better understanding of the current status of women's participation in politics and social development, and to share knowledge about women and leadership in government administration at national and local level. A further objective was to formulate an effective means to encourage women to contribute more to the country's political, economic and social activities.

In her welcoming speech, Lork Chumteav Ty Borasy, Chair of the Women Senator Group, expressed appreciation for the outstanding achievements recorded by the government during the past 20 years, especially in respect of women's participation in politics and social development. In addition, Lork Chumteav Ty Borasy, who is also the Chair of Commission 5 of the Senate, reported how women's participation at various levels of leadership had increased. She said: "The percentage of women

among Cambodia's Parliamentarians has increased from 6 in 1993 to 20 in 2013. As a percentage of government ministers, women comprised 11 percent in 2013, compared with 7 percent in 2008. Female Secretaries of State now account for 21 percent, from 8 percent, while the figure for Undersecretaries of State has increased from 15 percent to 18 percent. The percentage of women elected to district councils has increased from 10 percent in 2009 to 13 percent in 2014, and to commune councils, from 15 percent in 2007 to 18 percent in 2012".

In his opening speech, Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdey Say Chhum, President of the Senate, praised the enthusiasm and dynamic performance women were showing in leadership and politics. He added: "We need to achieve more in respect of the level of women's participation in politics and decision-making at various levels, and change the discriminatory behavior against them."

Samdech Say Chhum pointed out that there is a lack of financial support for women as well as low encouragement from families and political parties. He stressed that the Senate, as the senior legislative body, would support the implementation of policies on decentralization and de-concentration, as well as gender mainstreaming to encourage the participation of women at all levels and in all sectors to help the government to achieve economic growth, poverty reduction and to enforce the rule of law.

After the opening speeches, a series of presentations were made by representatives from the National Assembly and the Senate, the UN Women agency, the Ministry of Public Functions, the Ministry of

Women's Affairs (MoWA), and the National League of Local Councils. Presentation topics included:

- Sustainable development goals in respect of the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;
- Women in local government, the development of women's participation in public functions, the policy on gender equality, and strengthening the capacity and participation of women in politics;
- How to promote the participation of women in the politics of developing and peace-building countries;
- Priority policies in respect of women in education, and political parties' policy to increase the participation of women in politics; and
- Challenges in respect of women's participation in local government decision-making and politics.

At the Forum, Cambodia's Minister of Public Functions, H.E. Pich Bunthin, commented that the Ministry had already set forth a strategic plan to increase the number of female public civil servants from 21 percent in 2016 to 25 percent in 2018 at all national and sub-national levels. Guidelines to achieve these targets proposed a recruitment quota for women of from 20 to 50 percent for all posts. He added that, in respect of decision-making roles, that quota should be increased from 39 percent in 2016 to 40 percent in 2018.

To reach targets in enhancing the status of women, MoWA are employing three major mechanisms: the National Council for Women; the Ministry of Women's Affairs; and a Gender Technical Working Group in each Ministry. MoWA has responded

to recommendations and guidelines from the government in order to comply with indicators and agreements under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Lok Chumteav Mean Som An, Deputy Chair of the Women Senator Group, and head of Commission 8 of the Senate, closed the Forum by outlining some key recommendations for the promotion of women's participation in politics:

- Ensure that the rights of women and girls are protected, and actively promote women to all levels of decision-making;
- Invest more in gender equality;
- Strengthen accountability mechanisms for gender equality so that the effectiveness of policy performance and actions by ministries can be measured;
- Continue to promote the participation of women in economic activities as that is a priority for the economic empowerment of women and their families, overall. This would encourage them to participate in the public sector and in politics;
- Encourage political parties to increase the number of women contributing to their political agenda, and prioritize women, putting them at the top of the list of election candidates where appropriate.

The Forum concluded after an active discussion between attendees and speakers, facilitating an exchange of views and suggestions. Information about relevant strategies, policies and regulations was also shared.



(Photo by: Senate)

Officials from the Secretariat General of the Senate visit the Indonesian Parliament to learn about their approach to Public Consultations



(Photo by: Cambodian Delegation)

From 7 to 11 December 2016, officials from the General Secretariat of the Senate, led by the Deputy General Director of Legislation and Land Collectivities, conducted a study mission to Indonesia. The aim was to learn about the processes employed by the Indonesian Parliament in respect of public consultations to support the legislative function. The Cambodian delegation included 12 officials from the General Directorate of Legislation and Land Collectivities and staff from the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia.

During the study mission, the Cambodian parliamentary delegation met the Secretary General of the Houses of Representatives and other officials to discuss the services provided. They learned about the fieldwork conducted by Indonesian Members of Parliament (MPs), which is a vital means through which they meet constituents for input on legislation. MPs go to the field at least five times a year, and more trips are planned when issues arise that need their particular attention, and consequent public participation. The results of these field visits are communicated to relevant committees and government representatives.

The Cambodian delegation also learned about legislative processes in adopting a government bill before it becomes law: there are many steps involved and the input of relevant Commissions guides the final draft and influences the legal decisions made. However, the Houses have rights to influence decisions to reject the draft laws so not all bills proposed by government are adopted.

The delegation also exchanged technical expertise with their Indonesian hosts. There is, for example, an Expertise Agency that is part of the General Secretariat of the Indonesian Parliament, and comprises a Legislative Drafting Centre, a Budget Analysis Centre, a Budget Accountability Analysis Centre, a Law Monitoring Centre and a Research Centre.

The Agency is functionally responsible to the House Speaker and provides a support service and research input to guide legal drafting. The processes and procedures relating to the passage of legislation are designed to provide plenty of opportunity for public comments through technical support at various stages before it is revised,

reviewed and adapted in the parliamentary plenary sessions.

Importantly, the Research Centre of the Expertise Agency provides support through research analysis in respect of relevant issues, which is professional and accountable. The results of the research in respect of specific topics - or broader issues that have arisen in Indonesia during the year - are prepared in different formats and dissemination is either to specific target groups who submitted the research request - in the form of short policy briefing papers or recommendations, pointers in respect of specific issues, or deeper analysis reports or research papers including surveys - or to a general audiences in the form of books and journals.

The Cambodian delegation also had the opportunity to visit the multimedia facilities of the Indonesian General Secretariat to learn about how these are used to promote the flow of information to the public. At the same time, they heard about parliamentary communications in general, which include the production of various publications, a parliamentary TV channel and social media such as Facebook and Instagram. These approaches reach target groups especially academics, officials in local government agencies and other educated stakeholders. The website and social media enable real-time communications, bringing fresh news to the Indonesian people, and provide a public opinion interface.

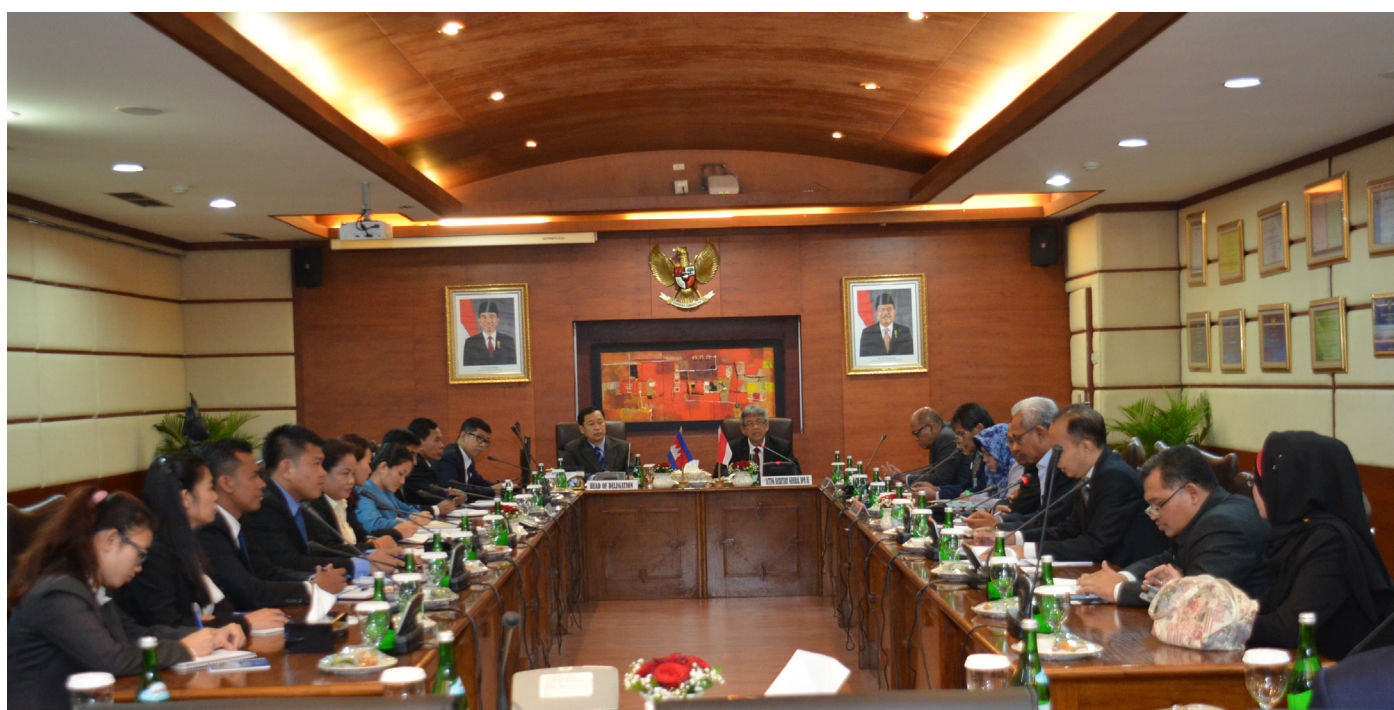
The parliamentary TV channel broadcasts events that take place inside and outside the Parliament in cooperation with commercial television companies to achieve nation-wide coverage. The parliamentary TV channel attracts large audiences as it offers live

news of debates and sessions showing MPs playing all their parliamentary roles. This encourages accountability of the Parliament to the country's citizens. MPs can hold press conferences and live-stream interviews from the Parliament. MPs are allowed freedom of speech in accordance with the rules of the Parliament relating to issues that are being, or have already been, discussed in plenary session.

The public can also acquire parliamentary publications in various formats - and in both English and Indonesian - that give details of parliamentary work, including legislation, budgeting, representation and oversight.

In order to maximize the knowledge and experiences they gained from the study mission, the Cambodian delegation now plan to:

- Make presentations about the lessons learned from the study mission to relevant colleagues. It is expected that the lessons learned will provide ideas that can be adopted in the Cambodian context;
- Propose the greater use of social media among constituencies and local governments as part of e-government. Beside fieldtrips, Cambodian MPs could benefit through better use of social media to receive daily updates and information about issues arising with constituencies and at local government level. Both MPs and constituencies should be able to post comments on the issues raised so that relevant - efficient and immediate - action can be encouraged.



(Photo by: Cambodian Delegation)

Cambodian Parliamentarians visit Japan to learn about Human Rights and Education



(Photo by: Senate Commission 1)

From 18 to 24 December 2016, a Cambodian parliamentary delegation, led by the Chairman of the Senate Commission on Human Rights: Reception of Complaints and Investigation, conducted a study mission to Japan to learn about the experiences of that country in respect of linking human rights and education, and to understand how those responsible for Japanese Labor Relation Commissions fulfill their duties in dispute resolution outside the Japanese court system.

The main objective of the mission was to study the legal and technical framework and the mechanisms that allow Japan's Labor Relations Commissions to settle disputes so that the Cambodian Parliamentarians could learn from these and apply the best practices in their own parliamentary context.

The Cambodian delegation was composed of 10 participants including five Senators and two Members of the National Assembly, Cambodian parliamentary staff and staff from the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia (PIC).

During the study mission, the Cambodian delegation paid a courtesy visit to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Councilors of Japan, and the Head of the Japan-Cambodia Parliamentary Friendship League.

The Cambodian parliamentary delegation also had the opportunity to meet representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare and other important stakeholders in the field of human rights and education. Through

several presentations, the delegation learned that disputes are mainly settled outside the court system through Labor Relations Commissions that deal with collective and individual labor disputes between labor unions and enterprises, and between individual workers and enterprises. Cambodian delegates also learned about the labor disputes adjustment system, and the relief system for unfair labor practices established to facilitate negotiations between employees and employers.

In this respect it was noted that, since the mid-1990s, the number of individual labor disputes has shown a notable increase, against a backdrop of a deteriorating employment situation and an increase in the number of non-regular workers, among others. In particular, the number of disputes has been at a high level since the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers.

In their meeting with the Head of Koyama Elementary School, the Cambodian delegation was interested to learn that, in Japan, from primary level onwards, children are given an integrated school curriculum that covers human rights and moral education.

In 1996, Japan developed its national plan for action in response to the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education. This aims to promote human rights awareness in school education, in adult education, in private enterprises and among the general public. In addition, the promotion of human rights awareness is extended to people engaged in certain occupations such as personnel in the public prosecutor's office, teachers, adult education personnel, police officers, public officials and media representatives.



(Photo by: Senate Commission 1)

In accordance with the Japanese Fundamental Law of Education, enacted in 1947, the Ministry of Education introduced the Course of Study which then became the national standard school curriculum in 1958, and was subsequently revised every ten years. The latest revision was announced in the school year 1998-1999 and was implemented in 2002.

The Ministry of Education in Japan has announced that the Central and Prefectural Labour Relations Commissions throughout Japan will work to strengthen human rights education within the moral and human rights education syllabuses and within general education as a whole.

In addition to the sustainable program in respect of human rights in the education system, Japan also has a Human Rights Education and Training Center whose work is to produce education and training materials for human rights activities. As well as producing brochures, leaflets and posters, the Center organizes seminars and symposiums on any topics related to human rights.

In order to optimize the knowledge and experiences from the study mission, the Cambodian delegation now plan to:

- Make presentations about the findings of the study mission to share information about Japan's approach to human rights and education and informal dispute resolution with other members of the Cambodian Parliament and parliamentary staff;
- Submit a report on the situation in Japan to the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport to explore the possibility of including human rights training in the school curriculum;
- Send the report to the Cambodian Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training to share information about the processes for labor dispute settlement in Japan so that their application in Cambodia can be considered.

During the period from June to December 2016, PIC provided support for study missions to India, Switzerland, Thailand, South Korea, Pakistan, Indonesia and Japan.



(Photo by: Senate Commission 1)

Legislation dealt with by the Cambodian Parliament

- Law on Management of Health Care Professionals on 7 October 2016
- Law on Approval of Protocol 7 of ASEAN Customs Transit System on 7 October 2016
- Protocol to Implement the Sixth Packages of Commitment on Financial Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services on 7 October 2016
- The Agreement Establishing ASEAN +3 Macroeconomic Research Office on 7 October 2016
- Law on Approval of:
 - Agreement to Establish and Implement ASEAN Single Window on 7 October 2106
 - Protocol to Establish and Implement ASEAN Single Window on 7 October 2106
 - Protocol on the Legal Framework to Establish and Implement ASEAN Single Window on 7 October 2106
- Law on Approval of Paris Agreement on Climate Change on 22 November 2016
- Law on 2017 Financial Management on 7 December 2016
- Law on 2105 State Budget Settlement on 1 November 2016
- Law on Amendment of Articles 9, 40, 41, 47, 48, 75, 77 and Article 90 of the Traffic Law promulgated on 9 January 2015 on 26 December 2016

Research papers produced as part of PIC's capacity development program for parliamentary researchers

- Good Governance and Sustainable Development: General Secretariat of the National Assembly, July 2016
- The Contribution of Economic Francophonie on Sustainable Economic Development: General Secretariat of the National Assembly, July 2016
- Rights, Freedoms and Democracy: A Framework to Secure Sustainable Economic Development: General Secretariat of the National Assembly, July 2016
- Education and Culture for Sustainable Development: General Secretariat of the National Assembly, July 2016
- Women's Economic Empowerment: a Crucial Step towards Sustainable Economic Development: General Secretariat of the National Assembly, July 2016
- Overview on Current Status of the Health Sector, Veterans, Domestic Violence and Migrant Workers in Cambodia: National Assembly Commission 8, August 2016
- Mechanisms and Experiences of Implementing the Functions of the Indonesian Parliament, in particular, its Representative Function in the D&D Context: General Secretariat of the Senate, August 2016
- Eco-tourism Management in Cambodia and Eco-tourism Communities in ASEAN Member States: Senate Commission 7, August 2016
- Issues Facing Cambodian Migrant Laborers: Senate Commission 8, August 2016
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: General Secretariat of the Senate, September 2016
- Strategic Planning for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda: General Secretariat of the Senate, September 2016
- Partnership in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): General Secretariat of the Senate, September 2016

- The Role of Parliaments in the Implementation of SDGs: General Secretariat of the Senate, September 2016
- Innovation and Green Economy as Important Measures for the Implementation of SDGs: General Secretariat of the Senate, September 2016
- Relations between Parliaments and the Media: General Secretariat of the Senate, September 2016
- Parliament and Review of the Constitutionality of Laws: General Secretariat of the Senate, September 2016
- Information and Communication Technology in Parliaments: Situation and Perspective: General Secretariat of the Senate, September 2016
- Progress of Women in Politics in Cambodia: General Secretariat of the Senate, October 2016
- Human Rights Education in Japan: H.E. Yorng Sem, November 2016
- Economic Development and Services Delivery of Sub-national Government in Battambang Province: Senate Commission 2, November 2016
- Public Health in Pailin and Siem Reap Provinces: Senate Commission 8, November 2016
- Environment and Development: H.E. Pum Sichan, November 2016
- Public Service Provision and Village and Commune Safety Policy: Senator Group Region 2, November 2016
- Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Cambodia: General Secretariat of the Senate, November 2016
- Alternative Dispute Resolution: Cambodia and Japan: Senate Commission 1, November 2016
- The Organization, Powers and Functioning of the Judiciary in the Implementation of the Penal and Civil Codes: Senate Commission 6, November 2016
- Overview on the Sophakmith Waterfall, Yeak Laom Lake in Rattanakiri and the Busra Waterfall in Mondulakiri: National Assembly Commission 7, December 2016
- The Tourism Potential of the World Heritage Center: the Preah Vihear Temple: Senate Commission 7, December 2016
- Developing and Implementing 5-years Development Plans and 3-Year Rolling Investment Plans in the sangkat Administrations in Phnom Penh: Senator Group Region 1, December 2016

Parliamentary activities supported by the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia (PIC)

- 32nd Annual International Pre-Conference of the Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section, and the 82nd IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Columbus, Ohio, USA: this mission was conducted from 10-19 August 2016, and was attended by senior officials from the General Secretariat of the Senate. Its objectives were to enable participants to share experiences and information about best practice among their peers relating to research and information services, and to learn from peers about the creation of an e-library.
- Field mission conducted by NAC 3 to Ratanakiri, Mondulakiri and Kratie provinces: this mission was conducted from 15-19 August 2016 on the topic “The importance of the protection of forests and natural resources for the development of Cambodia”. Its objective was to understand the challenges and difficulties of law enforcement and everyday living of local people in those provinces. Participants included leaders and members of the Commission, assistants to the Commission and staff from the National Assembly.
- Field mission conducted by NAC 8 to Kampong Speu, Koh Kong and Preah Sihanouk provinces: this mission was conducted from 15-19 August 2016 on the topics: 1- Healthcare service delivery to citizens; 2- Pensions for veterans, retirement funds, and the promotion of the rights of people with handicaps; 3- The situation relating to domestic violence and the dissemination of the law to prevent domestic violence, the protection of victims, and the promotion of gender equality; 4- Labor migration; and 5- The situation of orphans. The objectives of

the mission were: to oversee and to learn about the delivery of health services to citizens and the regulation of private healthcare providers; to learn about the provision of retirement funds and pensions for veterans, and the promotion of the rights of people with handicaps; to learn about the current situation in respect of domestic violence, and the dissemination of the law to prevent domestic violence and to protect victims, and the promotion of gender equality; to learn about labor migration in Koh Kong province and the situation of orphans in the Orphanage Center in Preah Sihanouk province, as well as to listen to citizens' requests and concerns. Participants included leaders and members of the Commission, assistants to the Commission and staff from the National Assembly.

- Annual Conference of the Association of Secretaries General of French-speaking Parliaments (ASGPF) in Rabat, Morocco: this mission was conducted from 21-23 August 2016 and was attended by senior officials from the General Secretariat of the Senate. Its aim was to share work experiences in relation to Cambodia's political and regional environment in communications and public relations.
- Workshop held by the General Secretariat of the Senate at the Senate, Phnom Penh: this workshop was held from 24-25 August 2016 on "Legislative Procedures: Comparative study of Cambodia and Thailand". Its aim was to: 1) study and describe the structures and the procedures of legislation in Cambodia and Thailand; and 2) develop a set of criteria to measure efficiency, effectiveness and good governance. Participants included the Secretary General of the Senate and representatives from relevant departments, a delegation from the KPI (Thailand), and translators.
- Study mission to India by a delegation from the General Secretariat of the Senate: this mission was conducted from 12-15 September 2016. Participants included the Secretary General of the Senate, the General Director of Administration and Finance, the General Director of Legal Services and Collective Territory, the Executive Director of PIC and relevant stakeholders. Its main objective was to sign an MoU on capacity building between the Senate of Cambodia and the Indian Parliament.
- Field mission conducted by NAC 7 to Kratie, Stung Treng, Ratanakiri and Mondulakiri provinces: the mission was conducted from 15-22 September 2016 to learn about the historical background of the Sopheak Mitt waterfall in Stung Treng, the Yeak Lorm lake and the ethnic community in Ratanakiri, Bousra waterfall in Mondulakiri and to follow-up on the situation in the provinces related to the competence of the Commission. Its objectives were to: 1) meet representatives from relevant government departments and members of the board of provincial governors; and 2) visit high schools, secondary schools, indigenous communities and some tourist locations. Participants included the chairperson, members of, and assistants to, the Commission and staff from the General Secretariat of the National Assembly.
- Forum held by the Women Senator Group in Phnom Penh Municipality: this forum was held on 5 October 2016 in the library hall of the Senate on the topic "Women's progress in politics". Its aim was to learn about the situation of women in politics and their participation in the development of society, to hear about the challenges women face, to find solutions to problems, and to encourage women to play a greater role in politics. Participants included leaders, members and assistants of the Women Senator Group, leaders of the General Secretariat of the Senate, commune/sangkat councilors, NGOs and relevant stakeholders.
- International meeting of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments and 135th IPU General Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland: this mission was conducted from 23-27 October 2016 and was attended by the Secretary General of the Senate and the Director of Protocol and International Relations. Its aim was learn about the role of the Parliament in international negotiations.
- Study mission to Bangkok, Thailand, on researching with the KPI and participation in the KPI Congress XVIII: this mission was conducted from 2-6 November 2016 on the topic "Comparative study of legislative procedures between Cambodia and Thailand". Representatives from the General Secretariat of the Senate attended. Its aim was to follow-up on current activities and to exchange experience and best practice in terms of legislative procedure between Cambodia and Thailand.

- The 7th International Conference at Seoul, South Korea, attended by representatives of the General Secretariat of the Senate: this mission was conducted from 8-10 November 2016, and Senior Officials from the General Secretariat of the Senate attended. Its objectives were to exchange information and to share experiences and best practices in respect of the challenges in providing parliamentary research, and in building networks in the field of parliamentary research.
- Field mission conducted by SNC 2 to Battambang Province: this mission was conducted from 9-11 November 2016 on the topic “Economic development and the provision of public services at the sub-national level”. Its aim was to learn about economic development and the provision of public services at the sub-national level. Participants included the chairperson of SNC 2, members of SNC 2 and SNC 8, assistants to both Commissions, members of the Secretariat staff of the Commissions and staff from the General Secretariat of the Senate.
- Forum held by SGR 2 in Prey Chhor district, Kampong Cham province: this forum was held on 11 November 2016 on the topic “Enhancing the provision of public services and commune safety at the local level”. Its aim was to enhance the enforcement of commune safety policy, provide opportunities for commune/sangkat councilors to raise their concerns, challenges, and requests in respect of public service delivery and local development, and to help relevant authorities to identify solutions to the issues that were highlighted during the forum. Participants included the chairperson and members of SGR 2, leaders and officials from the General Secretariat of the Senate, relevant authorities from Kampong Cham province, and representatives from the local authority in Prey Chhor district, commune/sangkat councilors and relevant stakeholders.
- Study mission to Pakistan by a delegation from the General Secretariat of the Senate: this mission was conducted from 15-17 November 2016. Participants included the Secretary General of the Senate, the General Director of Administration and Finance, the General Director of Legal Services and Collective Territory, and relevant stakeholders. Its main objective was to sign an MoU on capacity building between the Senate of Cambodia and the Parliament of Pakistan.
- Field mission conducted by SNC 6 to Oddor Meanchey and Banteay Meanchey provinces: this mission was conducted from 4-11 December 2016 on the topic “Alternative Dispute Resolutions (ADR) at sub-national level and dissemination and enforcement of civil procedure codes”. Its objectives were to gain an understanding about: 1) Alternative dispute resolutions (conflict resolution committees) at commune level; 2) How ADR settles disputes, the role of the Criminal Codes and the Criminal Procedure Codes, and the prevention of criminal offenses within their jurisdiction (police, military police and administrative skills at the district level); 3) How the law is enforced, and the procedures to handle disputes; 4) Performance of the justice police; 5) Enforcement of civil codes, civil procedure codes, criminal codes and criminal procedure codes by the provincial courts and prosecutors assigned to provincial courts. Participants included the chairperson and members of SNC 6, assistants to the Commission, staff from the Secretariats of the Commissions and staff from the General Secretariat of the Senate.
- Field mission conducted by SNC 8 to Pailin and Siem Reap provinces: this mission was conducted from 5-9 December 2016 on “Public Health Issues”. Its objectives were to: 1) strengthen cooperation between the Senate and the sub-national administration; 2) learn about the provision of public health services (maternal and child health, reproductive health, nutrition for women and children, and the implementation of programs to prevent transmitted diseases); 3) learn about the implementation of pension fund policy for veterans, people with handicaps, labor and vocational training, and the standard of living conditions for veterans; 4) monitor the practical law and policy implementation at the sub-national level; and 5) collect information about challenges and recommendations given by citizens and representatives from sub-national authorities in order to improve the situation. Participants included members and assistants of the Commission and members of staff from the General Secretariat of the Senate.
- Study mission to Indonesia by a delegation from the General Secretariat of the Senate: this mission was conducted from 7-11 December 2016. Participants included the Deputy General Director of Legal Services and Collective Territory, representatives from relevant departments and the secretariats to the Commissions, and staff from

PIC. The main objective of the study mission was to learn about the mechanisms and frameworks of public consultation activity for legislation services employed by the Indonesian Parliament.

- Field mission conducted by SNC 7 to Oddor Meanchey and Preah Vihear provinces: this mission was conducted from 12-15 December 2016 on the topic: “Law enforcement, development and challenges in Oddor Meanchey and Preah Vihear provinces”. Its aims were to: 1) listen to reports related to education, youth and sports, religion, culture, arts and tourism; 2) listen to reports about law enforcement related to the competence of the Commission; and 3) listen to reports about progress made, challenges, solutions and plans related to the competence of the Commission. Participants included Senators, assistants to the Commission and staff from the General Secretariat of the Senate.
- Study mission to Japan by a Cambodian parliamentary delegation: this mission was conducted from 18-24 December 2016 with the title: “Overview of human rights, rights to housing, labor, education, religion and Alternative Disputes Resolution (ADR)”. Participants included the chair, members and representatives from the Secretariat of Commission 1 of the Senate, MPs from the National Assembly, PIC staff and a translator. Its aim was to learn about the experiences of that country in respect of linking human rights and education, and to understand how those responsible for Japanese labor relations fulfill their duties in dispute resolution outside the Japanese court system.
- Forum held by SGR 1 in the Senate, Phnom Penh: this forum was held on 27 December 2016 on the topic: “Summing-up the results relating to the implementation of sangkats’ local development plans for local safety”. Its aims were to gain an overview of the planning and implementation of the three-year rolling plan and the five-year plan of sub-national administrations, to collect information relating to the performance of sangkat councilors and to assess the strengths and remaining issues in order to prepare the sangkats’ five-year development plan towards successful implementation of the 2017 election. Participants included the leader of the Senate, members of the Senator Group for the Regions (seven regions), the chairperson and members of SGR 1, representatives from sangkat councils in Phnom Penh Municipality, representatives from relevant departments of the General Secretariat of the Senate and relevant stakeholders.



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