



**វិទ្យាស្ថានសភាកម្ពុជា**

**PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTE OF CAMBODIA**

STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY CAPACITY



# PIC PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW

*ISSUE 2, JUNE 2016*

# 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.

### Main Supporting Partners

---



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1

**Regional Senator Groups broaden the scope of public consultations to tell constituents more about parliamentary activities, *Page 1***

2

**Members of the Cambodian Parliament visit France to learn about the Oversight and Representation Functions of their French counterparts, *Page 4***

3

**Swiss Parliamentary Services experts visit Cambodia to start a cooperation project to support parliamentary communications training, *Page 6***

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 8***

6

**Parliamentary activities supported by the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia (PIC), *Page 9***



# Regional Senator Groups broaden the scope of public consultations

to tell constituents more about parliamentary activities



(Photo by: Senator Group Region 4)

At the beginning of 2016, Regional Senator Groups in different parts of Cambodia changed the way they organize public consultations by including a specific focus on reporting parliamentary events and achievements. The associated session, entitled Parliamentary Activities Review (PAR), responds to challenges and concerns raised by constituents, and meets their requests for more news. This PAR initiative constitutes a new trend in engaging the people during outreach events, and was unanimously approved by all Regional Senator Groups during their meeting in December last year. It was the result of discussions about how two-way communications with constituents could best be promoted. In the past, in most cases, public consultations have provided opportunities for Senators to hear local concerns and issues and their suggested solutions. But little has been reported back as follow-up so that people know how Senators have responded and the action they have taken.

As an example of the PAR initiative in practice, on 17-18 February 2016, Senator Group to Region 4 (SGR 4) organized a public consultation on “Promoting Local Level Development” in Battambang province and presented the outcome of issues and challenges that were raised at the previous year’s event.

H.E. Tep Ngorn, Second Vice President of the Senate who inaugurated the official opening of the Battambang public consultation, emphasized that: the objective of this consultation is to provide

an opportunity for Senator Groups to Region 4 to underline the Senate’s determination to engage with the people to promote the development of commune /sangkat council capacity, the commune safety policy, the implementation of decentralization and de-concentration policies, and poverty alleviation. This public consultation is also an appropriate venue for the commune/sangkat councils to raise issues and challenges relating to their obligations in respect of public service delivery, as well as to provide suggested solutions to address these challenges.

In the Cambodian context, the commune/sangkat councils are the main constituents of Senators, and public consultation is one of the most effective mechanisms through which Senators can disseminate information about their activities. Public consultations gather all stakeholders—public, private, citizens and civil society - to discuss issues of national and local interest. In the case of the Battambang event, some 340 participants attended representing a wide range of interests.

As one of the concrete results relating to requests made to SGR 4 during the 2015 public consultation in Battambang, H.E. Dy Sovann, Deputy General Director of the Sub-national General Department of Finance of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, was able to outline the measures his Ministry had taken in response to four issues raised during the previous consultation: “Following the order of the

Minister on the requests presented by SGR 4, our General Department has taken actions and worked on associated measures,” he said. “As a result, the remuneration of commune councilors has been raised, and there has been an increase in DSAs (per diem or daily subsistent allowances) for all levels of public authorities. The complicated procedure for financial settlement at the commune level has also been under scrutiny, and a process to simplify this process, making it easier for commune councils, is being developed. The request for an increase in commune/sangkat funds is also being considered by the Ministry.”

The Battambang public consultation also served as a venue for constituents to raise other concerns, challenges, and suggested solutions, especially relating to livelihoods and security. These included:

- Limited funds for commune /sangkat development projects - which runs counter to the increasing need for local investment and infrastructure building - and the lack of coordination among different communes and district level officials in terms of development activities.
- Non-competitiveness of agricultural products and high production costs due to a lack of adequate water resources, inappropriate seed selection, lack of technological know-how, and the lower costs but higher quality of imported commodities from neighboring Thailand.
- Difficulties and high costs in the process of obtaining national identity cards, family registration books, birth certificates and other civil registration documents due to frequent migration and internal displacement.

- Complicated and unreasonably high costs of construction permits for residential and commercial areas, and the time-consuming process of land titling.
- Commune and village insecurity due to drug trafficking, gambling and theft, the lack of police and militia forces, corruption, impunity and irregularities in the court system.
- Encroachment of state land and anarchic illegal logging.

In response to limited commune/sangkat funds, H.E. Leng Vy, Under-Secretary of State for the Ministry of Interior, said that the Ministry had conducted a study taking into consideration the combined micro- and macro-economic developments for the year 2015 which had resulted in a possible increase of funding up to USD 76 million per annum, or an average of USD 46,000 per commune. This increase in the public funding of communes/sangkats was defined in a sub-decree, and it complied with a rate based on current GNP (gross national product) income.

The Deputy General Commissioner of the National Police, Mr. Samrang Kamsot, explained to participants at the public consultation that, in 2014, in Battambang province, 53 communes/sangkats had encountered drug issues. He said: “Nationwide, a total of 2,300 cases were investigated last year, and more than 5,000 offenders were arrested and sent to court. In order to tackle drug issues, a three-pronged strategy has been used: awareness-raising on the impact of drug usage; treatment and rehabilitation of those who are addicted; and reinforcement of legal compliance.”

On the theme of national productivity, H.E. Mao Thoura, Secretary of State of the Ministry of



(Photo by: Senator Group Region 4)

Commerce, explained that the main Cambodian market for rice and cassava is the EU. He said: “Cambodia has a competitive advantage in the EU market because we enjoy a zero-tariff quota. This contrasts with the situation in the Chinese market where rice from Vietnam and Thailand is more competitive.” On the same issue, Mr. Phou Puy, Chairman of the Battambang Chamber of Commerce, said: “Competitiveness depends upon production costs and quality. Therefore, there should be a mutual understanding and mutual assistance between farmers and rice millers with regard to seed selection, market requirements in respect of quality, and international market prices. Farmers and rice millers can work together and help each other in this area.”

H.E. Moa Thoura stressed that: “To find another way to raise competitive advantage in Cambodia, we should also sit down and talk about ways in which we can reduce informal fees.”

Summarizing the major issues and potential solutions, H.E. Chan Sophal, Provincial Governor of Battambang, said: “Shortcomings in different sectors do not only occur at the commune/sangkat level but also at the district and provincial levels, such as the issue of budget underspend in respect of development, lack of cooperation, and the complicated procedures in relation to financial management and accountability. The leadership of the province acknowledges that there are some loopholes in our governance at the local and provincial level. However, from now on, we should promote more cooperation, and increase dialogue and discussion in order to find more effective ways of public management and to increase accountability to citizens.”

In closing the public consultation in Battambang, H.E. Chhat Loeurm, Chairman of SGR 4, expressed satisfaction about the outcomes of the forum, which had gone smoothly with active participation from those who attended. It had achieved good results and enabled participants to raise comments, share and exchange knowledge, know-how and good experiences and to clarify specific issues raised in a professional manner, he said; among those issues were public services delivery at the commune level, local development work, agriculture and irrigation work, and village and commune safety.

During January to June 2016, six public consultations were organized by Regional Senator Groups 1, 4, 5, 6, 8 and Women Senator Group in the provinces of Battambang, Prey Veng, Kampot and Rattanakiri, as well as in Phnom Penh. An overall total of 1,350 people attended these events.

Prior to these public consultations, PIC was actively engaged in helping to finalize the Public Consultation Guidelines with inputs from key senior officials from the General Department of Legal Services and Collective Territory whose job it is to organize such events. At the request of the Secretary General of the Senate, PIC delivered a concept note on the benefits of including a short, standard Parliamentary Activity Review (PAR) session in each public consultation, thus seizing the opportunity to report to constituents on the many activities the Senate performs on their behalf, and underlining Parliamentarians’ commitment to their representation function. In addition, PIC organized training for Senate secretariat staff on how to plan and produce attractive multimedia materials for a Parliamentary Activity Review (PAR).



(Photo by: Senator Group Region 4)

# Members of the Cambodian Parliament visit France to learn about the Oversight and Representation Functions of their French counterparts



(Photo by: Cambodian Delegation)

From 4 to 8 April 2016, a Cambodian Parliamentary delegation, led by the Chairman of the Senate Commission on Public Works, Transport, Civil Aviation, Posts, Telecommunications, Mines, Industry, Energy, Trade, Land Management Urbanization and Construction, conducted a study mission to France to learn about the experiences of their French counterparts in fulfilling their parliamentary representation and oversight roles.

Specifically, the mission objective was to study the legal and technical framework and the mechanisms that allow members of the French Parliament to effectively perform these two main functions so that the Cambodian Parliamentarians could learn from, and apply, the best practices in their own parliamentary context.

The Cambodian delegation was composed of Senators and Representatives from the Cambodian People's Party and the Cambodian National Rescue Party accompanied by the Head of the Technical and Services Department of the National Assembly and staff from the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia.

Following several presentation sessions and meetings with their counterparts, Cambodian Parliamentarians learned a great deal about organizational and functional operations and procedures. This was particularly in the context of the

French Parliamentary Presidential Political System, in which diverse political groups representing different aspects of French society can enjoy equitable time and space in having their voices heard by the majority in the political processes. Among the major aspects of the French parliamentary role in a democratic system, the following topics were discussed during the five-day mission:

- General working structure and the elements of the French National Assembly and Senate
- The legal framework of the oversight role of different political groups including the opposition and minority parties
- The control mechanism of the Commissions and individual Members of the Parliament
- The control function of the Commissions in the application of legislation and public policies
- The role of the Commissions in the legislative process, and their control functions in respect of budgetary and financial aspects, and in the nomination procedures for important appointments, and
- The practical and financial support allocated

to individual members to fulfill their representation function.

Logistics, human resources, institutional communications and international cooperation were among other aspects that the French Parliamentarians shared with the Cambodian delegation.

Since the amendment of the Internal Rules of the National Assembly in 2008 the order of business of the French National Assembly (NA) has been divided into a four-week session - two weeks reserved for the Government, and two weeks for the NA (one of which is dedicated to the evaluation and control of public policies, the other for examination of draft legislation).

To reinforce the control function, members of the French Parliament exercise their constitutional mission to oversee the Government's activities and evaluate its public policies during the public plenary sessions. Furthermore, there are twice-weekly general question sessions, and, once a month, representatives from opposition and minority parties have the chance to pose their questions to the Government. The Cambodian delegation was given the opportunity to observe such a question time to see, first-hand, how Members of the Parliament exercise their Government oversight function through a plenary public discussion at the National Assembly and the Senate.

The Cambodian delegation were also specifically interested in the wider range of control systems in France since the adoption of the 2009 reform and amendment of the internal rules of procedure of the National Assembly. This opened the way for the creation of Commissions for Evaluation and Control of Public Policies (CEC), the Mission for Evaluation and Control (MEC) - which evaluates the annual results of specific policy, under the Finance Commission of the National Assembly - and the Mission for Evaluation and Control of Financial Law and Social Security (MECSS), under the Commission of Social Affairs of the National Assembly and the Senate.

In addition, Cambodian Parliamentarians were given detailed information about the wider range of additional control systems in the form of ad hoc, temporary or special control mechanisms established within the National Assembly. These include delegations (focusing on women's rights, overseas territories, intelligence, and so on) and missions conducted by Commissions to gather

information for the National Assembly so that it can exercise its control function on Government policy.

Current aspects of the separation of power and the incompatibility of its function in the French Parliament were particularly noted by the Cambodian delegation: they observed that French politicians frequently hold local and national offices concurrently. This practice is referred to in French as "cumul des mandats", or "Plural Mandates". However, two pieces of legislation were promulgated in February 2014 which, from 2017, will ban this practice.

However, there are several types of "cumul" - or "plurality" of mandates and offices - in which French politicians are currently engaged. Since there is no limitation to the number of mandates that a politician may hold in his or her lifetime, political careers are frequently very long as incumbents are often re-elected several times until they retire at an advanced age.

But the most controversial dimension of cumul is the simultaneous accumulation of locally elected offices held by national representatives, i.e. by members of the National Assembly (MPs). Indeed, it is not uncommon for the Mayors of the principle municipalities of a circumscription (constituency) to occupy the same seat in the French Parliament.

In 2012, figures show that 476 out of the 577 members of the National Assembly (82 percent) and 267 out of the 348 Senators (77 percent) held at least one more position in the Executive branch. In fact 45 percent of members of the National Assembly and 48 percent of Senators are Mayors, Chairmen of General Councils or Chairmen of Regional Councils.

The Cambodian delegation also discovered a big difference between them and their French counterparts in terms of financial and practical support, especially in terms of their representation function. For instance, French Parliamentarians enjoy more funding to cover communication with constituents and public relations activities, as well as regular visits to their constituency through the "indemnité représentative de frais de mandat" (IRFM), which acts as "compensation representing official expenses". This IRFM is used to cover costs related to the fulfillment of their representative functions ranging from salaries for four or five personal assistants, travel/accommodation costs from/to the constituency, and other communications-related expenses.

# Swiss Parliamentary Services experts visit Cambodia to start a cooperation project

## to support parliamentary communications training



(Photo by: PIC)

From 23 to 27 May, the Cambodian Parliament and PIC welcomed three guests from the Swiss Parliamentary Services (SPS): Alexandre Füzesséry is Project Manager, Parliamentary Technical Cooperation; Karin Burkhalter is Deputy Head of the Information Division; and Andreas Schilter is Deputy Head of Public Relations. They came to Cambodia as the first step in a cooperation process through which SPS expertise will be shared with communications staff of the Cambodian Parliament.

The visit in May followed the study mission made by a Cambodian parliamentary delegation to the Swiss Parliament last September. During that event, SPS staff members agreed to a request from the Secretary General of the Cambodian National Assembly to arrange to link up to share expertise, specifically in the field of parliamentary communications. A formal agreement was facilitated by PIC, and the three experts came with the initial objective to gather information about the Cambodian context and to assess training needs. During their visit, they met the Secretaries General of the National Assembly and the Senate, as well as their senior staff involved in parliamentary communications and outreach activity. To gain as wide an understanding of the Cambodian context as possible, they also met representatives from BBC Media Action Cambodia, the Cambodian Centre for Independent Media, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), UNESCO, and the Department of Media and Communications at the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

The parliamentary communications capacity development cooperation with the Swiss Parliament is funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). It is part of SDC's activities in Cambodia relating to their focus on Local Governance and Citizen Participation. Simon Junker, Head of Program/Regional Advisor for SDC in Cambodia, said that he was pleased and proud to welcome the SPS experts to Cambodia. "This is one of the first instances in which the Swiss Parliament has sought to cooperate with the Parliament of another country, so the SPS experts are looking to identify where cooperation can be most effectively placed," he said. Since this visit marked the start of a new initiative in parliamentary collaboration for the Swiss Parliament, it is likely that experiences gained in Cambodia will be used as a blueprint to guide cooperation between Swiss parliamentary staff and their counterparts in other countries.

Over the coming weeks, Alexandre, Karin and Andreas will prepare a report suggesting ways in which they could contribute to capacity development to improve parliamentary communications in both houses of the Cambodian Parliament. In collaboration with PIC, they will ultimately draw up a program to address the need for key communications skills.

The parliamentary communications capacity development program is expected to make a significant contribution to the aims of both houses. H.E Oum Sarith, Secretary General of the Senate said: "We need the public to know about the

Senate and how it works, and we need the media to know this, too, because they are the ones who can spread the information.” He confirmed that the Senate secretarial staff, especially those from the Information Department, were engaged in many communications activities, but stressed that staff needed capacity development, especially in terms of reporting and the use of multi-media, as well as ICT and library management skills.

H.E. Leng Peng Long, Secretary General of the National Assembly, said: “We are committed to democracy and transparency and use many different media and channels to disseminate information to the people. But staff lack experience in, for instance, website design, general reporting, and multi-media.”

Asked for their impressions at the end of their visit, the SPS experts expressed interest in the proposed collaboration project, and enthusiasm for fruitful collaboration. Karin Burkhalter said: “The fact-finding mission was a great and enriching experience. In our meetings I learned many facts and facets about the Cambodian Parliament, its culture, its different actors and its role. I was impressed by the Senate’s

and the National Assembly’s ambition to establish an improved relationship with the country’s people.” Giving his impressions, Andreas Schilter said: “Cambodia is a young democracy. As a result, the population still does not seem to fully understand the role of Parliament and its importance to a working democracy. This became clear in our meetings with our Cambodian colleagues. The Parliament’s information activities and the way it communicates with the public is therefore very important.”

In summary, Alexandre Füzesséry commented that, since the project was the first technical cooperation project in which the Swiss Parliamentary Services had taken part, they would be as keen to learn from it as their Cambodian colleagues. “Our week of meetings and lively discussions allowed us to gain a fairly clear impression of the nature of communications in the two chambers of the Cambodian parliament,” he added. “Back in Switzerland, tired after a busy schedule of meetings, we are all the more motivated to develop a concrete project that contributes to the development of the parliament and its ability to reach out to its citizens.”



(Photo by: PIC)

## Legislation dealt with by the Cambodian Parliament

- Agreement on the Establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was ratified on 13 January 2016
- Budget Settlement Law 2014 was adopted on 13 January 2016
- Law on Accounting and Auditing was adopted on 14 January 2016
- Law on Trade Unions was adopted on 4 April 2016
- Law on Juvenile Justice was adopted on 30 May 2016
- Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement between Cambodia and Hungary was ratified on 30 May 2016

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

- Enhancing Local Development of Communes/ Sangkats in Battambang Province: Senator Group Region 4, February 2016
- Enhancing the Local Development of Sangkats in Phnom Penh: Senator Group Region 1, March 2016
- Public Health: Reproductive Health of Indigenous Cambodians: National Assembly Commission 8, February 2016
- Provision of Pensions to Veterans: National Assembly Commission 8, February 2016
- Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET): Achievements and Challenges: National Assembly Commission 8, February 2016
- Migration in Kratie, Stung Treng, Ratanakiri, and Mondulakiri Provinces: Challenges and Opportunities: National Assembly Commission 8, February 2016
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse in Kratie, Stung Treng, Mondulakiri, and Ratanakiri: National Assembly Commission 8, February 2016
- Land Dispute Resolution Mechanisms in Cambodia: National Assembly Commission 1, February 2016
- Legal and Judicial Reform in Cambodia: National Assembly Commission 6, February 2016
- Challenges of Communes/Sangkats in Bar Phnom District, Prey Veng Province: Senator Group Region 6, March 2016
- Commune Committee for Women and Children's Roles and Responsibilities and Procedures for Budget Requests and Budget Expenditures: Women Senator Group, March 2016
- Enhancing the Local Development in Kep and Kampot: Senator Group Region 5, May 2016
- Implementation of Land Rights and Rights of Vulnerable Groups in Cambodia: Senate Commission 1, March 2016
- Economic and Social Land Concessions in Ratanakiri Province: Senator Group Region 8, March 2016
- Addressing Marketing Problems of Farmers in Ratanakiri Province: Senator Group Region 8, March 2016
- Cambodian Indigenous People Policies and Practices: Indigenous People Land Registration in Ratanakiri Province: Senator Group Region 8, March 2016
- Cambodian National Revenue Mobilization Strategies in Brief: National Assembly Commission 2, March 2016
- Understanding Immigration Laws and Issues in Australia and Cambodia, and the Role of Parliaments on Immigration: Senate Commission 5, May 2016
- Media and Information in Australia: Management of Social Media and Advertisement, and Access to Information: Senate Commission 5, May 2016
- Monitoring Policy Implementation for HIV/AIDS Prevention, Medicine Management, and Private Health Careers in Phnom Penh, Kandal, and Takeo Province: Senate Commission 8, May 2016
- Enhancing the Potential of Communes/Sangkats in Banteay Meanchey Province: Senator Group Region 4, May 2016

- The Roles, Duties, and Power of Judicial Police in Implementing the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure: Senate Commission 6, May 2016
- The Importance of Forest and Natural Resources in the Country's Development: National Assembly Commission 3, June 2016
- Introduction to the French Parliament and Political System: Senate Commission 9, March 2016
- Eco-tourism Management in Lao PDR: Senate Commission 7, June 2016
- The Implementation and Oversight of the Budget of Sub-national Administrations in the Context of Decentralization and Deconcentration (Update): Senate Commission 2, June 2016
- Labour Migration in Cambodia, May 2016
- Cross Border Labor Migration: the Case of Lao PDR, May 2016
- Labor Migration in Myanmar, May 2016
- Labor Migration/Labor Flow in the Greater Mekong Sub-region: The Case of Thailand, May 2016
- Rural Development and Decentralization in Cambodia, May 2016
- Rural Development and Decentralization in Lao PDR, May 2016
- Rural Development and Decentralization in Myanmar, May 2016
- Rural Development and Decentralization in the Greater Mekong Sub-region: Case Study of Thailand, May 2016

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

- Field Mission conducted by NAC 8 to Mondulakiri, Ratanakiri, Kratie and Stung Treng provinces: This mission was conducted from 15-20 February 2016 to oversee, and to gain an understanding of, public health service delivery to citizens. It also aimed to gather information about the traditional practices that prevent citizens from seeking modern health services, health service delivery through social equity funds for the poor, pension funds for veterans and the promotion of the rights of people who are handicapped. Domestic violence, and the dissemination of law on "domestic violence", were further topics the mission aimed to examine. Additional issues included the promotion of gender equity, labor migration, and the enforcement of the law on "Human trafficking and exploitation". Twenty people participated including Leaders and Commission Members, Assistants of the Commission and Secretariat staff.
- Forum held by SGR 4 in Battambang province: this forum was held from 17-18 February 2016 on the "Promotion of Commune/Sangkat Development" for provincial authorities, all communes/sangkats and NGOs in Battambang province. There were 339 participants (commune/sangkat councilors, Senator Group of Region 4, Senate Leaders, staff members from the General Secretariat, and other relevant stakeholders). Its purpose was to assure the public that Senators were putting an emphasis on building the capacity of commune/sangkat councilors as well as promoting the rule of law, good governance and reform so as to contribute to economic growth, good governance, social justice, human rights, the living standards of citizens and poverty reduction. A further forum objective was to promote the implementation of decentralization and de-concentration policy at sub-national level, to support the implementation of commune/village safety policy, and to offer opportunities to commune/sangkat councilors to voice their concerns, challenges and recommendations regarding public service delivery and local development so that these could be addressed at national level as well as by relevant authorities.
- Mission conducted by NAC 1 to Battambang and Banteay Meanchey provinces: this mission was conducted from 22-25 February 2016 to oversee and investigate land conflict issues, and to collect information and facts related to complaints. It aimed to understand the problems faced by citizens,

to listen to their concerns and to urge the relevant authorities to find solutions. Twenty people participated including Leaders and Commission members, Advisors to the Commission, the Assistant of the Chair of the Commission, the Assistant of the Commission and staff members from the General Secretariat.

- Field Mission conducted by NAC 2 to Poipet and Banteay Meanchey provinces: this mission was conducted from 23-26 February 2016 to examine revenue collection in Banteay Meanchey province. A total of 37 people participated including Leaders and Commission Members, the Personnel Assistant of the Chair of the Commission and other representatives and staff from the Commission and the General Secretariat.
- Training on the Parliamentary Activity Review session (to be included in public consultations and forums), held by PIC's Outreach Department: this training was held on 23 February 2016 and 26 February 2016 and its aim was to promote the use of the Parliamentary Activity Review (PAR) sessions as effective outreach tools in engaging citizens during public forums and consultations. The training aimed to explain the rationale for including the Parliamentary Activity Review as a part of every public consultation/forum activity, to help participants to identify what topics should be covered, and the best communications media to use for different audiences. A total of 35 people participated including representatives from the Regional Collectivity Department, the Spokesperson Department, and the General Research Department. Parliamentary staff from Lao PDR and Myanmar, who were undertaking Fellowships at PIC, also attended.
- Field Mission conducted by NAC 6 to Oddor Meanchey and Preah Vihear provinces: this mission was conducted from 29 February to 3 March 2016 to provide sub-national authorities with information about activities undertaken by the National Assembly in respect of legislation. It also aimed to explore issues relating to the leadership and management of local authorities, to assess the competence of authorities in respect of law enforcement and to learn about the work of the provincial courts. The aim was also to gather an understanding of concerns of local people and the difficulties they face. Seventeen people participated including Members of Parliament, the Advisor to the Commission and members of staff from the Commission and the General Secretariat.
- Forum held by the Women Senator Group in Battambang province: the forum was held on 11 March 2016 on the topic "Performance and expenditure procedure for Woman's and Children's Affairs Committees". A total of 151 participants attended this forum. Its aim was to develop the capacity of commune/sangkat councilors and those who are in charge of women's and children's affairs in composing and implementing plans to provide better social services for citizens, particularly related to child and maternal health, sanitation, gender equity, community nursery schools, and child protection. A further forum aim was to improve the theoretical and practical knowledge of commune/sangkat councilors and those in charge of women's and children's affairs about procedures relating to the use of relevant budgets.
- Forum held by SGR 6 in Ba Phnom district of Prey Veng province: the forum was held on 15 March 2016 entitled: "Public consultation: dissemination of information about the Senate's achievements and an exploration of the challenges faced by the commune/sangkat council, and their associated recommendations". A total of 87 people participated.
- Field Mission conducted by NAC 2 to Preah Sihanouk province: this mission took place from 20-23 March 2016 to explore revenue collection in Preah Sihanouk province. Thirty-five people participated including Leaders and Members of the Commission, Assistants of the Commission and staff from the General Secretariat.
- Field mission conducted by SNC 1 to Svay Rieng province: this mission was conducted from 29-31 March 2016, and it was aimed at NGOs focusing on human rights, local people affected by land conflicts, commune/sangkat councilors and provincial authorities. Its aim was to see how local authorities handle citizens' complaints which LICADHO (the Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights) has requested the Commission to follow up. A further aim was to disseminate information about the roles and functions of the Senate Commission to commune/sangkat councilors, observe the overall situation of human rights as stipulated in the Constitution, and oversee the implementation of the D&D policy by commune/sangkat councilors. Thirteen people participated including Senators, Assistants of the Commission and staff from the General Secretariat.

- Forum held by SGR 1 in Phnom Penh Municipality: the forum was held on 30 March 2016 to “Promote the capacity of sangkat councils and governance in local development”. A total of 328 people participated and the aim was to help to make plans and investment programs for sangkats, and to explore the implementation of village/sangkat safety policy, and public service delivery to citizens (issuing identification cards, civil registration, and so on).
- Field mission conducted by SNC 8 to Phnom Penh, Kandal and Takeo provinces: this mission was conducted from 17-19 May 2016 on the topics of “Law on Prevention and Elimination of HIV/AIDs, the Law on Drug Control, the Law on the Administration of the Practice of Private Medical Professions, Representing Medical Professions and Assisting Medical Professions”. Its aim was to conduct a study to understand the implementation of government policy and law enforcement at local level, to improve the relationship between the Senate and local authorities and citizens, and to collect information about challenges, concerns and requests from local authorities and citizens in order to improve the situation. Fourteen people participated including the Chief and Commission Members, members of staff from the Commission and from the General Secretariat.
- Forum held by SGR 5 in Kampot province: the forum was held on 31 May 2016 on the topic “Building Capacity of Commune/Sangkat Councils and Governance in Local Development”. A total of 341 people participated and the forum aim was to improve the capacity of commune/sangkat councils and clerks, as well as relevant authorities, to prepare development plans. It also focused on the implementation of commune/sangkat public service delivery and commune/village safety policy, sharing information between the national and subnational levels to promote the living standards of local people and local development. A further objective was to explore local law enforcement and promote cooperation between the Senate, local authorities and NGOs.
- Field mission conducted by SNC 6 to Battambang and Pailin provinces: this mission was conducted from 6-11 June 2016 on the topic “Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), and Enforcement of Civil and Civil Procedure Codes”. Its aim was to explore the practice of ADR among conflict resolution committees at commune/sangkat level, among Centre for Justice Services in districts and cities, and among cadastral committees at district and city level. A further objective was to explore law enforcement and the practice of land conflict resolution among cadastral commissions at the provincial level in Battambang and Pailin, and to look at the enforcement of civil, civil procedure, penal and penal procedure codes in the provincial courts of Battambang and Pailin and of the Justice Police. This particularly focused on the prevention of criminal offences related to logging, hunting, fishing, the environment, commerce, women’s affairs, finance, industry, handicrafts, public works and transport. Fifteen people participated including the Chief and members of the Commission, as well as Commission secretarial staff.
- Forum at district level held by SGR 8 in Bor Keo and O Yadav district, Ratanakiri province: the forum was held from 7-8 June 2016 on the topic “Building Capacity of Commune/Sangkat Councilors in Local Development”. A total of 111 people participated and the forum aim was: to inform commune/sangkat councilors about the activities of Senator Group to Region 8 and the Senate as a whole; to urge provincial and district authorities to speed up land registration, including the registration of community land titles; and the prevention of encroachment on forest land. A further aim was to collect information particularly about the challenges faced by commune/sangkat councilors in delivering public services to citizens and in local development in order to find solutions to the problems. The dissemination of information about the law on the election of commune/sangkat councilors, and a follow-up to the process of issuing identification cards for citizens in Bor Keo and Oyadav districts, were also included.
- Orientation workshop co-organized between the General Secretariat of the Senate and PIC on the assimilation of the Public Consultation Guidelines: this orientation workshop was conducted on 24 June 2016 to inform staff at the Senate about the newly completed Public Consultation Guidelines. The event was attended by 260 people including the Secretary General of the Senate, officials from both the Senate and National Assembly and relevant stakeholders.



## How to order publications:

Copies of the PIC Parliamentary Review can be ordered from the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia office or downloaded from: [www.pic.org.kh](http://www.pic.org.kh)

### **Contact:**

The Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia, Senate Compound, Vimenarath Chamkar Mon, Preah Norodom Blvd., Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Tel: (+855) 023 210 055 / 023 210 056 / 011 761 716

Email: [admin@pic.org.kh](mailto:admin@pic.org.kh)

Website: [www.pic.org.kh](http://www.pic.org.kh)



📍 SENATE Compound, Vimeanrath Chamkar Mon, Preah Norodom Blvd, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

☎ 023 210 056 / 023 210 055 / 011 761 716 ✉ admin@pic.org.kh 🌐 www.pic.org.kh