



# Inter-Parliamentary Union Technical Cooperation Programme PROJECT PROFILE: CAMBODIA 2001 - 2004



Updated 18/05/2009

## Project details

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Assistance to the Parliament of Cambodia</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>3 Years (2001 - 2004)</b>
<b>Budget:</b>	<b>US\$ 150,000</b>
<b>Donor partner:</b>	<b>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</b>

## Background

The Cambodian Constitution was adopted on 21 September 1993 and amended in March 1999 to introduce a bicameral system with the establishment of the Senate.

In spite of a nominal upgrading of the role of the National Assembly and the newly created second chamber, nearly all legislation was carried out by the executive. The MPs and staff of the two Houses lacked experience and expertise, in particular concerning the technical and legal aspects of drafting legislation.

Furthermore, the rules of procedure were not adequate for productive debates.

In response to a request from the President of the National Assembly, the IPU fielded a needs assessment mission in 1999. Based on the findings of that mission, a UNDP-funded project was developed and began in 2001.

## Areas of activity

The project was intended to provide for the following:

- Training and information seminars for staff of the National Assembly and the Senate. The seminars focused on techniques for analysing and drafting bills, parliamentary budgets and staff recruitment and management.
- Recruitment of ten Cambodian law graduates as legislative specialist trainees, five of whom were assigned to each chamber. The specialists were expected to provide advice and assistance to the standing and select committees.
- Recruitment of a parliamentary training consultant for one year. The consultant was responsible for providing intensive training to the legislative specialist trainees as well as to other parliamentary staff.
- A study visit to the French Senate and the International Institute of Public Administration for 2 staff members, one from each House. During their one-month training programme in France, the two staff members took theoretical and practical courses on various relevant issues.
- A study visit of four parliamentary staff members to the parliaments of Thailand and the Philippines.
- A number of consultancy missions from foreign experts to provide expertise and training to parliamentarians and parliamentary staff in areas such as drafting of laws and reports.

## Target beneficiaries

The principal beneficiaries of the project were the members of the two Houses, with the purpose of enacting modern and democratic legislation.

A more independent, efficient parliament would subsequently also drive the process towards a peaceful, pluralistic society.



*The Cambodian Senate, Phnom Penh*

## Results

The principal results of the project were as follows:

- Enhanced ability of parliamentarians of both chambers to discharge their lawmaking and oversight functions.
- Highly qualified staff who are familiar with new technologies and have a better understanding of their role and function.
- Members of both Houses equipped to fulfil their constitutional role.
- More efficient running of the two chambers, brought about by the adoption of rules adapted to the new institutional situation, elaboration of staff regulations defining the status of staff and harmonization of organizational structures with those of modern parliaments.
- Considerable improvement of the human resources the parliament can draw upon, both in terms of quality and quantity, as the ten specialist trainees were hired as regular employees at the end of the project.

### *Experts providing advice to the project included:*

- Mr. Bruno Baufumé, Director of the International Relations Services, French Senate
- Mr. Ingo Behnel, Parliamentary Group Adviser, German Bundestag
- Ms. Annette Sach, Speaker of the German Bundestag

### *Parliaments supporting the project were:*

- French Senate, Parliament of Thailand