



**Global capacity-building initiative for parliaments
on sustainable development**

**Regional seminar for the parliaments of the Asia-Pacific States
Vientiane, Lao PDR, 26–28 November 2007**

INVITATION

Dear Madam President/Speaker,
Dear Mr. President/Speaker,

At the invitation of the National Assembly of the Lao PDR, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are holding a regional seminar for the parliaments of Asia-Pacific entitled *Capacity-building for parliaments on sustainable development and resources management*. The seminar will be held in:

Vientiane, Lao PDR
on 26 to 28 November 2007

A needs assessment conducted in June 2005 by the IPU in cooperation with UNITAR¹ identified themes deemed by parliaments to be of topical importance and that should be addressed by future capacity-building activities for parliamentarians. Two regional events, for Africa and the Arab region have already been organized in this regard. As the seminar for the Asia-Pacific region, they had been designed to make participants aware of the important stakes involved in environmental management and sustainable development, and in particular of the role parliaments can play in the field of resources management.

The seminar is open to participation by five persons from each chamber. We thus ask that you kindly designate five individuals, parliamentarians and/or parliamentary staff, if possible with experience in the field of sustainable development and/or resources management.

¹ United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Please fill in the enclosed confirmation form and return it by 5th November 2007
to:

Secretariat of the IPU
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Seminar Secretariat
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Costs related to participation in this event will be covered by each parliament.

We hope that your Parliament will be represented in Vientiane and that the delegation will take an active part in the proceedings.

Yours sincerely,



Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General
Inter-Parliamentary Union



Thongsing Thammavong
President of the Lao National
Assembly



Sonam Yangchen Rana
UNDP Resident Representative
Lao PDR