



# INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

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Geneva, 17 May 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I am pleased to enclose the convocation for the regional seminar for Parliaments of the ASEAN +3 region on "Parliament and the budgetary process, including from a gender perspective", which will be held in Manila from 23-25 July 2002.

The regional seminar is being organised jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Congress of the Philippines, with the support of UNDP and the World Bank. It is the third in a series of regional meetings for parliaments which aim to strengthen parliaments' capacity to contribute effectively to the budgetary process, with a specific focus on gender.

As you will see, the inaugural ceremony will take place on 23 July 2002. Prior to that, all delegations are invited to attend the State of the Nation Address by the President of the Republic of the Philippines, which will take place on 22 July 2002. Please note that the Congress of the Philippines will be sending the invitation to you directly, together with general information on the registration of participants, hotel bookings and other details.

The seminar is open to Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff, and your Parliament is invited to send up to 10 participants. In line with the IPU's stated objective to promote partnership between men and women in political life, parliaments should aim at including an equal number of men and women members. Your delegation should also be representative of the political configuration of the parliament. In view of the fact that the seminar will include parallel sessions for the Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff, you are also invited to include a minimum number of 2 parliamentary staff members from the competent parliamentary committees .

I very much hope that your Parliament will participate in this Seminar and will find it useful.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johansson  
Secretary General