



Congress of the
Philippines

Parliament and the budgetary process, including from a gender perspective

Regional seminar for ASEAN+3 Parliaments
Manila (Philippines) 23-25 July 2002



Inter-Parliamentary
Union

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

1. The Inter-Parliamentary Union, under its Technical Cooperation Programme, will organise a regional seminar for parliaments of the ASEAN+3¹ region on "Parliament and the budgetary process, including from a gender perspective" at the invitation of the Congress of the Philippines. This seminar will be held in:

MANILA from 23 to 25 July 2002

2. The Inaugural Ceremony of the Seminar will take place at 9.00 am on 23 July 2002 at the Century Park Hotel. All sessions of the Seminar will also take place on the same premises.

3. Prior to that, participants are invited to attend the State of the Nation Address by the President of the Republic of the Philippines, in the afternoon of 22 July 2002.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

4. The seminar 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. The two previous regional seminars, which were organised for the benefit of African parliaments, took place in Kenya (May 2000) and Mali (November 2001). The Guidelines adopted are enclosed for reference purposes.

5. The overall objective of the seminar is to contribute to a better functioning of parliaments in the ASEAN +3 region so that these parliaments can in turn participate more effectively in the improvement of democracy and good governance as the foundations for development.

6. The seminar will provide an opportunity for members of parliament and for parliamentary staff to exchange views and experiences, among themselves and competent authorities and experts, to better understand the national budget and how to ensure effective parliamentary oversight of the budget: how it is prepared, how it operates, how to secure proper parliamentary reading and analysis, how the national audit functions, and what relevant technical terms are used. Furthermore, it has been argued that a gender-blind approach to the national budget generates an incomplete picture of its impact on all sections of the population and therefore may disadvantage women and hinder the efficiency of policies. The seminar proceedings will therefore aim at including a gender perspective throughout the three-day debates.

¹ Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam. In addition to the countries forming part of ASEAN+3, it was suggested to also invite the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Democratic Republic of East Timor.

PARTNERS

7. The seminar is being organised by the Philippines Congress and the Inter-Parliamentary Union with the support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), under the IPU/UNDP Parliamentary Support Programme, and the World Bank Institute.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

8. The provisional programme of the Seminar is as attached.

RESOURCE PERSONS

9. The IPU, in consultation with UNDP, the World Bank and the host Parliament, has identified four resource persons, including from the ASEAN+3 region, who will make presentations and lead discussions on the various themes of the seminar.

PARTICIPATION

10. The seminar is open to members of parliament and parliamentary staff from national parliaments of the ASEAN+3 region. Each parliament shall be entitled to send up to 10 participants (MPs and staff). In line with the IPU's stated objective to promote partnership between men and women in political life, participating parliaments should aim at including an equal number of men and women delegates. Delegations should further be representative of the political configuration of the respective parliaments and should also include a minimum number of 2 parliamentary staff members.

ORGANISATION OF PROCEEDINGS

11. The programme will include both joint and parallel working sessions for members of parliament and staff, set up in such a way as that each group will deal with all the themes on the programme.

12. In accordance with the Union's practice, all participants will have equal speaking rights. So that the discussions can be as fruitful and enriching as possible, the following arrangements have been foreseen so far:

(a) There will be no list of speakers on any agenda item. After an agenda item has been introduced by the resource persons, participants wishing to take the floor on the subject will be asked to notify the Chair in writing of the specific matter they wish to address so that they may be given the floor in an order that is both logical and likely to promote a real exchange of opinions.

(b) Experience has shown that this kind of meeting is not suitable for pre-prepared statements to be read out. Subject to arrangements which the Chair may make to suit the circumstances, oral statements may not exceed three minutes. Participants may, however, speak several times on each item, particularly to respond to other statements.

(c) A General Rapporteur will be called upon in the afternoon of 25 July to sum up the work of the Seminar at its concluding session, taking into account the results of both parallel sessions.

(d) The Secretariat of the Union will prepare a publication on the proceedings of the Seminar, for distribution to the participating parliaments, the IPU governing bodies and interested organisations.

13. The debates will take place in English. Delegations who wish to have interpretation into their own language are kindly requested to inform the Congress of the Philippines, which will arrange for interpretation booths and necessary equipment. The delegations concerned will be responsible for recruiting and covering the expenses of their interpreters.

DOCUMENTS

14. Written texts of the presentations by the resource persons will be distributed to participants as they become available.

16. To the extent possible and for the information of participants, IPU's Secretariat will make available background documentation relevant to the issues under discussion.

17. Participants wishing to distribute to their colleagues relevant documentation will be required to provide it in sufficient quantities and put it on a table set aside for that purpose.

REGISTRATION and ACCOMODATION OF PARTICIPANTS

18. The invitation of the Congress of the Philippines contains information on conditions for entering the Philippines and participants' stay in Manila, as well as seminar registration and hotel registration forms.

19. For practical reasons, it is proposed that participants stay at the *Century Park Hotel*, a 5-star hotel, which is also the seminar's venue. To that end, the Congress of the Philippines has negotiated special rates at \$85 for a single room and \$90 for a double room, including breakfast. Delegates shall have to pay their own accommodation charges directly to the hotel. Participants who would prefer accommodation in other hotels are kindly requested to inform the Congress of the Philippines which will make the necessary arrangements.

20. The registration form should be sent, no later than 22 June 2002, directly to:

MRS. CARMEN R. ARCEÑO
Director-General
Office of International Relations and Protocol
Senate of the Philippines
6th Flr., GSIS Bldg., Financial Center,
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, 1307 PHILIPPINES
Tel: 63.2.551.2186 or 63.2.552.6795 or
63.2.551.2007
Fax: 63.2.552.6794 or 63.2.551.2006
e-mail: oir_sena@pacific.net.ph
cc: ipu_budget@yahoo.com

Copy to: Inter-Parliamentary Union
Place du Petit-Saconnex
Case Postale 438
1211 GENEVE 19 - Suisse
Tel: 41 22 919 4150
Fax: 41 22 919 41 60
e-mail: postbox@mail.ipu.org

21. The hotel reservation forms are to be returned directly to the Congress of the Philippines at the same address mentioned above, and no later than 22 June 2002.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 23 July 2002

<i>Plenary joint session for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff</i>	
9-9.45 a.m.	Inaugural Ceremony
10 a.m.-1 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Election of the President, Vice-Presidents and General Rapporteur of the Seminar ➤ Adoption of the Seminar Programme ➤ Adoption of the Seminar Rules ➤ General introduction to the budgetary process, including from a gender perspective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Reviewing the variety of national approaches and processes b) A gender perspective to the budget: What does it mean? <p><i>Addresses by resource persons followed by a debate</i></p>
2.30-3.45 p.m.	General introduction (continued)
4-6 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The budget: Purpose, composition and terminology <p><i>Addresses by resource persons followed by a debate</i></p>

Wednesday, 24 July 2002

	<i>Session for Members of Parliament</i>	<i>Session for parliamentary staff</i>
9 a.m.-1 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The respective roles of Government and Parliament in the budgetary process <p><i>Addresses by resource persons followed by a debate</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Accountability and transparency in the budgetary process: Parliamentary oversight of the budget - Reading, analysing and questioning; parliamentary tools and mechanisms <p><i>Addresses by resource persons followed by a debate</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gender impact analysis of the budget <p><i>Addresses by resource persons followed by a debate</i></p>

Wednesday, 24 July 2002 (continued)

	<i>Session for Members of Parliament</i>	<i>Session for parliamentary staff</i>
2.30–6 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Accountability and transparency in the budgetary process: The National Audit <i>Addresses by resource persons followed by a debate</i> ➤ Gender impact analysis of the budget <i>Addresses by resource persons followed by a debate</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mechanisms and methods for developing a gender-sensitive budget <i>Addresses by resource persons followed by a debate</i> ➤ The respective roles of Government and Parliament in the budget process <i>Addresses by resource persons followed by a debate</i>

Thursday, 25 July 2002

	<i>Session for Members of Parliament</i>	<i>Session for parliamentary staff</i>
9 a.m.–1 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gender impact analysis of the budget (continued) ➤ Mechanisms and methods for developing a gender-sensitive budget <i>Addresses by resource persons followed by a debate</i> ➤ General assessment of the Seminar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Accountability and transparency in the budgetary process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parliamentary oversight of the budget - Reading, analysing and questioning; parliamentary tools and mechanisms - The National Audit <i>Addresses by resource persons followed by a debate</i> ➤ General assessment of the Seminar
<i>Plenary joint session for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff</i>		
5–6 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Final summing-up report: Guidelines for an efficient parliamentary contribution to the budgetary process 	
6 p.m.	Closing ceremony	