

Support and training for new Members of the House of Representatives of Thailand

The Secretariat of the House of Representatives of Thailand has the duties to facilitate and support the performances of Members of the House of Representatives such as administration, parliamentary proceedings, foreign affairs, information services, academic services, public relations affairs and security. Besides these duties, after the election, the Secretariat also organises the seminar for newly elected Members both experienced and new ones.

In March 2005, the seminar was initially conducted by the Secretariat of the House of Representatives for newly elected Members following the general election in February the same year. Later on, this kind of seminar was jointly organised by the Bureau of Human Resources Development and the General Affairs Administration of the Secretariat in February 2008 resulting from the election in December 2007. The course involved a one-day lecture on the following items:

- Role, duties and tasks of Members of the House of Representatives,
- Role, power and duties of the legislative branch and relations between Members of the House of Representatives and Members of the Senate,
- Secretariat of the House of Representatives and services for Members of the House of Representatives,
- Decorations of Members of the House of Representatives,
- Submission of the account showing assets and liabilities and other regulations which Members should know and have to comply with,
- Entitlements and remuneration provided for Members of the House of Representatives.

The lecturers in the seminar were the then President of the National Legislative Assembly, former President of the Parliament, Secretary General of the House of Representatives, Deputy Secretary General of the House

of Representatives, Secretary General of the National Counter Corruption Commission and Director of Bureau of Royal Scribe and Royal Decorations of the Secretariat of the Cabinet.

Also, in this programme, Members had a chance to individually submit their accounts for showing the assets and liabilities during a five-day practice undertaken by the Office of the National Counter Corruption Commission and the Bureau of General Affairs Administration of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives.

Moreover, in June 2008, the Secretariat of the House of Representatives organised the seminar specifically for women parliamentarians consisting of 80 Members, out of these are 56 Members of the House of Representatives and 24 Members of the Senate. The topics were budget management system, role of women under the provisions of the Constitution and knowledge of Act.

For the support of newly elected Members of the House of Representatives, the Secretariat provides official documents for elected Members to complete when they report themselves to the Parliament such as a Member's report form, a signature sample's form, a curriculum vitae form, a form of an account showing assets and liabilities of persons holding political position, a nomination form for Member's assistants, a nomination form for Member's experts and an application form for various Thailand parliamentary friendship groups. Furthermore, Members also receive personal identification card and the vehicle permits to access the Parliament precinct, books on the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, the Rules of Procedure of the House of Representatives, the Organic Act on Political Parties, the Organic Act on Election of Members of the House of Representatives and the Acquisition of Members of the Senate, the Organic Act on Election Commission, the Uniform of Members of Parliament Act, the Royal Decorations Act, the Handbook on Entitlements for Members, the

Handbook on the Introduction of the Bills, Motions and Questions, the Handbook on the services of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives, Thai National Assembly and Secretariat of the House of Representatives, Brochures on the important process after reporting at the Parliament and Brochures on applying passport procedure and the Rules of Procedures of Thailand parliamentary friendship groups. For information technology related items, a computer notebook, an e-mail address and an internet package including a compact disc containing the above-mentioned books, will be provided to Members of the House of Representatives as well.
