

**An International Conference**  
**‘Effective Capacity Building Programmes for Parliamentarians’**  
**October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Bern, Switzerland**

---

Thematic approaches to capacity building (2.00 - 3.30 pm.)

**A Shared Experience from Secretariat of the House of Representatives of Thailand : Member of the House of Representatives and Democratic Development in Thailand**

It goes without saying that democracy is a form of government in which all people have an equal say in the decisions that affect their lives. As being Thai citizens’ representatives, Members of the House of Representatives have one of the important functions to develop democracy in the country for Thai people. In this respect, the Thai National Assembly has endeavored to link ‘mass communications’ and ‘Thai people participation (in politics)’ as unification for democratic development nationwide.

Accordingly, the **latest initiative** which was undertaken by the Thai National Assembly is an academic seminar at national level on two thematic issues - *‘Legislative Power and Democratic Development’* and *‘New Members of the House of Representatives’ Responsibility towards Thai Citizens’*, Participated by a number of Members of the Thai National Assembly, mass media and their special correspondents, interest groups, and other stakeholders, held in Cha-am City at Prachuap Kirikhan Province during September 23 - 24, 2011. In such events, the Speaker of the House of Representatives presided over the seminar, and also delivered his remark on ‘Legislation and Democratic Development. He does believe that mass media in the country can play the major role to develop democracy in Thailand through encourage and support Thai people participation in each and every function in democratic process and Thai politics.

Intrinsically, ‘mass media’ and ‘people participation’ are common **partnership** for the Thai National Assembly as they basically convey important message to Thai society, In this regard, Thai people learn a lot of political participation through the media, such as newspaper, television and radio broadcasting. Thus, the Speaker of the House of Representatives has pushed forward establishing parliamentary radio-broadcasting station to cover all 77 provinces of Thailand to strengthen democratic development nationwide.

For the **interplay** between democratic development and research services at the Thai National Assembly, we have a number of agencies of academic support, namely Bureau of Academic Services and Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations. Both agencies support academic affairs in terms of study, analysis and synthesis development as well as international functions to Members of the House of Representatives, Consistency.

Lastly, to answer the question how to **maximize the impact** of capacity building in democratic development for Members of the House of Representatives, the answer, among others, goes to the outcomes of the Thai National Assembly to implement the operation of the radio-broadcasting project in each and every province in the country in order to strengthen parliamentary affairs to all Thai people, especially the grass-root level. To do so, it is believed that Thai people as beneficiary will be supported and encouraged to participate in the process of political development, in democratic context in particular, which one way or another will bring about the strengthening of democracy in Thailand in the long run.

---

As of October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011