



Press Release

Constitution Drafting Committee Constitution Drafting Assembly

Issue No 1 Friday January 26 2007

The Constitution Drafting Committee held its first meeting on Thursday January 25, 2007 at 9:30 in the Budget Meeting Room on the third floor of Parliament Building 3. At the meeting, the members were assigned positions by votes and Chairman by a secret ballot. The voting results are as follows:

1. Sqn. Ldr. Prasong Soonsiri	CDC Chairman
2. Mr. Akharavit Sumavong	1 st Deputy Chairman
3. Mr. Charan Pakdithanakul	2 nd Deputy Chairman
4. Prof. Vicha Mahakun	3 rd Deputy Chairman
5. Mr. Choochai Supawong	4 th Deputy Chairman
6. Prof. Somkit Lertpaitoon	CDC Secretary
7. Mr. Achapon Jarujinda	1 st Deputy Secretary
8. Mrs. Kanchanarat Leeviroj	2 nd Deputy Secretary
9. Mr. Komsan Bhokong	3 rd Deputy Secretary
10. Assoc. Prof. Thitiphan Chueboonchai	4 th Deputy Secretary
11. Mr. Thongthong Chasang	Spokesman
12. Mr. Pisit Leeahtham	Spokesman
13. Mr. Paibul Varahapaithoon	Spokesman
14. Mr. Pakorn Priyakorn	Spokesman
15. Mrs. Pannipa Sermsree	Assistant Secretary as required by the Meeting Regulations

Time and days of CDC meetings

The meeting agreed that CDC meet three times a week: Tuesdays at 14:00; Wednesdays at 09:30; and Thursdays also at 09:30.

Work guideline

The main aim of writing a new constitution is that it should be better than the one before it, in particular, the 1997 Constitution, to which it is to be compared (see Section 26 of the Interim Constitution). It also has to be sufficiently good to pass a referendum, the first ever to be held in the Kingdom (see Section 29, *ibid*). To this end, there will be extensive public hearings. Chairman Prasong therefore suggested that the Draft be kept simple, concise, and unambiguous.

The 1997 Constitution will be used as a frame, along with earlier ones. The new constitution should take into consideration the basic conditions and be compatible with the country's economic conditions, politics, social values, traditions, and information technology so as to ensure the successful and efficient functioning of a democratic system with the King as Head of State.

All practical details of the drafting process and procedures will be left to the CDC secretaries, who will, among other things, fix the work guidelines and attend to other matters, including:

1. Implementation schedule
2. Appointment of subcommittees, namely: (1) Subcommittee for Rights, Liberties, Participation of the people, and Distribution of Power; (2) Subcommittee for Political Institutions; and (3) Subcommittee for Independent Bodies to Scrutinize the Exercise of State Power, and the Courts.
3. Guideline for public hearings and for sifting public opinions in conjunction with the various committees of the Constitution Drafting Assembly.

The next meeting will be on Friday January 26,2007: 14:00 at the same venue.

Produced by CDC Spokesmen Team
January 26, 2007.