



Inter-Parliamentary Union

Technical Cooperation Programme

PROJECT PROFILE: CAMBODIA



Updated 18/05/2009

Project details

Title:	Assistance to the National Assembly of Cambodia
Status:	Closed
Duration:	2 Years (1993-1995)
Budget:	CHF 274, 000
Donor partner:	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), United Nations Transitional Authority of Cambodia (UNTAC)

- Legal and technical advice to the then Constitutional Assembly through several expert missions.
- Extensive repair work and provision of equipment, including the purchase and installation of a sound system, several air conditioners and basic furniture, repair of the roof, painting of walls and installation of new windows.

Background

After decades of armed conflict, a United Nations-led peace conference convened a cease-fire in 1991, and in March 1992, the United Nations Transitional Authority of Cambodia (UNTAC) was formed to implement a settlement plan, which led to the creation of a Constitutional Assembly in May 1993.

The IPU sent observers to monitor the elections to this assembly and in 1993, at the Assembly's request and with the support of SIDA, two expert missions were sent to Phnom Penh to give advice on the functioning of a constitutional assembly to the Cambodian authorities and to conduct a detailed needs assessment which formed the basis of a SIDA-financed assistance project to the Constitutional Assembly (which was to become the National Assembly in September 1993).

Areas of activity

The project had a threefold objective:

- To provide specialist advice to members of the Assembly and its Secretariat staff and provide information and training through a workshop and study tours abroad.
- To repair and refurbish the Assembly buildings, including equipping it with a sound and recording system.
- To provide a basic library and documentation facility to the Assembly.

Target beneficiaries

The foremost beneficiaries were the members and the staff of the Cambodian National Assembly, whose work was thereby facilitated.

A working democratic legislature also meant an important step towards a stable civil society and a prosperous economy, thus benefiting the Cambodian people as a whole.

Results

At the end of the project, the following activities had been conducted:

- Basic in-service training for key Assembly Secretariat staff at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Canada.



The National Assembly Building, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

- Purchase and installation of a telephone switchboard and telephone sets, facilitating communication between the different offices and buildings.
- Provision of necessary advice for the creation of a library and documentation centre. This support contributed to the eventual establishment of Centre for General Research and International Affairs, providing some of the services normally offered by a parliamentary library.

It can be concluded that the project's objectives were broadly achieved, the assistance provided by the IPU and the funding extended by SIDA was greatly appreciated by the authorities of the National Assembly.

Experts providing advice to the project included:

Mr. John Brudenall, assistant librarian at the Australian Parliament

Mr. André Killian, Clerk of the National Assembly of Namibia

Mr. S.K.Kochar, Chief Editor of the House of the People, India

Mr. Claude DesRosiers, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Canada

Mr. Bonifacio H. Gillego, Member of the Congress of the Philippines.

Parliaments supporting the project were:

- Legislative Assembly of Ontario, Canada