



**Message from the Executive Director
Parliamentary Centre of Asia (PCAsia)
On the occasion of the 43rd AIPA General Assembly
from 20-25 November 2022, hosted by the Parliament of Cambodia**

Chumreap sour.

Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and President of the 43rd AIPA,

Excellencies, Heads and Members of Delegations, Secretary General of AIPA,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, allow me to thank our hosts for inviting me and the Parliamentary Center of Asia's delegation to participate in the 43rd AIPA General Assembly. It is our great honour and privilege to be with you today as guests of the host parliament.

PCAsia is an independent and non-partisan center that works to support the capacity development of Parliaments in the ASEAN region.

Our mission is:

- To contribute to strengthening the capacity of parliamentary staff in AIPA Member Parliaments upon your requests, and
- To promote the sharing of parliamentary experiences and good practices among Parliaments, in the context of South-South and North-South Cooperation.

PCAsia is the successor of the Parliamentary Institute of Cambodia, which was established in 2011 to support the capacity development of the Cambodian Parliament. This mandate was extended to AIPA Member Parliaments with the MoU between AIPA Secretariat and PIC in 2016, confirmed by the resolutions on "Capacity Development of Staff of AIPA Member Parliaments" adopted at the 37th and the 40th AIPA General Assemblies.

On behalf of PCAsia, I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the AIPA Member Parliaments for your continuing trust in PCAsia for adopting these successive AIPA Resolutions with PIC, and now PCAsia.

PCAsia operates according to 3 main principles:

- 1st is respecting parliamentary ownership, responding to requests for training support from Parliaments, to ensure that our activities are aligned with your priorities.
- 2nd is a strictly impartial and technical approach without engaging in advocacy except for good practices
- 3rd is a trade-off that balances the immediate needs of Members of Parliaments and the long-term capacity development of parliamentary staff.

PCAsia uses a systemic approach to design our training and knowledge exchange programme, where research support is requested at the start of the legislative process, which can lead to expert hearings and public consultations, legislative drafting and oversight contributing to improve all three parliamentary functions – legislation, representation, and oversight, as well as parliamentary diplomacy. This is done in cooperation with our development and implementing partners, and I would like to invite the AIPA’s Observer Parliaments to join us in this endeavor.

Considering the requests of AIPA Member Parliaments, our training Program for Parliamentary Staff, is currently composed of:

- Trainings on Parliamentary Research, Parliamentary Diplomacy, PBO, Institutional Communication, and
- Seminars on Parliamentary Responsibilities, Committee Work, Legislative Drafting Techniques, and Mainstreaming Gender Equality...and
- Study missions on subjects relevant to the legislative agendas of parliaments

Since 2011, more than 1700 participants from AIPA Member Parliaments and the AIPA Secretariat have actively participated in our programmes to develop skills, and exchange knowledge and experiences among parliaments in the region and beyond. This demonstrates our shared commitment to further develop parliamentary capacity.

Responding to the common topics of interest of AIPA Member Parliaments and contributing to promote the SDGs, PCAsia training program are articulated into the following themes:

- Environment and Climate Change
- Fiscal and Economic Analysis
- A Gender Equality and Human Rights Based Approach
- Peace-Building and Public Safety through Parliaments, and
- Good practices related to Governance, Accountability, Transparency and Efficiency.

PCAsia wishes to express our great and *ongoing* privilege to work together in partnership with the AIPA Secretariat and Secretariats of the AIPA Member Parliaments, in their mission to support their institutions and their members. I also share with you my hope of furthering PCAsia’s cooperation with AIPA observers in the sharing of technical expertise and parliamentary good practices.

Finally, allow me to wish you all, Samdech, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, a successful 43rd AIPA General Assembly and many successes in your mission, serving your citizens.

Thank you very much.