

Cooperation Between Parliamentary Library of the ASEAN Community Countries
Before Stepping to ASEAN Community in 2015 : Thailand Case Study

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ABSTRACTS

As the ASEAN's commitment envisioned by ASEAN Leaders, the ASEAN Community shall be built by 2015. The ASEAN Community comprises three pillars, namely the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC). The ASEAN Charter call for an onward looking region, living in prosperity, peace and stability, bonded together in partnership and dynamic development. The ASEAN Charter further stipulates that one of the purposes of ASEAN is "to develop human resources through closer cooperate on in education on and life-long learning, and in science and technology, for the empowerment of the peoples of ASEAN and for the strengthening of the ASEAN Community"¹ .

There are many action plans were set to accelerate the achievement of the ASEAN charter on the purposes to develop human resources through closer cooperate on in education. **ASEAN Roadmap for the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals** is the good one example. It is the action plan from the ASEAN's leader declaration on the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which clearly show support for a knowledge based society. The roadmap is as a framework for collective actions amongst ASEAN countries to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs.

In order to accelerate the achievement of the key factor "Knowledge", the Parliamentary Libraries in this region have to prepare for an important role and cooperate more. The executives of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives and the National Assembly Library of Thailand are also aware of the changing environment and want to accelerate the achievement

1. ASEAN Socio - Cultural Community Blueprint

of the key factor “Knowledge”, and prepare in many ways. One important way of supporting this key factor performance is sharing knowledge, information and best practices amongst the parliamentary libraries of ASEAN countries.

The National Assembly Library of Thailand had a good chance to share knowledge, information and best practices with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, one of the ASEAN countries. In April and May, 2013, the National Assembly Library of Thailand cooperated with IPU project on the mission to support the Parliamentary Library, Research and Information Service. Secretary General, Mr.Suwichag Nakwatcharachai, had approved two activities to support the mission. The first activity was the approval for the librarian of the National Assembly Library of Thailand to participate the mission at the Hluttaw Library of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw during 1– 11 April, 2013, and the second one is the approval on the study visit of a delegation of Myanmar staff to the National Assembly Library of Thailand from 6 – 10 May, 2013. During those two activities there were sharing and learning on knowledge, information and best practices from each other in many ways such as the development of a collection management, services, roles, functions and organisational structure, internet research and presentation of information to support MPs skills.

These activities will bring benefit, good relation and cooperation between the two countries and ASEAN Community. Most of all, that will contribute to benefit, good relations and cooperation between the parliamentary libraries all over the world.

Introduction

Nowadays the “ASEAN Community” has become a key factor influencing the trends and personnel development of ASEAN Community Countries in various aspects. Human development is specified as one of characteristics in the blueprint of ASEAN Socio-cultural Community (ASCC), one of the three pillars ASEAN Community. That means ensuring the integration of education priorities into ASEAN’s development agenda and creating a knowledge based society.

ASEAN Roadmap for the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goal is the action plan from the ASEAN's leader declaration on the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which clearly show support for a knowledge based society. The roadmap is as a framework for collective actions amongst ASEAN countries to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs which will focus on five key factors. One of the said key factors is "Knowledge", which is focused on :

- information Sharing on the MDGs by sharing existing MDGs knowledge and information amongst ASEAN Member States,
- sharing of best practices by developing practical manuals on best practices for MDGs achievement within ASEAN and providing links to best practice examples outside ASEAN,
- promotion of researches by facilitating research into the potential impact of economic integration on vulnerable communities in ASEAN Member States.²

The Parliamentary Libraries in this region have to prepare for an important role and cooperate more in order to accelerate the achievement of the key factor "Knowledge". The executives of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives and the National Assembly Library of Thailand are also aware of the changing environment and want to accelerate the achievement of the key factor "Knowledge", and prepare in many ways. One important way of supporting this key factor performance is sharing knowledge, information and best practices amongst the parliamentary libraries of ASEAN countries.

In April and May, 2013, the National Assembly Library of Thailand had a good chance to cooperate in sharing on knowledge and best practice with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, one of the ASEAN Countries. In cooperation with IPU project on the mission to support the Parliamentary Library, Research and Information Service, Myanmar, April 2013, Mr.Suwichag Nakwatcharachai, Secretary General, had approved two activities to support the mission. The first activity was the approval for the librarian of the National Assembly of Thailand to participate the mission at the Hluttaw Library of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw during 1 – 11 April, 2013, and the second one is the approval on the study visit of a delegation of Myanmar staff to

2. ASEAN Roadmap for the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goal

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The National Assembly Library of Thailand

Function

In Thailand, the library was established since 1933. At first it was the division under department of Librarian and Committee, the Secretariat of the House of Representatives and now it is the division under the Bureau of Academic Services. The Bureau of Academic Services which has functions and perform as the National Assembly Library of Thailand, is a function under the Secretariat of the House of Representatives and divided into 8 divisions viz General Administration Division, Library Division, Information Technology Resources Development Division, Academic Services Division I, Academic Services Division II, Academic Services Division III, Research and Development Division and Museum and Archives Division. The Bureau is responsible for providing academic services to support the legislative activities of the Members of the National Assembly, Committees, officials and personnel.

Under the responsibility, the Bureau of Academic Services provides various academic services including utilizing the modern information technology to the administration and services.

Services Provided by Bureau of Academic Services

Bureau of Academic Services is responsible for academic services involving library, information technology, museum and archives, political and administration research and special field of study. Besides, the Bureau of Academic Services has improved and developed the services by utilizing the information technology as to response the Members of the Parliament and other users at the right time that meets their needs and purpose.

1. Library Service

Library Division is responsible for services viz

1. Library Technical Services

Library Technical Service serves the users with information resources, such as information resources purchase and exchange and information resources analysis, through library automation system viz Acquisition Module, Catalogue Module and Serial Control Module

2. Circulation Services

At present, Library Division provides circulation service via library automation system, Circulation Module. All information resources attached with barcode. All users have user barcode for borrowing and returning library resources.

3. Reference Services

Reference Service provided for Members of Parliament and all users via many channels viz e-mail, telephone, facsimile or contact directly to the librarians.

4. Information Retrieval from Database Service

5. Library and Database Usage Advisory Service

6. Document Distribution viz Abstracts of Newly Book, Abstracts of Article

7. Selective Dissemination of Information Service or SDI

Selective Dissemination of Information Service is the service that select and disseminate information resources as user's need. However, this service only serves the Members of the Parliament viz selected news clipping for the Standing Committee of the House of Representatives and Senate.

8. Interlibrary Loan

The library borrows information resources which are not available in the library from other government agencies permitting for the interlibrary loan.

9. Collection of Other Important Documents Distributed by Other Government Agencies such as the synopsis or newsletter from the Government Public Relations Department.

10. News Board of Current and Hot News and Issues

The library provides daily important news and interesting news for users that will be able to access information at the right time that meets their needs and purposes.

Library Resources

Library Resources are provided as follows :

1. Printed materials

1.1 Minutes of the Proceedings :

- Minutes of the House Proceedings since 28 Jun 1932 – present
- Minutes of House of Deputies Proceedings since 4 Jun 1936 – 1 Nov 1937
- Minutes of the Senate Proceedings since 24 Nov 1932 - present
- Minutes of the Joint Proceedings since 9 Jun 1936 - present
- Minutes of the National Legislative Council Proceedings since 18 Dec 1972 – 29 Feb 2008
- Minutes of the Advisory Council to the Prime Minister Proceedings since 26 Oct 1976 – 19 Nov 1976
- Minutes of the Administrative Reform Council Proceedings since 20 May 1976 – 10 May 1977
- Minutes of the Constitution Drafting Assembly Proceedings (As the Legislative Assembly) since 12 Jul 1948 - 25 Dec 1948
6 Feb 1959 – 13 Jun 1968
- Minutes of the Constitution Drafting Assembly Proceedings (As the Constitution Drafting Assembly) since 30 Mar 1948 – 8 Feb 1968
7 Jan 1997 – 13 Aug 1997
8 Jan 2007 – 13 Aug 2007

- 1.2 Royal Gazette
- 1.3 Government Publication
- 1.4 Newspaper
- 1.5 Journal / Periodical
- 1.6 General Academic Document, Reference, Research/Thesis
- 1.7 Law Book
- 1.8 Crematory Book

2. Non-printed Materials

- 2.1 CD-Rom
- 2.2 Video
- 2.3 Cassette tape
- 2.4 Map

Users

- Members of the Parliament
- Officials / Employees of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives / the Senate
- Persons in line
- The Outsiders

The person who can borrow Information Resources

- Members of the Parliament
- Officials / Employees of the House of Representatives/the Senate
- Persons in line (Assistant to Member of the House of Representatives, Assistant to

Member of the Senate, Academics and Working Group of Committees, and Journalist)

Borrowing rights

● Members of the Parliament can borrow not more than 5 items, for fifteen days from the date of borrowing.

● Officials / Employees of the House of Representatives and of the Senate and Persons in line can borrow not more than 5 items, for seven days from the date of borrowing

Fine

For overdue items, fines are charged at 5 baht per day per item

2. Database and e-library

Bureau of Academic Services is supported to the development the Library System, Academic Database System and Information Database Management continuously for system development to the complete standard digital library. At present, Information Technology Resources Development Division has developed databases and contents much enough and be timeliness. And develop to e-Library by using the library automation system for processing and services. The information is disseminated to the Members of Parliament and users via internet at anytime anywhere. In Addition, Information Technology Resources Development Division will transform information resources to the digital resources completely that can be shared with the other network for development in the way of inter dependence to enhance standard of legislative database, and cooperate with the other information resources.

Moreover, it can disseminate the related government information by modern technology for connecting with people via the appropriate channel and network throughout 24 hours for e-Parliament.

3. Academic Service

3.1 Produce academic documents, the documents disseminated by Bureau of Academic Services such as Documents for consideration of bills and motions

3.2 Study, research, analyze and collect academic information for such services on many subjects such as politics and public administration, international relations, economy, commerce, trade, industry, finance, agriculture and cooperatives, transportation and telecommunication, education, religion and culture, public health, labour and social welfare, technology and environment

3.3 Information briefing on bills and motions for members of parliament, government whip and opposition whip

3.4 Provide information and academic recommendations in response to the needs of members of parliament and internal official divisions of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives

3.5 Analyze, provide recommendations and academic services in order to enhance legislative work of members of parliament, standing committee, parliamentary officials and staff and person in line.

3.6 Provide academic documents translation services

3.7 Provide e-Knowledge services

4. Specific Academic Database Services

Academic Services Division 1, 2 and 3 have provided particular services for members of parliament by producing specific academic databases i.e. database on economics, politics and public administration, social, international relations, sciences and technology and environment, agriculture, transportation and public health.

5. Research Services

5.1 Provide research services with the subjects in need of members of parliament and the Secretariat of the House of Representatives to conduct research.

5.2 Provide services with information and information technology

5.3 Arrange academic seminars concerning the research projects.

5.4 Collect research results in order to be used for consideration of the members of parliament, standing committee and performances of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives.

5.5 Promote and enhance research projects and support researchers in order to develop economic, social and political academic work.

5.6 Coordinate with other research institutions including government organizations and non-government organizations.

6. Museum and Archives Services

6.1 Parliamentary Museum services

- collect, maintain, produce search registration and exhibit materials and other historical documents about Thai Politics and parliamentary democratic public administration such as Thai Written Constitution (Real Volume) since B.E. 2475 – present, Royal writings on the abdication of His Majesty the King Prajadhipok, Rama VII, Materials used in the Secretariat of the House of Representatives and the House proceedings in the past, including souvenirs and other materials provided by internal and foreign dignitaries
- provide presentation and guide for parliamentary museum

6.2 Parliamentary Archives Services

- Maintain and collect parliamentary archives which are historical documents including both written and audio-visual archives
- Reference Services and provide research for archives information under supervision of Museum and Archives Division, Bureau of Academic Services, the Secretariat of the House of Representatives.
- Provide service with archives under supervision of Museum and Archives Division, Bureau of Academic Services, the Secretariat of the House of Representatives.

National Assembly Library of Thailand and cooperation between Parliamentary Library of the ASEAN Community Countries

There are two activities supported by IPU which are the best samples in cooperation between Parliamentary Library of the ASEAN Community Countries, the Hluttaw Library of Myanmar and National Assembly Library of Thailand.

In cooperation with IPU project on the mission to support the Parliamentary Library, Research and Information Service, Myanmar, April 2013, Mr.Suwichag Nakwatcharachai, Secretary General, had approved two activities to support the mission. The first activity was the approval for the librarian of the National Assembly of Thailand, Ms.Sunida Boonyanon, to participate the mission at the Hluttaw Library of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw during 1 – 11 April, 2013, and the second one is the approval and being the host on the study visit of a delegation of Myanmar staff to the National Assembly Library of Thailand from 6 – 10 May, 2013.

First Activity : Participation of librarian of the National Assembly Library of Thailand on the mission at the Hluttaw Library of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw during 1 – 11 April, 2013

What had been done?

During 1 – 11 April, 2013, working with IPU Mission Team, Mrs. Moira Fraser, parliamentary library expert from NZ, Mrs. Mette Hansen, joined Project Manager and Ye Thura Aung, local expert to undertake an assignment focused on support to the Parliamentary Library, Research and Information Service of the Union Assembly of Myanmar, had done the activities in line with the mission as follows:

- Prepare and delivered a training workshop to develop collection management policy
- Identify donor material which would be useful and draft plan for how to acquire it
- Work with senior staff and library managers on service design, staff structure and draft job descriptions
- Prepare and deliver training on internet searching skill – all Library staff and committee staff
- Prepare and deliver training on Presentation of information – all Library staff and committee staff

What had been shared and learned?

- The structure, services and work of National Assembly Library of Thailand
- The E-Library services of the National Assembly Library
- Library Resources Management Policy and Collection Development Policy of the National Assembly Library
- How we can conduct and provide more conducive and effective services for the Members and Parliament



Resources Management Policy of the National Assembly Library of Thailand

One of the key functions of Library division, Bureau of Academic Services is to compose, distribute and develop information resources. In order to perform the said function efficiently, the Resources Management Policy has been specified as follows:

1. Key principles, common to all types of material are:

- The Library provides information resources in all fields to support and fulfill the legislative activities of the Members of the Parliament, Committees, officials and personnel.
- The Library regularly reviews these resources to ensure they reflect the Members of the Parliament, Committees, officials and personnel's changing needs.
- The Library regularly reviews these resources to ensure they continue to represent value for money.
- Recommendations for new resources are welcomed from the Member of Parliament and all users, although budgetary constraints means purchase cannot always be guaranteed.
- To be responsive to the needs of while the Member of Parliament and all users exercising an equitable and flexible approach which is fair to all

2. Library Resources

Library Resources are provided as follows:

1. Printed materials

1.1 Minutes of the Proceedings :

- Minutes of the House Proceedings
- Minutes of the Senate Proceedings
- Minutes of the Joint Proceedings
- Minutes of the Proceedings of the National Legislative Council
- Minutes of the Proceedings of the Advisory Council to the Prime Minister
- Minutes of the Proceedings of the Administrative Reform Council
- Minutes of the Proceedings of the Constitution Drafting Assembly

1.2 Royal Gazette

1.3 Government Publication

1.4 Newspaper

1.5 Journal / Periodical

1.6 General Academic Document, Reference, Research/Thesis and law

1.7 Crematory Book

2. Non-printed Materials

2.1 CD-Rom

2.2 Video

2.3 Cassette tape

2.4 Map

3. Collection Development Policy

3.1 Book

Book is considered by:

- 1) Content/ field

- Book in law, legislative and politic field is the first priority to be considered in order to support and fulfill the legislative activities of the Members of the Parliament, Committees and officials

- Book in others field is considered by the related field in the legislative activities of the Members of the Parliament, Committees and officials such as economic, finance or administration and management, as to the importance and user's need

- Must have the neutral content which will not cause conflict or misunderstanding

- Must not have the immoral or unlawful content

2) Date of publishing

- In the period of five years

- Although published in the period of five years but the fact or situation has changed, it will not be considered

3) Author

- Well known and acknowledged author will be considered as the first priority

- New author will be considered as well in order to provide the book with the different and various idea/vision of the different author

- In case of the new author, may be considered together with publisher because the well known publisher has the standard in filtration the author and the library will get the valuable book which is selected

4. Publisher

- Well known and acknowledged publisher, publisher of University, education institute, research institute or government will be considered as the first priority

- Publisher which published the publication that is accepted by the most of scholars and general readers

5. Amount of resources

- Subject which have large number of book existed, may not be considered or just a little except in case of losing or damaged

- Amount of book to be ordered should be in line with the budget. In general, it should be two copies and not more than five copies

6. User's need or interesting

- Though there are large number of book existed in the class but most users need and request, it is to be considered

- User's participation by requesting, especial the parliamentarian, must be the first priority to be considered

However, the policy can be changed to be in line with the budget and situation such as social change or political change. Most of all, the policy is specified to meet user's need.

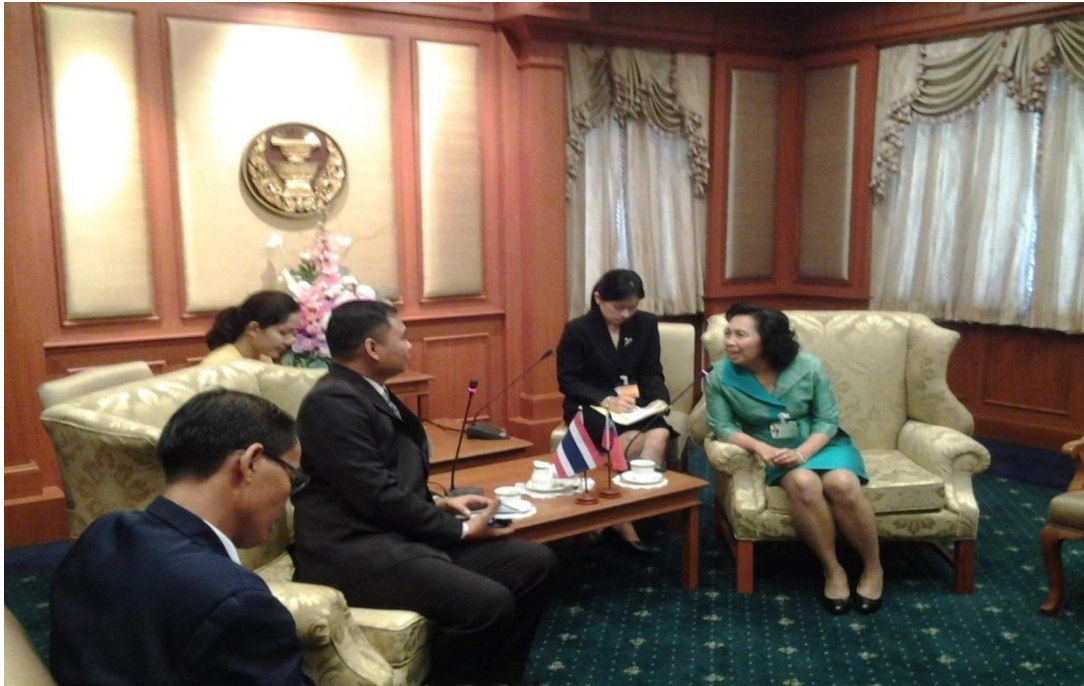
Second activity : The study visit of a delegation of Myanmar staff to the National Assembly Library of Thailand from 6 – 10 May, 2013.

The objective of the study visit, one activity which is supported by IPU, is to familiarise the delegation of the Union Assembly of Myanmar who are responsible for the development of the library services and other services, with the way other parliamentary libraries work. As to meet this objective, the National Assembly Library of Thailand had set the program that the delegation will benefit from visiting the National Assembly Library of Thailand.

What had been done?

A delegation of Myanmar staff had participated many activities during study visit the National Assembly Library of Thailand from 6 – 10 May, 2013 as follows:

1. Pay courtesy visit to Ms. Pannipa Sermsri, Deputy Secretary-General of the House of Representatives



2. Pay courtesy visit to Mr. Charae Panpruang, Deputy Secretary- General of the Secretariat of the House of Representatives



3. Parliament Tour and visit the Chamber



4. Briefing on the House of Representatives and the Secretariat of the House of Representatives

5. Briefing on the Bureau of Academic Services



6. Site visit Thai Parliamentary Archives and Museum and briefing on Archives and Museum Division, Bureau of Academic Services



7. Site visit Academic Services Division1, 2 and 3 , Bureau of Academic Services, and observe the staff's working

8. Site visit Research and Development Division, Bureau of Academic Services, and observe the staff's working



9. Site visit Library division, Bureau of Academic Services and observe the staff's working on structure and management, resources management and services

10. Site visit Information Technology Resources Development Division, Bureau of Academic Services, and observe the staff's working on e-library



11. Site visit the Senate Library



12. Site Visit National Archives





13. Site Visit Library and Archives of the Bank of Thailand







14. Visit Grand Palace and Wat Pra Kaew (Temple of the Emerald Buddha)



What had been shared and learned?

1. Learned how the National Assembly has organized the Library and Research services
2. Opportunity to understand how the National Assembly Library collects and provides information about pending issues and legislation in a comprehensive manner to facilitate the parliamentary work of the members of the National Assembly.
3. Shared more knowledge about the online digital library, which is open not only to the members but also to the public. Although the service provided to the Union Assembly is at present a Library service, it is planned to provide Research Services in the future, so the staff would also like to understand more about the work of the Academic Service.
4. Learned how the libraries and archives of the other organisation operate and conduct services
5. Learned more about the culture of each other to make good understanding and cooperating

Suggestion

1. Setting up the work plans and policies for the future
2. Firmly establish the goal of a long-term overall development plan
3. Reduce the gap on ICT (digital divide)
4. Find out the resolution on language barrier
5. Strengthen cooperation on services to support legislative work especially on resources, research and ICT
6. Take up development project to provide appropriate Library, Research and ICT training at global standard
7. Have a close cooperation with all parliamentary agencies and departments, other public sector state bodies, other libraries and expert foundations as well as international organisations, such as Inter-Parliamentary Union, International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA), and regional organizations, such as (The Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP).
8. Conduct more staff exchange programs between ASEAN Community countries and other regions

Conclusion

As the theme of the pre-conference of this year “Making better laws - the unique role of parliamentary library and research services”, the most important factor to reach the goal is the close cooperation between the parliamentary library. At present, cooperation between the libraries is not only the cooperating and collaborating on collection building and resource sharing but also the cooperating for access to world-wide information and global resource sharing. Cooperation between IPU, Hluttaw Library of Myanmar and National Assembly Library of Thailand is one of the good example. In entering the ASEAN community in 2015, the continuous development and cooperation of the National Parliamentary Library of member countries will definitely have contribution to the progress of human civilization in line with the blueprint of ASEAN Socio-cultural Community (ASCC), one of the three pillars ASEAN Community.

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