

News Letter

The 4th International Seminar for Parliamentary Research Services was held under the auspices of the National Assembly Research Services (NARS) at Members' Office Conference Hall from 9:40 am to 6:40 pm on November 1, 2013. NARS held the first such international seminar back in 2010 in order to share experience, explore future possibilities, and build cooperative networks with overseas parliamentary research services. This year's seminar was different both in its size and scope. Past seminars included participants mainly from Asian countries. However, over this short span of time NARS has expanded its network so as to invite delegates from around the world. Over 50 delegates from 17 different countries including the United States, Japan and Australia attended the seminar-the largest delegation to the seminar to date. NARS expects this event to serve as a bridge connecting research services from different horizons. Moreover, while previous seminars mainly addressed roles and functions of parliamentary research services, this year's event featured additional discussion on women's political participation. The seminar will provide a venue for reinforcing the basic approach toward fostering women's political participation-a frequently discussed topic among modern democracies.

The preparation and planning for the event has been intense so as to ensure its success. NARS hopes that this seminar will serve as an opportunity for research services to expand their networks for further cooperation.



Dr. Jalali, Head of the Islamic Parliament Research Center who led a delegation composed of two directors from the Office for cultural studies and International Dept. addressed the 2nd session on the roles and functions of the research services and briefed the audience on the activities of the Islamic Parliament Research Center. He pointed out to the important role of parliament overseeing and holding the executive to account on behalf of the people. “There is no doubt that in a parliamentary system with a democratic nature, representatives of the people need objective, factual and timely information in order to make informed decisions, He said.”

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Dr. Jalali, Head of the Islamic Parliament Research Center met with the Chairperson of Foreign Relations Committee of Korea National Assembly on the sidelines of the forth International Seminar for Parliamentary Research Services and stated:

Iran is interested to expand relations with all countries; a process that will be seriously pursued by the new government. Referring to the historical relations between the two countries, Jalali added Iran has special respect for the people of the Republic of Korea as a hardworking nation who can stand as a model for development in the region.

Parliaments play a leading role in facilitating relations and the parliamentary ties between the two countries must not be affected by the current growing relations, Jalali said. He further stated that big powers try to isolate Iran by imposing sanctions, while they ignore the geopolitical conditions of Iran as a country that cannot be isolated.

Member of the Parliament Standing Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy underlined that Iran's nuclear program should be dealt with under a legal framework free from political motivations. Jalali stressed that Iran has made full cooperation with IAEA to prove it has no deviation in its peaceful nuclear program & added that despite all such cooperation, western countries failed to comply with their commitments and fanned the air of mistrust.



Iran's proposal on the setting up of a concentrated network for parliamentary research services in Asia-Pacific region, Dr. Jalali said at the meeting with his counterpart.

Jalali made this remark on the occasion of the 4th international Research Services held at the initiative of the National Assembly Research Service (NARS) of the Republic of Korea. Efforts should be made to use the experiences of important parliamentary bodies like the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to gradually create a hub of research in Asia-Pacific region," Head of the Islamic Parliament Research Center stated. "Countries of this region should be able to share their experiences in the field of legislation with each other in a desirable manner, using this network", he added.



This picture shows *Dr. Jalali as Moderator*
Of the Closing Session of the 4th Int'l Seminar for Parliamentary Research Services in Seoul

As **Moderator** of this last session, I would like to draw your kind attention to the couples of points:
“Our seminar today and the presentations offered by you indicated the real importance of parliamentary research services.

In fact the applied researches conducted by us, help our parliaments to have a very clear picture towards issues facing them.” The 4th Int'l Seminar for Parliamentary Research Services hosted by the NARS placed greater emphasis on the

leading role of parliaments in continuing the course of their activities. I deemed it necessary to express my heartfelt thanks on behalf of you all and on my own behalf to the people of the R.K., especially to honorable Head of the NARS, Dr KOH Hyun-Wook and his colleagues. Since our arrival here in the beautiful country of the R.K., we have enjoyed the warm and sincere hospitality of our good Korean friends. Of course this was not the sole hospitality that surprised us, because people of the Republic of Korea are kind enough and hospitable. An especial feature of this session contrary to the past three sessions is that we have participants from many countries and from different regions. This means that our cooperation in the field of parliamentary research is taking more and more attention than before in parliaments world over. We hope that in our seminar next year we witness higher number of researchers and from countries in all continents and benefit from experiences of each other. I also deem it necessary to thank your fruitful contributions, and comments showed that there is a more successful future for this seminar. I would like to conclude my words to extend my sincere gratitude to NARS, honorable Dr. Wook and his colleagues.

Meeting with the Vice-Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea



Parliaments play a leading role in international arena as a vital sign of public diplomacy, remarked Jalali, Head of the Islamic Parliament Research Center at a meeting with Park, Byeong Seug, Vice-Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea in Seoul.

Jalali who was in Seoul at the invitation of his counterpart, Dr. KOH Hyun-Wook, Head of National Assembly Research Services (NARS) hailed the rapid pace of development of the Republic of Korea, calling this country a glaring example for the regional countries.

Head of the Islamic Parliament Research Center admired the existing trade balance between the two countries and said despite all efforts made by certain big powers to downgrade this balance, but the satisfactory trend of relations has continued. Experience has indicated that Iran is historically a country that cannot be isolated.

Jalali then briefed the Korean Vice Speaker on the efforts of the big powers to deprive Iran of its natural rights for

access to peaceful use of nuclear energy. He added western countries try to undermine Iran's peaceful nuclear program, despite Iran's compliance with all international instruments. Jalali also called on western countries to take advantage of the post-election atmosphere in the Islamic Republic of Iran and revise their unjust behavior hindering any headway in the process of negotiations.

He stated that it is clear that Iran is pursuing a peaceful nuclear program and we are ready reach an agreement for the settlement of our nuclear deal. Negotiation is the sole avenue leading us to resolve the issue, while resort to threat and intimidation is to no avail.

Jalali pointed out that current situation in Iran, the democratic way of administration and role of the people in Iran is totally different from certain other countries and expressed hope that the parliaments of Iran and the Republic of Korea can put an end to certain mindsets by strengthening bilateral relations.

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The parliamentary research bodies may differ from one country to another, but they all have a common function that is, to support, conduct research and provide information. They all strive to act as a think-thank center in performing their roles. Considering the importance of expertise supports in the effective function of parliaments, the Islamic Parliament of Iran since the first legislature sought expert advices of legislative pundits. So in late 1992, the Parliament Presiding Board decided to set up an independent center entitled "**Islamic Parliament Research Center**" and finally the center was established in 1995.



Dr.(Mrs) Irandokht Fayyaz, Director of the MRC's Office for Cultural Studies addressed on the Political Participation of Women and the challenges ahead. She underlined women's role in the social structure of the society, while she enumerated the socio-structural constraints facing them.

She then referred to the model of women's political participation in the Islamic Republic of Iran and said the Islamic Republic of Iran has developed a new concept of women political participation by paving the grounds for using women capacity in management. In this model, women political participation together with their obligation

Dr.Fayyaz pointed out to the need for greater attention to women's representation in parliament and their access to political positions and criticized models planned in certain countries, including the quota system which limits rights of people to elect or to be elected.

toward family and the children has also been realized. Dr. Fayyaz concluded by recommending all the participating countries to adopt mechanisms for enhancing women's efficiency in parliament. Dr. Fayyaz also found the opportunity to answer the questions raised by some female researchers.

