

KINGDOM of CAMBODIA
Nation Religion King

The Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia (BAKC)

Jurisdiction Report of the BAKC

I-Overview of the Member Organization

-Legal (Lawyer) profession is independent and liberal, assisting in the provision of justice. Legal profession can be functioned within a single framework of the BAKC, who is a gathering entity of all lawyers that operates their offices in the Kingdom of Cambodia. The BAKC is not under any political party nor any religious or any other organizations.

The BAKC is led by one President and currently thirty Bar Council Members. The BAKC President is elected for a two-year term with a possibility of being reelected for a last second term. Whereas; Bar Council Members are elected for a three-year term and can be reelected after the end of one direct consecutive term.

Since its initial operation on 16th October 1995 until now, the BAKC has elected, through Election Process of Yearly General Assembly, its Presidents for the number of 14 terms and, whereof 10 terms of its Bar Council Members. The BAKC is administratively served by a Secretariat, managed by 1 Secretary General and 1 Deputy Secretary General, with 6 serving Departments of total 11 separate Offices, 5 Specialized Commissions, with total 44 Staffs, where there are 7 Volunteered Staffs and 10 Advisors. The BAKC also has BAKC-Delegation Offices at capital city, provinces, at regional appeal courts, Phnom Penh appeal and at the high court, of total number of 30 BAKC-Delegation Offices, where there are 27 BAKC Delegates, assisted by 30 Secretaries and 30 Volunteers.

The Legal Profession Center for Education is a premise under the leadership of the BAKC, equipped with the roles of educating lawyer-students and of providing training courses for practicing lawyers.

-Right up to the 7th June 2022, the BAKC has total members (lawyers) 2600 persons, including 646 female lawyers. Amongst them, there are only 2115 (529 female lawyers) lawyers who are now practicing their legal profession. Nearly two third of them are young lawyers.

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I-Legal System

-The BAKC is a legal entity with juridical personality and capacity to sign contract and agreement with any institutions and legal profession organizations around the world. Created by a Law on Bar in 1995 as an independent and free organization of legal profession with self-reliance of both finance and leadership.

-Foreign lawyers can pursue their businesses in Cambodia as long as their countries concerned welcome the practicing lawyers who registered in BAKC Registration in Cambodia. However; lawyers at the Extraordinary Chamber of Cambodia Tribunal (Khmer Rouge Tribunals) are allowed to practice their legal profession within the Chambers in accordance with the rules and procedures set force in the related laws concerned approved and promulgated by the parliament and the King of Cambodia respectively.

-Any foreign lawyers may seek a cooperation with Cambodian lawyers and provide their legal service in accordance with Cambodian laws in force.

III-Regular Activities Conducted by the Organization

-Legal updated information, and workshops and legal sharing knowledge through broadcasting legal events on social media and TVs like a Three-Questions for Lawyers TV shows, Lawyer Forums where members of the BAKC come and meet and discuss how to promote the image and reputation of the legal profession in Cambodia.

-Volunteered lawyers conducted the researches or in the areas of their expertise come and share their knowledge and experiences about their law enforcement and their involvement in Cambodian society and community.

-Legal Aid for the poor and vulnerable, cooperation with the Courts, financial assistance from Ministry of Finance and Economy, technical support from Ministry of Justice, other Public Institutions, some NGOs and the UNICEF.

-Regular meeting of BAKC Council, handling issues related to legal professions such as the proper implementation of code of ethics, internal rules of BAKC and the well-fare of lawyers.

IV-Main Activities, Development and Challenges Faced

-We also provide an online legal consultation and inquiry.

-Judiciary reform is in progress and we share some views of newly legal texts adopted.

-Further engagement with support from the BAKC management like members' well-being, and financial assistance when in need like seriously fallen ill and the funerals of any members, and their close family relatives.

V-The Impact of Covid-19 on the BAKC and Related Activities

-BAKC members could mobilize themselves to meet and consult their clients in places. All procedures at courts resume their newly normal way of Covid-19 functions in compliance with their schedules, dates and times.

-We live in a newly normal way of Covid-19 with precaution and awareness of the attraction of the viruses and their newly emerged variants and we facilitate for our members to get Covid-19 vaccines and their booster shots.

-We resolve to promote and enhance our legal profession through a better cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Justice (Legal Aid/pro bono program, especially) and other relevant public institutions to enforce the legal procedures and provisions enshrined in laws, particularly our codes of criminal and criminal procedural.

-BAKC now conducts some reviews related to existing bar law, especially amending some provisions concerning to provisions related foreign lawyers in Cambodia.

*End of Report
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