

Abstract

The Problems of the Thai Legislatures

The problems of the Thai legislatures are inextricably linked with the nature of its political development. It is fair to say that the absence of consensus among the elites on appropriate rules of the game had prevented the possibility of institutionalization of a single regime type. Hence, three major regime types emerged - the democratic, the authoritarian, and the semi-democratic systems. Conditions and limitations on legislative powers vary according to the nature of each regime.

The study identifies three aspects of legislative problems namely the structural and institutional aspect, the legislative procedures and process, and the behavioral aspect. These problems are related to and are reflections of the nature of the political system. Since the legislative institution in Thailand usually lacks continuity, it has been difficult to institutionalize its role and functions. If the semi-democratic system is maintained, it is possible that the legislature will be able to perform its necessary functions and gradually develop its organizations. However, it is clear that this institution will still be kept out from participating in the succession of political leadership.