FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER 2006

PACIFIC MPs DISCUSS POLITICAL STABILITY

MPs from nine Pacific island countries, Australia, and New Zealand will meet in Samoa next week for the 8th Annual Pacific Parliamentary Dialogue, hosted by the Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) in the Crawford School of Economics and Government at The Australian National University.

Participating countries include Samoa, Cook Islands, Niue, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea. Representatives from the new Bougainville House of Representatives will take part for the first time in the event.

The MPs will look at ways of mediating between the concerns of constituents and the national interest, advancing the representation of women in Pacific parliaments, Samoan politics, and regional institutional structures.

The 2006 Dialogue is run in association with the Legislative Assembly of Samoa, the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), New Zealand's International Aid & Development Agency (NZAID) and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). It constitutes part of Australia's ongoing support for elected public officials, their staff and the formal institutions of political governance in the Pacific.

WHAT: 8th Annual Centre for Democratic Institutions Pacific Parliamentary Dialogue

WHEN: 11 – 13 December 2006 (These dates are Samoan time, which is 22 hours behind Australian EST)

WHERE: Aggie Grey's Resort, Samoa

For program information:

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