

STRIKING A BALANCE: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN MANAGING DEVELOPMENT

The 10th Annual Centre for Democratic Institutions
Pacific Parliamentary Dialogue

Port Vila | Vanuatu | 9 - 11 December 2008



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**The 10th Annual Centre for Democratic Institutions Pacific Parliamentary Dialogue
Le Lagon Resort, Port Vila, Vanuatu
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The 10th Annual Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) Pacific Parliamentary Dialogue in 2008 provides a forum for Members of Parliament from the Pacific Island Countries, Australia and New Zealand to discuss the role that parliamentarians can play in addressing political, economic, environmental and social development issues. Creating personal networks among parliamentarians, the Dialogue will explore the ways parliaments can and ought to have a critical role in scrutinising and contributing to the development agenda, resource allocation, and policymaking in their countries.

Conceived and supported by CDI, in association in 2008 with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, the annual CDI Pacific Parliamentary Dialogue constitutes part of Australia's ongoing support for elected public officials, their staff and the formal institutions of political governance in the Pacific. The Dialogue will thereby contribute to improving political governance in partner countries by exposing participants to new ideas and enabling them to engage with fellow political practitioners on issues relating the role of Parliament.

CDI is funded primarily by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).



Program

Day 1 | Tuesday 9 December 2008 | Le Lagon Resort Conference Centre

Opening

Chair: Mr Quinton Clements (Deputy Director, CDI)

Session	Topic/theme	Presenter(s)	Comments
08.45 – 09.00	Opening	Mr Clements	Administration – Introduce CDI team, outline structure of the conference, & opening prayer
09.00 – 09.05	Prayer		
09.05 – 09.25	Introduction – overview of CDI & the Pacific Parliamentary Dialogue	Prof. Benjamin Reilly (Director, CDI)	Welcome and outline of history of the Dialogue, expected benefits for individual MPs, their parliaments and the region
09.25 – 10.00	Keynote address	Hon. George Wells MP, Speaker of the National Parliament of Vanuatu	
10.00 – 10.15 Official Group Photograph			
10.15 – 10.45 Morning tea			
Parliamentary Politics in Vanuatu			
Chair: Mr Quinton Clements			
10.45 – 11.00	Introduction to the session		
11.00 – 11.25	Overview of 2008 national elections, outcomes & issues affecting Vanuatu	Mr Ati George Sokomanu (former Head of State), Professor Don Paterson (University of South Pacific), Mr Derek Brien (Pacific Institute of Public Policy) & Mr Godwin Ligo (FM 107)	
11.25 – 11.45	The 2008 National Elections	Mr Martin Tete, Principal Electoral Officer	



11.45 – 12.05	Leadership in Vanuatu	Mr Peter K Taurakoto, Ombudsman
12.05 – 12.30	Questions	Panel – Mr Sokomanu, Professor Paterson, Mr Brien, Mr Ligo, Mr Tete & Mr Taurakoto
12.30 – 13.30 Lunch		
Parliamentary Politics in Vanuatu continued Chair: Mr Quinton Clements		
13.30 – 13.35	Introduction to session	
13.35 – 13.55	Development issues, policies & trends from Government perspective	Hon Dominique Morin
13.55 – 14.15	Development issues, policies & trends from Opposition perspective	Hon Moana Carcasses Lalosil
15.00 – 15.30	Plenary review & roundtable discussion	
15.30 – 16.00 Afternoon Tea		16.00 – 18.30 Free time
18.00 – 19.30 Welcome Reception – hosted by the Centre for Democratic Institutions Le Lagon Resort		



Day 2 | Wednesday 10 December 2008 | Le Lagon Resort Conference Centre

Parliament, Politics and Development

Country Reports

Chair: Professor Ben Reilly

Time	Topic/Theme	Presenter(s)	Comments
09.00 – 09.10	Introduction		
09.10 – 09.30	Bougainville	Hon Thomas Lugabai	Politics and sustainable development in Bougainville
		Hon Magdalene Toroansi	
09.30 – 09.50	Solomon Islands	Hon Paterson Oti	The challenges of political & economic development in Solomon Islands
		Hon Laurie Chan	
09.50 – 10.10	Fiji	Mr Niko Nawaikula	An update on the current situation in Fiji
		Hon Adi Sivia Qoro	
10.10 – 10.30	Questions & discussion		
10.30 – 11.00 Morning tea			
11.00 – 11.20	Tonga	Hon Tu'iha'ateiho	Political reform & democracy in Tonga
11.20 – 11.40	Kiribati	Mr Rimeta Beniamina	Environmental challenges for a small island state
		Mr Tekiau Aretateta	



11.40 – 12.00	Samoa	Mr MOEFAAUO Lufilufi	Resource management, land use change and climate change issues
		Mr TAUA Faraimo	
12.00 -12.30	Questions & discussion		
12.30 – 13.30 Lunch			
13.30 – 13.50	Papua New Guinea	Hon Peter Iwei	Promoting regional/provincial development in Papua New Guinea
		Hon Boka Kondra	
13.50 – 14.20	Australia	Hon Robyn Parker	Federal-State relations and development in Australia
		Hon Grant McBride	
14.20 – 14.30		Hon John Pandazopoulos	The role & work of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
14.30 – 14.40	New Zealand	H.E. Jeff Langley, High Commissioner to Vanuatu	Recent political developments in New Zealand
14.40 – 15.00	Overview & Responses to the day’s discussions		
15.00 – 15.30 Afternoon tea			



Day 3 | Thursday 11 December 2008 | Le Lagon Resort Conference Centre

Parliament, Democracy and Development

Concurrent Discussion Groups:

Chair: Mr Quinton Clements

09.00 – 09.40	Panel discussion - Leadership, Corruption & Accountability		Ms Marie-Noelle Ferrieux-Patterson (former Ombudsman, Vanuatu), Ms Francesca Semosa (Acting Speaker, Bougainville House of Representatives) & Ms Ruth Liloquala (Solomon Islands)
09.40 – 09.45	Introduction to session		
09.45 – 10.15	Participants form into groups to consider a thematic area & report back to the plenary. Each group will have a facilitator and choose a rapporteur.		
	Concurrent Discussion Groups: The relationship between Parliament & different aspects of development	Group A. Parliamentarians and capacity development	Capacity constraints affect all Pacific parliaments. How can the capacity of parliamentarians to respond to developmental challenges be strengthened? What are the key capacity-building issues facing both parliaments and parliamentarians, and how can parliaments support better outcomes?
		Group B. The challenges of political development	What are the barriers to deepening and consolidating parliamentary democracy in each country? How is the chronic under-representation of women and marginalised groups in Pacific Parliaments being addressed? What reforms have been adopted, and how have civil society and other actors influenced these processes?
		Group C. Promoting sustainable development	All Pacific countries face serious environmental challenges, including the challenge of managing both in their land-based and maritime resources. What are the core challenges for sustainable development in each country, and how do parliamentarians strike a balance between environmental protection and economic development?
		Group D. Economic development and parliament	Pacific countries face ongoing problems of under-development, particularly in areas such as infrastructure, service delivery and rural poverty. Can parliamentarians surmount these problems and deliver economic development? How do parliaments influence the way resources are distributed through the budget process and the provision of key services?



10.15 – 10.45 Morning tea		
10.45 – 11.30	Continuation of Group discussions	
11.30 – 12.00	Brief Reports from Discussion Groups	Chairs to report
12.00 – 13.00	Plenary review & roundtable discussion	Summary from the Chair followed by roundtable discussion
13.00 – 14.00 Lunch		
Free Time		
18.30 – 21.30 Farewell Dinner – hosted by the Centre for Democratic Institutions Guest of Honour: Hon. Edward Natapei, Prime Minister, Republic of Vanuatu		



About the Centre for Democratic Institutions

The Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) was established by the Australian government in 1998 to support the efforts of new democracies in the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen their political systems. Our core budget is provided by AusAID, Australia's Agency for International Development, and we are located at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra.

All of CDI's projects are aimed at improving political governance and political practice in partner countries via intensive training programs on issues of parliamentary practice and leadership, the operation of political parties, democratic institutional design, constituency representation, and other themes and issues relating directly to improving the effectiveness and quality of the work of national parliaments, parties, and of parliamentarians themselves.

In order to do this, we conduct training courses, provide direct technical assistance and undertake applied research on our core areas of parliamentary and political party development. All of this is aimed squarely at emerging leaders in our focus countries -- Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

For more information on all aspects of CDI's work, visit our website at www.cdi.anu.edu.au or contact us by post, email, phone, or fax:

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