CDI Director Roland Rich delivered three papers in July. On 2 July he addressed the Australian Institute of International Affairs in Canberra on the subject of ‘The Consolidation of Democracy in Asia’. The main themes of the paper were that Asia will be the laboratory for democracy in the twenty-first century and that there were no grounds for triumphalism about the inevitability of the success of democracy in the region. On 3 July he addressed the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs in Wellington on the subject ‘The Quality of Democracy in the Pacific’, which compared democratic governance in the Pacific with other regions. On 5 July, Roland Rich participated in a panel discussion at the Annual Conference of the Australia New Zealand Society of International Law in the session dealing with International Governance and the Security Council. His paper dealt with ‘The Crafting of UN Security Council Resolutions’ drawing on a chapter in a forthcoming publication on the United Nations role in Democratisation.

The presentation to the AIIA drew on a chapter by Roland Rich entitled ‘Democracy in the Balance’ in Julian Weiss’ *Tigers’ Roar - Asia’s Recovery and its Impact* (ME Sharpe New York 2001). The presentation argued that Asia will be the laboratory for democracy in the twenty-first century. It will be in Asia that the big questions about the universality of democracy will be answered. And it will be in Asia that the proposition that democratic governance can lift both living standards and promote human rights will be best tested. The diversity of countries, cultures and systems of government in Asia, the variety of colonial and political influences, and the economic success of many of the countries of Asia add up to a unique set of circumstances in which to test whether multi-party democracy can embed itself in both rhetoric and reality of the accepted form of governance. Extracts from Roland Rich’s chapter ‘Democracy in the Balance’ can be found on the CDI website at: http://www.cdi.anu.edu.au/asia_pacific/asia_downloads/Asia-PDemo_speech_Aug02.pdf

In Wellington, Roland Rich had the privilege of addressing the New Zealand Institute for International Affairs. He drew on his paper ‘The Quality of Democracy in the Pacific’. The paper noted that in comparison with other regions of the world, the Pacific has shown some positive trends in relation to democratic development. A whole generation has grown up knowing no other system of government. Participation rates in elections are significantly higher than the global average. And, significantly, the Pacific has been able to change leaders peacefully and not rely on dominant leadership from the politicians
emerging at the time of independence. But there are deep problems in relation to rule of law in the Solomon Islands, coups in Fiji and shambolic elections in Papua New Guinea. The underlying problem is a continuing tension between the universal values of democracy and some aspects of local tradition and custom. This paper can be found on the CDI website at:


The ANZSIL Annual Conference brings together the international law fraternity from Australia and New Zealand and this year, was hosted by the Centre for Public Law at Victoria University Wellington. The panel on International Governance and the Security Council comprised Alex Conte speaking on “Bush v Iraq: A critical analysis of the Iraq conflict”, Di Otto on “UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000): Challenging the Gender Narratives of War or Acquiescing to Them?” and Roland Rich on “The Crafting of UN Security Council Resolutions”. The session was chaired by Colin Keating, a former NZ Ambassador to the United Nations during New Zealand's last term on the Council. Roland Rich's paper drew on a research project being conducted by CDI and the United Nations University concerning the UN role in democratization. The paper asked the question whether the crafting of Security Council resolutions is an ad hoc process or whether there is a growing jurisprudence in terms of the terminology used, the structure of mandates and the clarity of instructions. The paper adduces arguments and evidence in support of the latter view. The background to the UNU research project on the UN role in democratization can be found on the website at: