Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to CDI.NEWS from the Centre for Democratic Institutions, Australia.

CDI is Australia’s foremost democracy promotion and training institution, working in the area of good governance (particularly parliaments, judiciaries, civil society and media) with a geographic focus on Southeast Asia and the Southwest Pacific.

CDI’s mission:
- To harness Australian and international best practice in support of developing countries’ needs for democratic governance.

CDI aims to provide:
- high quality training programs in key democratic institutions and processes
- in-country technical assistance
- applied research

CDI’s core budget is provided by AusAID, Australia’s Agency for International Development.

CDI.NEWS will keep you informed periodically of activities and upcoming events at CDI.

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1. EAST TIMOR PARLIAMENTARIANS STUDY ACCOUNTABILITY

CDI, in association with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), conducted a program from 3-7 November that brought to Australia six committee members of the Timor Leste National Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and National Security. The program aimed to develop an understanding of accountability processes, the Australian parliamentary system and, in particular the roles and functions of Committees. The program included meeting with the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade, the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian East Timor Friendship Parliamentary Group. The program also included an information session on Senate Estimates and a viewing of
Senate Estimates, viewing question time in the House of Representatives and an information session with the Department of the Parliamentary Library on the research and information facilities available to parliamentarians.

2. **INDONESIAN DPR DELEGATION VISITS THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL PARLIAMENT**

   As part of CDI's Indonesia-Australia Parliamentary Cooperation Program, CDI conducted a study tour that brought to Australia six senior parliamentary staff from the Indonesian DPR. The study tour was held in Parliament House and took place from 8-17 October. A program was developed by the Australian Parliament in association with CDI that aimed to provide the DPR with examples of options to improve the functioning of the institution. The focus was on the role and functions of the departments within Parliament House, in particular the support services and facilities available to parliamentarians. The delegation attended information sessions with representatives from the various departments within Parliament as well as attending question time in the House of Representatives.

3. **CDI/AVI VOLUNTEER REPORTS ON PLACEMENT IN THE INDONESIAN PARLIAMENT**

   In April/May 2002 an official delegation from the Australian parliament, headed by Mr. Ian Harris, Clerk of the House of Representatives, visited the Indonesian parliament (DPR). Following this visit, the DPR requested assistance in the form of English language teaching and translation. CDI approached Australian Volunteers International (AVI) and a program to co-fund a two year placement of a volunteer within the DPR was established. Ms. Halina Nowicka began her placement in February 2003 to the position of ‘Language and Research Consultant’. Ms. Nowicka contributes to the work of the secretariat by teaching English, editing English language documents and assisting with English language research. A report on her placement is attached.

4. **SUVA CONFERENCE ON GOVERNANCE IN PACIFIC STATES**

   The Foundation for Development Cooperation together with the University of the South Pacific and the Australian National University organised a conference in Suva on 30 October to 2 November, focusing on governance issues in the Pacific. Mrs Chris Gallus, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Chair of the CDI Consultative Council gave the opening address. CDI organised a session of the conference focusing on Governance and Democracy. Two Fijian MPs spoke at the session. Ofa Swann examined the accountability issues and the slow pace of putting in place a code of ethics for parliamentarians. Krishna Datt examined the problems flowing from the 1997 Constitution. Roland Rich examined the issues of participation and deliberation in Pacific polities. Another of CDI's colleagues, Peter Aitsi of the PNG Media Council presented a paper tracing the history of attempts by the PNG authorities to regulate the media.
5. MEDIA COUNCIL OF PNG AND MEDIA ASSOCIATION OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS LAUNCH WEBSITE

CDI congratulates the Media Council of Papua New Guinea (MCPNG) and the Media Association of the Solomon Islands (MASI) on the launch of their joint website. The launch took place on 16 October 2003 and is the first web presence for both media groups. The website was developed for the MCPNG and MASI by the Creative Industry Faculty at the Queensland University of Technology in support of MCPNG and MASI’s journalism training, information sharing and anti-corruption campaigns.

MCPNG MASI website
CDI Media workshop with MCPNG
CDI Media workshop with MASI

6. PNG PARLIAMENTARIANS AT ANU FOR DIALOGUE

Six Papua New Guinean MPs visited the ANU on 15 October to participate in a Dialogue on contemporary issues in PNG and Australia. It proved to be a valuable and productive exercise. The Parliamentarians were in Australia at the invitation of the SSGM program at the ANU. Roland Rich was invited to participate in the dialogue. A brief report is attached. A fuller report of the dialogue is on the SSGM website.

Report page
SSGM Program

7. SOLOMON ISLANDS RADIO WORKSHOP

Following the success of the media workshop in the Solomon Islands conducted by the Media Council of PNG (MCPNG) in June 2003, the Media Association of the Solomon Islands (MASI) requested that a workshop be conducted for radio practitioners. The workshop was conducted by the MCPNG in association with MASI practitioners and took place in Honiara from 15-20 November. The workshop stressed the importance of community radio as a means of promoting good governance, transparency and accountability. The program included training in creative radio programming techniques, strengthening news and current affairs coverage and reviewing the current format of community radio and methods for improvement. A report of the workshop will be available soon on the CDI website.

MCPNG MASI website

8. SOLOMON ISLANDS OMBUDSMAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP

From 12–14 November, the Ombudsman’s Office in the Solomon Islands conducted a workshop entitled ‘Good Governance and Public Accountability’. 
This was held for practitioners from government ministries and statutory authorities in the Western and Choiseul Provinces and took place in Honiara. Issues of good governance, transparency and accountability were examined with reference to related Government Acts, Regulations and Statutes. The workshop reviewed key issues and practical problems faced by participants in their roles and examined possible solutions. The Ombudsman, John Smith Pitabelama, has told us the workshop went very well. A report will be available soon on the CDI website.

**MCPNG MASI website**

9. **JOHN HOWARD CONGRATULATES NED**

The National Endowment for Democracy commemorated its 20th anniversary on 6 November 2003 with a program that included remarks by the chairman and president of the NED and by Democratic and Republican members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. President George W. Bush delivered the keynote address at the NED event. The president devoted a major portion of his address to discussing the prospects for democracy in the Middle East, and the role of existing democracies in helping to spread democracy in the Middle East and elsewhere. The speech is attached. A message of congratulations was sent to the NED from Prime Minister Howard in which he refers to the work of CDI. The text is attached. Also attached is the program for the event.

**Report page**

**NED**

10. **CDI ANNUAL ADDRESSES NOW AVAILABLE ON VIDEO**

Video recordings of past CDI Annual Addresses are now available for viewing on the CDI website. The video footage can be accessed through Real Media. Annual Addresses available on the website are:

- 'Islam and Democracy' by Dr Surin Pitsuwan, Former Foreign Minister for Thailand
- 'Democracy in Thailand' by The Hon. Anand Panyarachun, Former Prime Minister of Thailand
- 'Prospects for Democracy in Russia' by Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, Last President of the Soviet Union (USSR)
- 'Democracy and the East Asian Crisis' by The Hon. Fidel Ramos, Former President of the Philippines

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**11. CDI FIFTH PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY RETREAT, DARWIN**

CDI's Fifth Pacific Parliamentary Retreat is being held in Darwin in association with the Northern Territory Parliament from 24-28 November. The aim of the CDI Retreat is to bring parliamentarians from around Pacific together to share their experiences, discuss issues of common interest and concern as well as experience the Australian system of governance. This year, the focus of the Retreat is on ‘Parliament and Land Management’. Mr. Greg Urwin, Secretary-General designate of the South Pacific Forum, will act as the resource person. The program includes presentations on topics such as legislation and policy processes, good governance, tourism and indigenous rights, accountability, and the management of cultural heritage. A report and photos will be available soon on the CDI website.
12. APJEF WORKSHOP IN SYDNEY IN JANUARY

The Asia Pacific Judicial Educators Forum will hold a workshop in Sydney from 28 January-3 February 2004. The workshop will focus on 'Designing Effective Judicial Education Programs' and will be conducted by senior facilitators led by Professor Neil Gold, Professor of Law, University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. The workshop is an initiative of CDI and the NSW Judicial Commission. Countries invited include Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines, PNG, Thailand, Vietnam and the Pacific Judicial Education Programme.

**Book Review**

13. 'DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND THE USE OF FORCE IN INTERNATIONAL LAW'

This book written by Charlotte Ku and Harold Jacobson explores the rules of accountability in international law at the international level, both in terms of state responsibility and individual soldiers’ duties. In conclusion, the authors claim the emergence of a mixed system of accountability that draws on factors such as the development of international criminal law, the frequent modern use of Chapter VII of the Charter and the development of more sophisticated domestic rules in some countries for the authorisation of the use of force. A review of this book by Roland Rich for the Australian Journal of International Affairs is attached.

**Featured Web Articles**

14. THE INDONESIAN ELECTIONS – A GUIDE

2004 will be an important year in Indonesia with elections for parliament as well as direct Presidential elections. Not only will Indonesia be testing its democratic system, it will be doing so under significantly altered rules and structures. This newsletter’s featured web article is in the form of two guides to the amendments produced by the National Democratic Institute’s Jakarta office. The first guide sets out the new law for direct election of the President and the Vice-President which features a run-off election if no candidate receives a majority of the vote in the first round. One of the interesting features of the law concerns the threshold for candidates in the first round being based on the results of the parliamentary elections in April 2004. Changes to the structure of parliament is the subject of the second guide. This includes a change in the character of the MPR and the establishment of a new chamber, the DPD, representing the provinces.

All suggestions and comments are welcome cdi@anu.edu.au

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