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, media and political parties) 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.

1. AusAID and ANU Sign Contract to Continue Funding CDI

On 29 October AusAID signed a new contract with ANU to continue to fund CDI's democracy promotion work in the region. The contract follows ANU's success in a competitive tender process conducted by AusAID in which...
several universities put in bids. The result is most gratifying as an expression of confidence in the ANU and in the team delivering CDI's scholarly and training work. The new contract places emphasis on institution strengthening work for parliaments and political parties and focuses the work particularly on Indonesia, Melanesia and East Timor. As part of ANU's bid, a decision was made to increase the staff of CDI by establishing the position of Deputy Director specialising in Melanesian democracy. The position has now been advertised for commencement early in the new year.

ANU
AusAID
Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies
Research School of Social Sciences

2. PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY RETREAT – WELLINGTON

From 15-19 November, CDI held its sixth Pacific Parliamentary Retreat at Parliament House, Wellington. Participants came from Fiji, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and for the first time, with the assistance of NZAID, the Cook Islands, Niue and Tonga also participated. The participants were able to study the impact of a new electoral system on the NZ parliament and to see how the quality of New Zealand's democracy had been enhanced by accommodating diversity. They were able to analyse issues concerning parliamentary practices, constituency politics and anti party hopping rules that may also be applicable in their countries.

Report page

3. VIETNAM PROCURACY DELEGATION VISITS NEW ZEALAND

As part of the project sponsored by the Danish aid agency (Danida) and organised by CDI, the Vietnamese delegation from the Supreme People's Procuracy led by the Deputy General Procurator, Dr Khuat Van Nga, visited Wellington and Auckland to observe adversarial aspects of the New Zealand criminal justice system. The delegation met a number of senior figures in the New Zealand law fraternity including Supreme Court Justice Sir Kenneth Keith and District Court Judge Patrick Grace. The delegation also observed a jury trial and discussed various issues such as legal aid, children's courts, restorative justice and the work of the Law Society. The delegation was accompanied by Mr David Smith of Stephens Lawyers. Prior to the New Zealand component of the program the delegation visited Melbourne and Sydney from 19-25 September to examine the work of prosecutors and defence lawyers. Both the Australia and New Zealand reports are listed below.

Report page Wellington & Auckland, New Zealand
Report page Melbourne & Sydney, Australia

4. SOLOMON ISLANDS GOOD GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY WORKSHOP

As part of CDI’s continuing program with the Office of the Ombudsman in the Solomon Islands, CDI supported the fourth workshop conducted by the Ombudsman on Good Governance and Public Accountability from 2 - 4 September 2004. The workshop took place in the Makira and Ulawa Provinces with 38 participants including public servants and politicians. The workshop was well supported by resource personnel from various Ministries, Government Departments and RAMSI officials. The workshop was opened by the Premier of the Makira/Ulawa Province, the Hon. Stephen Piringisau and was again conducted by Mr John Smith Pitabelama, Ombudsman of the Solomon Islands. The focus of the workshop continued the theme of previous workshops - to develop public service knowledge and awareness of the relevant regulations and legislation that directly effect fair conduct in the workplace.

Report page
5. **OMBUDSMAN POLICY, PRACTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY – ANU**

CDI supported participants from Fiji and Solomon Islands to attend the ANU course on Ombudsman Policy, Practice and Accountability held from 5-29 October. The course examined the principles of an Ombudsman Institution by examining the work of both the Government and Private Ombudsman, how the official complaint process operates and the methods used in the dispute resolution procedure. The course was officially opened by Professor Andrew MacIntyre, Head of the Asia Pacific School of Economics and Government at ANU and was delivered and facilitated by CDI Associate, Mr John Wood.

Report page

6. **CAMBODIAN JUDICIAL INTERNS**

Ms Khiev Sokha and Mr Meas Chanpyseth completed their two-month internships at the ACT Magistrates Court on 29 October and embarked on the ANU Anti-Corruption Course on 1 November. They have now returned to Phnom Penh where they will report back to the Cambodian Royal School for Judges and Prosecutors (RSJP). Both Sokha and Pyseth wrote reports based on their internships comparing the legal systems of Australia and Cambodia and assessing the applicability of what they had observed in Canberra to their home situations.

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7. **CORRUPTION AND ANTI-CORRUPTION COURSE – ANU**

CDI supported six participants to participate in the Asia Pacific School of Economics and Government, ANU course held from 1 - 19 November - two from Cambodia, one from Fiji and three from the Solomon Islands. The course has a strong practical focus and is run in association with the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) of NSW. Participants completed a workplace project identifying an actual or potential corruption problem within their organisation along with providing an analysis of the problem and the corruption risks and strategies to resolve the problem.

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8. **PAPUA NEW GUINEA–VIDEO - NOT AN EASY ROAD**

CDI worked with the Asian South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education (ASBBAE) to produce a video of the experience of PNG Women Candidates running for Parliament. The video entitled 'Not An Easy Road - PNG Women’s Experience in Running for National Parliament', was filmed and produced by Robyn Slarke, with editorial support from Bernie Lovegrove, Program Manager, ASBBAE. Through a series of interviews the video depicts the experiences and obstacles faced by six women running for national parliament, including harassment, threats of violence and corruption. Robyn took substantial personal risk in recording the footage of the 2002 elections and subsequent by-elections which graphically shows the intimidation and the corruption of mass marking of ballot boxes in full public view. The pidgin version of the video will be used as a training tool in the ASBBAE Education for Active Citizenship and Good Governance Program. Extracts from the English version will soon be available for viewing on the CDI website.

ASBBAE

9. **CDI EXECUTIVE OFFICER VACANCY**

The CDI Executive Officer position will become vacant at the end of December and applications are being sought to fill the position for a two-year
fixed term. The role of the Executive Officer is to organise and manage courses and study tours, liaise with Australian and regional government officials, oversee the preparation of newsletters and reports, and undertake research on questions related to democracy and development. The successful applicant will have strong administrative skills, well-developed communication and research skills, an ability to work with minimal supervision, keyboard and web skills, and a willingness to travel overseas as required. A degree in a relevant discipline is required and experience in areas such as adult education, project management or international aid work is an advantage. The application process closes on 10 December.

Executive Officer Selection Criteria
How to apply information for applicants
ANU Human Resources

**Forthcoming Events**

10. **SOLOMON ISLANDS - INTEGRITY WORKSHOP**
CDI is pleased to be able to respond to a request from the Leadership Code Commission to support a workshop on Corruption Prevention and Maintaining Integrity in the Public Sector. Thirty senior public servants are expected to attend the December workshop. The Leadership Code Commission is the Solomon Islands prime integrity and accountability institution concerned with addressing corruption by educating senior public servants on how to deal with corruption in the various government departments and agencies. The report will be referenced in the January newsletter.

11. **PAPUA NEW GUINEA MEDIA COUNCIL WORKSHOP**
The Media Council of Papua New Guinea requested CDI to run another workshop for PNG journalists. The workshop will be facilitated by Mr John Wallace, Program Director of the Asia Pacific Journalism Centre, Melbourne and Dr Steve Tanner from the School of Media, Communication and Culture at Murdoch University, along with a little help from local journalists and speakers. The Investigative Reporting Workshop is for 20 participants - from Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands and is to be held just outside Port Moresby at the Loloata Resort, from Monday 29 November to Friday 4 December. The workshop complements previous training conducted for PNG journalists. The report will be referenced in the January newsletter.

12. **SOLOMON ISLANDS - OMBUDSMAN WORKSHOP**
The Office of the Ombudsman in the Solomon Islands will deliver the last of its workshops for 2004 on Good Governance and Public Accountability. The workshop is supported by CDI and will be delivered to the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development and facilitated by John Smith Pitabelama, the Ombudsman. The workshop will aim to develop public service knowledge and awareness of the relevant regulations and legislation that direct effective and fair conduct in the workplace. The report will be referenced in the January newsletter.

**Featured Articles**

13. **DEMOCRACY IN INDONESIA**
With the successful conduct of parliamentary and presidential elections in Indonesia, CDI News features two interesting articles on this subject:

i) PostScript: Monthly Political and Economic Analysis, Vol. I No.7,
November 2004 features *the House Divided* a discussion about the difficult problems of partnerships being forced by the newly elected Parliament in Indonesia. The November edition describes the stalemate between the two major groups in the parliament.

**Featured articles page**

**THE HOUSE DIVIDED: The Conflict between the National & People's Coalition in the Parliament**

ii) IDEA (International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance) has published a paper by Andrew Ellis, Head of Electoral Processes, International Idea entitled *After a Complete Redesign of the State, Democracy Building for the Long Term* presented at a Seminar in October 2004 at Stokholm University. The paper notes the significance of political change for Indonesia and talks about the importance of institutional design issues.

**Featured articles page**

'Democracy in Indonesia: Hopes Challenges & Obstacles' - Andrew Ellis (IDEA)

**14. POLITICAL PARTY ASSISTANCE**

Given CDIs new focus on political parties, the other featured article is a paper prepared by the Conflict Research Unit (CRU) of the Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael' in November. The paper highlights a number of critical issues in the relatively new field of international political party assistance. Apart from giving an overview of actors involved and their objectives, the author, Krishna Kumar outlines the main foci of political party assistance programs and identifies a number of their strengths and weaknesses. The paper concludes by drawing attention to some key problem areas, including the issue of ownership, technical expertise, time horizon, inclusiveness or selectivity, partisanship, balance between political and civil society and the relevance of current assistance models.

**Featured articles page**

International Political Party Assistance- Krishna Kumar

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

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