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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- Democratic Peace Theory- what relevance to East Asia?
- Great debates, roundtables, brainstorms, lectures and courses

Forthcoming Events

Featured Web Article
1. **CDI’S NEWLY APPOINTED CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL**

CDI is pleased to announce the recent appointment of its new Consultative Council. The inaugural meeting of the council was held at Parliament House on 17 September 2003. CDI’s Council members are appointed by Cabinet. The role of the Consultative Council is to provide guidance and advice on the development of CDI’s policy and strategic direction. The CDI Consultative Council members are:

- The Hon Chris Gallus MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Chair)
- Mr Andy Becker, Australian Electoral Commissioner
- Mr Lynton Crosby, Joint Managing Director, Crosby Textor Research Strategies Results
- Mr Andrew Hall, Federal Director, National Party of Australia
- Mr Gary Gray, AO, Principle Strategic Adviser, Woodside Petroleum
- Mr Brian Loughnane, Federal Director, Liberal Party of Australia
- Professor Ian McAllister, Director, Research School of Social Sciences, Australian National University
- Ms Annmaree O’Keeffe, Deputy Director General, Pacific, Contracts and Corporate Policy, AusAID (ex officio)
- Mr Kevin Rudd MP, Federal Member for Griffith, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs
- Dr Andrew Southcott MP, Federal Member for Boothby, South Australia
- The Rt Hon Sir Ninian Stephen, KG, AK, GCMG, GCVO, KBE, Former Governor General
- Mr Geoff Walsh, Former Federal Director, Australian Labor Party

CDI Consultative Council

2. **PNG INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING AND PERSONAL SKILLS MEDIA WORKSHOP**

At the request of the Media Council of PNG (MCPNG), the Asia Pacific Journalism Centre (APJC), supported by CDI, designed and delivered two workshops for media practitioners in Port Moresby and Madang. The workshops focused on strengthening the skills of PNG journalists in attacking corruption and promoting good governance in their country. These workshops combined training in assertiveness and other personal communication skills with the techniques of investigative reporting. This initiative compliments three other PNG governance related media workshops supported by CDI. The training team comprised John Wallace, Program Director of APJC, Dr Steve Tanner of the School of Media, Communication and Culture at Murdoch University and Robyn Wallace, an educational management consultant specialising in affirmative action and mentoring programs.

3. **SOLOMON ISLANDS NGO LEADERS STUDY TOUR TO AUSTRALIA**

As part of an ongoing program in the Solomon Islands developing the skills associated with NGO leadership and management, CDI in association with
the Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA) hosted four Solomon Islands NGO leaders for a study tour in Canberra. The delegation of Mr. Cherry Galo, Ms. Rose Wale, Ms. Verna-Liz Paia and Mr. Abraham Baeanisia was accompanied by Emele Duituturaga, a Pacific Development Specialist and Joan Staples, an International trainer associated with ACFOA. During their stay in Canberra, the NGO leaders undertook training at ACFOA, met with members from the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, AusAID, Senator Bob Brown and Australian NGO practitioners. The delegation attended a seminar hosted by the Department of the Parliamentary Library on the intervention in the Solomon Islands, participated in ACFOA's forum on Pacific policy, aid and development and attended ACFOA's annual Council. CDI hosted a seminar at the ANU where the delegation spoke on the topic 'The role of civil society in the Pacific, in particular the Solomon Islands'.

4. PACIFIC OMBUDSMEN ATTENDANCE AT CORRUPTION AND ANTI-CORRUPTION COURSE

From 25 August to 12 September, the National Centre for Development Studies at the Australian National University conducted a 'Corruption and Anti-Corruption' course. The course was conducted in partnership with the New South Wales Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) with support from CDI. Different types of corruption were explored and practical strategies for investigation and prevention were developed. The course aimed to develop an understanding of the relationship between corruption, liberalisation and good governance. CDI supported the attendance of six officers from ombudsmen offices in Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

5. WORKSHOP FOR CHINA FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENT

On 29 August CDI hosted a visiting delegation from the China Foundation for Human Rights Development, an organisation linked to the government and charged with promoting human rights in China. The delegation was particularly interested in the role of civil society. Roland Rich made a presentation based on Robert Putnam's work on social capital and Felicity Pascoe explained how Australian NGOs conduct their advocacy work with particular reference to the work of ACFOA. The delegation described the situation in China where tens of thousands of NGOs had been formed in recent years. There was considerable discussion as to the government role in relation to civil society with both sides agreeing that if the NGO did not wish to receive any government support or tax deductibility, then the government should maintain a hands-off approach.
6. KAREN FOGG’S PUBLIC LECTURE ‘PAYING FOR POLITICAL PARTIES - CHOICES FOR DEMOCRATS’

CDI together with the National Institute for Social Sciences and Law and the Australian Senate hosted a public lecture delivered by Karen Fogg, Secretary General of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA). The lecture entitled ‘Paying for Political Parties: choices for Democrats’, was held at Parliament House on Tuesday 12 August as part of the Senate Occasional Lectures Series. Ms. Fogg argued that political parties are often neglected as important institutions of a functioning democracy. Drawing on the work undertaken by International IDEA, Ms. Fogg reflected on policy options available to party financing and the motivations behind regulation.

7. DEMOCRATIC PEACE THEORY- WHAT RELEVANCE TO EAST ASIA?

Roland Rich is a member of Aus-CSCAP (the Australian committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific) which held its biannual meeting on 13-14 August 2003. CSCAP is organised for the purpose of providing a structured process for regional confidence building and security cooperation among countries and territories in the Asia Pacific region. On 13 August, Roland Rich delivered a paper on the relevance of democratic peace theory to East Asia. A summary of the paper will appear in the November CSCAP newsletter, the text is attached.

8. GREAT DEBATES, ROUNDTABLES, BRAINSTORMS, LECTURES AND COURSES

Aside from delivering CDI’s training and research programs, CDI staff participate in the intellectual life of the university and in AusAID’s considerations of issues. September was a busy month. On 17 September, Fenner Hall, a residential hall of the ANU, held ‘The Great Debate’ where politicians took on the lawyers on the topic That International Politics has Vision, while International Law lacks Reality. Roland Rich was conscripted on the side of the politicians and with team-mates Senator Gary Humphries of the ACT and Ms Gemma Namey, a law student, the politicians trounced the lawyers to the acclaim of an appreciative audience.

On 10 September, Roland Rich was a guest of the newly established Lowy Institute for International Policy at a round table. Professor Ramesh Thakur of the United Nations University presented ‘The Responsibility to Protect’, the report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty. On 5 September, Roland Rich along with other governance practitioners participated in a brainstorming session at the offices of Net Return P/L, which
has been contracted to develop the Australian Development Gateway as a mirror site to the World Bank's development gateway site. The site aims at being a tool for 'intermediaries' working at poverty alleviation in the region.

On 4 September, at the invitation of Professor Carlyle Thayer, Roland Rich delivered a lecture to the military officers of the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies of the Australian Defence College on the subject 'Asia as a Laboratory for Democracy'. On 2 September, Roland Rich participated in the course offered regularly to AusAID officers at the ANU on Human Rights and Development. The course is delivered by CDI Associate Dr Sharon Bessell, and Roland Rich dealt with the subject of the Right to Development focusing in particular on the five reports of the Independent Expert, Dr Arjun Sengupta.

**Forthcoming Events**

9. CDI’S FIFTH PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARY RETREAT

From 24–28 November, CDI will host its fifth Pacific Parliamentary Retreat. The aim of the Retreats is to facilitate a forum for Pacific parliamentarians to discuss the issues of common interest while having the opportunity to look at aspects of the Australian parliamentary practice. This year the Retreat will be held in Darwin in association with the Northern Territory Parliament and the theme will be ‘Parliament and Land Management’. CDI is fortunate to have Mr. Greg Urwin, Secretary-General designate of the Pacific Islands Forum, as a resource person. CDI has invited parliamentarians from Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and PNG to attend the Retreat.

10. TWO CDI COURSES

‘Responsible Parliamentary Government’

From 3–21 November, CDI in association with the ANU’s Graduate Program of Public Policy, will conduct a ‘Responsible Parliamentary Government’ course. The course will cover constitutional foundations, the main activities of parliament, and related structures for accountability and scrutiny of administration for responsible parliamentary government. The Australian Commonwealth Parliament will be used as a major example. This course can be accredited towards a Masters degree in Public Policy. CDI will support the attendance of parliamentary officials from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia and Thailand.

Ombudsman Policy Practice and Accountability

From 3-28 November, the ‘Ombudsman Policy Practice and Accountability’ course will be conducted through the National Centre for Development Studies at the ANU. The course aims to develop the participant’s understanding of the depth of the role of ombudsman institutions in contemporary administration. The course examines different models for an ombudsman organisation, deals with accountability, ethics, investigation techniques, preparation and publication of reports and looks at the relationship between the public sector ombudsman and the parliament. CDI is supporting the attendance of officers from ombudsmen offices in the
11. EAST TIMOR PARLIAMENTARIANS STUDY TOUR TO AUSTRALIA

CDI, in association with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), will conduct a project bringing six members of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security Committee of the National Assembly of Timor Leste to Canberra. The delegation will be in Canberra from 3-8 November and will be accompanied by Ms. Karen Polglaze, the NDI Senior Program Manager of the Security Sector Reform Program in East Timor. The program for their visit includes an introduction to the Australian parliamentary system, meeting with Australian Senators and observing Senate Estimates, observing question time and a briefing on the research facilities available in Parliament House. It is intended that the delegation will also meet with members from the Joint Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, the Joint Standing Committee on Trade and the Australian East Timor parliamentary friendship group.

NDI

**Featured Web Article**

12. DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT: WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT WE DO NOT’

Adam Prezworski, from the Department of Politics at New York University, presented this paper at the Fifth International Conference on New or Restored Democracies held in Mongolia from 10-12 September, 2003. In the paper, Prezworski focuses on the role of democracy in human development in the political and economic realm. Prezworski looks at the particular institutional arrangements that enhance and inhibit this role. In the attempt to secure democracy, Prezworski concludes that economic development and institutional reform must occur simultaneously.

Link to article

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

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