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<td><strong>Centre for Democratic Institutions</strong>&lt;br&gt;Research School of Social Sciences&lt;br&gt;Australian National University&lt;br&gt;Canberra ACT 0200 AUSTRALIA&lt;br&gt;Phone: 61 2 6125 0605 Fax: 61 2 6125 9726&lt;br&gt;Email: <a href="mailto:cdi@anu.edu.au">cdi@anu.edu.au</a>&lt;br&gt;Website: <a href="http://www.cdi.anu.edu.au">www.cdi.anu.edu.au</a></td>
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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. **CONSOLIDATION AND CHANGE: THE INDONESIAN PARLIAMENT AFTER THE 2004 ELECTIONS**

Dr. Stephen Sherlock's paper examines the composition of the new DPR in the wake of national elections held on 4 April 2004 for the legislature and the People's Representative Assembly which will assemble in October 2004. The paper looks at trends in regional representation and the representation of women. Unelected representatives from the Indonesian Armed Forces and Police will not occupy seats in the DPR. This, combined with an increase in the size of DPR's membership has contributed to a large percentage of members entering parliament for the first time. Significantly, the election results have created a more politically diffuse and fragmented parliament compared with the previous parliament. The two major parties combined, Golkar and PDIP, no longer hold the majority.

2. **SOLOMON ISLAND NGO STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP- REPORT AVAILABLE**

As reported in the last newsletter, CDI and ACFID supported a workshop conducted in Honiara for NGO leaders focusing on developing a Strategic Plan for Development Services Exchange (DSE). This workshop was in preparation for the launch of DSE as the peak Solomon Island NGO body that will take place in late 2004. The report is now available on the CDI Website.

3. **VILA CONFERENCE ON POLITICAL CULTURE, REPRESENTATION AND ELECTORAL SYSTEMS IN THE PACIFIC**

On 10-12 July, the ‘Political Culture, Representation and Electoral Systems in the Pacific’ Conference took place at the University of the South Pacific in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The conference was organised by the Pacific Institute of Advanced Studies in Development & Governance (PIAS-DG), University of the South Pacific and the Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington and attracted over sixty participants including a number of leading academic figures in the field of South Pacific studies. An important paper was presented by Mr Ian Harris, Clerk of the Australian House of Representatives, who discussed the place of Pacific parliaments in the broader international context of the work of the Inter Parliamentary Union. Roland Rich was invited to present a paper on ‘Typologies of political parties in the Pacific’.

4. **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH PACIFIC JOURNALISTS**

Six Pacific Island journalists visited the Australian National University on 29 July for a roundtable discussion with ANU academics. The journalists were from PNG, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Samoa and Tonga and were following the issue of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) on the occasion of its first anniversary. The discussion focused on a number of issues including the role of journalism in building the nations of the Pacific and in providing an oversight role for government processes. Examples of
investigative journalism around the region were discussed including the PNG Media Council’s ‘War against Corruption’.

5. UPDATE ON THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

CDI Executive Officer, Felicity Pascoe, was in Honiara in June to meet with a number of people from institutions and organisations CDI has been actively involved with in the Solomon Islands. Felicity met with Paul Tovua, Chairman of the Peace Council, John Smith Pitabelama, Ombudsman of the Solomon Islands, Abraham Baeanisia, Chair of Development Services Exchange and Johnson Honimae, trustee of the Media Association of the Solomon Islands. CDI’s projects with these institutions compliment efforts by RAMSI in rebuilding the nation.

6. PARLIAMENTARY OFFICIALS COURSE

Between 26 July – 13 August the third CDI Responsible Parliamentary Government Course is being conducted by the ANU’s Asia Pacific School of Economics and Government (APSEG). The course is designed primarily for mid-level parliamentary officials and will examine the fundamental principles and doctrines underlying the practice of responsible parliamentary government. Using the Australian Commonwealth Parliament as the principal example, the course will cover issues including constitutional foundations, the main activities of parliament, and related structures for accountability and scrutiny of administration. Participants have the option of undertaking the course as part of a Masters degree. Officials from the parliaments of Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam will attend and, for the first time, CDI welcomes participants from the National Assembly of Timor Leste.

7. THE UN ROLE IN PROMOTING DEMOCRACY – BETWEEN IDEALS AND REALITY

A major research project undertaken over the past two years has now been completed. The UN University Press will publish ‘The UN Role in Promoting Democracy – Between Ideals and Reality’, edited by Edward Newman and Roland Rich, in late 2004. The volume looks at the UN’s role in assisting to building the foundations of democracy and whether, as an external player, the UN can have a positive impact on the internal development of a country’s democratic governance. The volume explores and questions the modalities, effectiveness and controversies of the UN’s work in promoting and assisting democracy. The issues involved are explored through thematic studies, papers focused on specific techniques used by the UN, and through a number of case studies. The volume provides timely analysis of the prospects and limitations of the UN’s work in this area, and of the broader field of democracy promotion.

8. PRESENTATION ON DEMOCRACY PROMOTION – THE CDI APPROACH

On 7 July, Roland Rich addressed the NSW Branch of the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) on the CDI approach to democracy promotion. In his presentation Mr Rich explained the modern history of democracy
promotion in particular, the establishment of Australia's Centre for Democratic Institutions in 1998. Mr Rich noted the innovation of CDI's design as an institution funded from the Aid program and located in a university thus combining methodologies of development assistance processes with scholarly thinking about democracy promotion. Mr Rich discussed some of the work accomplished by CDI, noting that its philosophy was to focus on the skills needed to run key institutions of democracy, often, but not always, drawing on Australian experience and expertise. The presentation was followed by a lively discussion touching on issues including the future of PNG, concepts of deliberative democracy, the relevance of social capital to democracy and the future of CDI.

9. REACHING THE PEAK: CONTRASTING EXPERIENCES FOR NGOS IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AND PNG

In her paper entitled 'Reaching the peak: Contrasting experiences for NGOs in the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea' Felicity Pascoe, CDI Executive Officer, evaluates NGO leadership and management programs conducted by CDI and the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) in Papua New Guinea and in the Solomon Islands. The paper contrasts program design and delivery, strengths of local NGO leadership and the socio-political context at the time of program implementation. Outcomes from the two NGO programs illustrate the complexity of creating an NGO peak body within the Melanesian NGO sectors. The paper will be published in the forthcoming Development Studies Network’s Development Bulletin (no. 65) following the 'International Perspectives on Improving Aid Effectiveness' symposium held on 24-25 June.

10. NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER

In August Felicity Pascoe will leave the position of CDI Executive Officer to take up a 12 month assignment as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development (AYAD) in Cambodia. Under AusAID's AYAD program, Felicity will work with CARE International as the Resource Production Support Officer for a Girls and Basic Education Program in Ratanakiri Province. CDI welcomes Felicity Donnelly as the new CDI Executive Officer. Felicity Donnelly has worked in the area of project management with the Social Protection Facility (SPF) within the Research School of Social Science at the ANU.

11. TRAIN-THE-TRAINERS COURSE FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF VIETNAM

From 6-10 August, CDI will conduct a train-the-trainers course for the Office of National Assembly of Vietnam under contract from the Danish Aid Agency, Danida. The course will be attended by 30 parliamentarians and officials who have responsibility for designing training for the elected members and permanent staff of the National Assembly. CDI has designed the course to look at best practice in parliamentary training as well as to investigate means of enhancing on-the-job learning and mentoring. Roland Rich will lead the CDI team and will be supported by former President of the Australian Senate Margaret Reid and former Senator from NSW Vicki Bourne as well as Mr Minh Duong of the NSW Cabinet Office. The course will be held at Ha Long Bay.
12. CAMBODIAN JUDICIAL INTERNSHIP

CDI will work in association with the ACT Magistrates Court to conduct a three-month internship for two graduates of the Royal School for Judges and Prosecutors in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Ms. Khiev Sokha and Mr. Meas Chanpyseth, who graduated in July this year, were selected by the School for the internship. The aim of the program is to expose the two interns to the Australian judicial and court systems and to develop their practical understanding of the adversarial legal process and practice. The program will include observations of court and judicial proceedings, acting as associates to ACT magistrates and undertaking research. After the internship, the two Cambodian judges will attend the ‘Corruption and Anti-Corruption’ course at the ANU from 1-19 November.

13. VISIT BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF VIETNAM

From 1-8 September, CDI is honoured to host a judicial study tour for a delegation from the Supreme People’s Court of Vietnam (SPC) led by the Chief Justice of Vietnam, H.E. Dr. Nguyen Van Hien. During the tour, the delegation will visit Sydney and Brisbane to meet with senior members and officials from The Federal Court of Australia, the Supreme Court of New South Wales (NSW), the NSW Judicial Commission, the NSW Environment Court and the Supreme Court of Queensland. While in Brisbane they will also visit the University of Queensland.

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**Featured Website**

14. AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT GATEWAY ONLINE

The Australian Development Gateway (ADG) has recently been established with AusAID support under the umbrella of the global Development Gateway Foundation, and is part of an international network of over fifty country gateways. The ADG aims to improve access to quality development-related information and strengthen the networking between individuals and organisations engaged in development issues. It covers six key sectors: agriculture; education; governance; health; information and communication technologies; and water and sanitation. Through contributions from its users the ADG provides quality information on aid activities in the Asia Pacific; acts as a resource for development related business and employment opportunities in the Asia Pacific region; provides an “Ask the Expert” session; and hosts online sectoral discussion forums.

ADG
Global Development Gateway

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**Featured Web Article**

15. RANKING THE RICH – THE 2004 COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT INDEX

The Centre for Global Development and Foreign Policy have released ‘Ranking the Rich - the 2004 Commitment to Development Index’ ranking 21 of the richest countries in terms of their commitment to global poverty reduction and development based on adherence to policies that benefit the people in poorer nations of the world. The overall index is the average score of a country in seven categories: trade, technology, security, investment, environment, aid and migration. Denmark ranked the highest at number 1, and Japan was ranked the lowest at 21. Australia was ranked 4th, with high levels of commitment to development in the areas of migration and security.

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

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