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. LAOS HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING

At the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao Peoples Democratic Republic, CDI conducted a workshop in Vientiane on 27-28 April. The focus was on obligations flowing from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic Social and
Cultural Rights. As noted in the opening speech by the Lao Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, HE Mr Phonesavath Boupha, having signed the two Covenants in 2000, Laos is now preparing to ratify these two treaties. The workshop was part of the preparatory process and was conducted by Prof. Ivan Shearer, Prof. Emeritus, University of Sydney and a serving member of the Human Rights Committee of the UN, Prof. Hilary Charlesworth, Director of the Centre for International and Public Law, ANU and Roland Rich, Director of CDI.

2. CAMBODIAN ANTI-CORRUPTION WORKSHOP
Reflecting the ongoing contribution of CDI to good governance activities in Cambodia, CDI and IDP organised a workshop in Phnom Penh from 29-30 April that brought together 40 representatives from Government, the NGO community, the private sector, donors, multilateral agencies, bilateral projects and also several international consultants working in advisory positions to the Royal Government of Cambodia. The focus of discussions was on behavioural change and, in particular, the lessons that could be drawn from six case studies dealing with electoral codes of conduct, commercial arbitration, domestic violence, HIV-Aids prevention strategies, domestic anti-corruption legislation and the impact of the UN Convention Against Corruption.

3. CAMBODIAN PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY STUDY TOUR
CDI supported a study tour to Australia for five Cambodian parliamentary librarians and archivists from 18-26 April. The study tour was conducted by librarian Margaret Bywater and archivist Peter Arfanis, both working under a broader UNDP program to develop a strategic plan for Cambodian Parliamentary Libraries and Archives. The aim of the tour was to strengthen the capacity of management staff and orient them towards a modern international library/archive practice and philosophy. During the study tour the delegation visited the New South Wales Parliamentary Library and Archives, the NSW State Archives, the National Library of Australia, the Federal Parliamentary Library and the Victorian Parliamentary Library and Archives.

4. SOLOMON ISLANDS GOOD GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP
CDI supported Mr. John Smith Pitabelama, Ombudsman of the Solomon Islands, in conducting the second Good Governance and Public Accountability workshop which took place from 21-23 April in Honiara. The workshop involved 33 provincial government officials and aimed to develop public service knowledge and awareness of the relevant regulations and legislation that direct effective and fair conduct in the workplace. Issues covered included leadership, law and order reform, public service administration and procedures. Presentations were delivered by officials from Government and institutions such as the High Court, Office of the Account General, Leadership Code Commission, Ministry of Finance and the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI). Australian Deputy High Commissioner, Ms Anita Butler officially opened the workshop and it was closed by Mr. Toswal Kaua, the Secretary of Cabinet and Public
5. **SOLOMON ISLANDS NGO STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL OUTREACH WORKSHOP**

As part of a program of ongoing support strengthening the NGO sector in the Solomon Islands, CDI and the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) supported a Strategic Planning workshop in Honiara from 2-5 April. This workshop was conducted by Emele Duituturaga, Pacific Development Specialist and Trainer, and Abraham Baeaxisia, Director of the Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT) and Chair of Development Services Exchange (DSE) and built on previous workshops held in 2003 but with a provincial focus. The workshop aimed to develop a Strategic Plan for DSE as the peak NGO body. Planning sessions were conducted identifying sectoral strengths, achievements and weaknesses and developing strategies for improving NGO effectiveness, management and leadership. The report will be available on the CDI website soon.

6. **SOLOMON ISLANDS OFFICIALS ATTEND ANU COURSE**

CDI supported Mr. Francis Luza, Chairman of the Trade Dispute Panel, and Mr. Joe Poraiai, Principal Investigation Officer of the Office of the Ombudsman in the Solomon Islands in attending a short professional course at the Australian National University. Mr Luza and Mr Poraiai attended the Asia Pacific School of Economics and Government's (APSEG) Conflict and Development Course from 13-30 April, 2004 which was convened by Dr Ben Reilly, senior lecturer. The course considered the relationships between social conflict and development aiming to help participants develop a better understanding of the relationships between aid, intervention and conflict. The course reviewed research on how conflicts may be prevented or managed, and the role of aid and outside intervention in reconciliation and post conflict reconstruction.

7. **RADIO NATIONAL DISCUSSES THE PACIFIC**

On 22 April, Gerald Tooth of Radio National’s Australia Talks Back invited Graeme Dobell, ABC's Foreign Affairs and Defence Correspondent, Roland Rich, Director of the CDI, ANU, Bire Kimosopa, Papua New Guinea's Minister for Internal Security and Sitiveni Rabuka, Former Prime Minister of Fiji to discuss the so called ‘arc of instability’ in the Pacific. The discussion ranged from the regional intervention in the Solomon Islands, the proposed assistance project to PNG and previous problems in Fiji. One notable comment from former PM Rabuka was that the Australian response of trade and travel sanctions to his 1987 coup d'etat "brought us back to our senses and reminded us that we live in a global village and that we have to conduct our affairs in accordance with international norms”. The transcript of the program is linked below on real media.

8. **REPORT FROM DPR STUDY TOUR**

As reported in the March newsletter, a delegation from the Indonesian Parliament (DPR) undertook a study tour to Australia focusing on
parliamentary reform processes and Hansard practices. The delegation was headed by the Secretary-General of the DPR, Mrs Sitti Daud, and the study tour took place from 22-31 March with the Federal Parliament and the parliaments of South Australia and Victoria. The report from this study tour is now available on the CDI website.

9. CRAFTING SECURITY COUNCIL MANDATES

On 5 May Roland Rich presented a paper entitled 'Crafting Security Council Mandates' to the Political Science Program Seminar at the Research School of Social Sciences. The paper examines the crafting of Security Council resolutions particularly in relation to the democratization mandates laid down by the Council. The paper notes that in adopting resolutions mandating action, the Council is acting as both an executive and legislature. The paper looks at issues of mandate jurisprudence, the critical use of terminology employed and the process of arriving at that terminology particularly in relation to the permanent members, elected members and Secretary-General of the Council. This paper was recently added to the Australian Policy Online website and will appear as a chapter in a forthcoming publication by United Nations University Press entitled The UN Role in Promoting Democracy: Between Ideals and Reality edited by Edward Newman and Roland Rich.

10. RE-LAUNCH OF SOLOMON ISLANDS NGO PEAK BODY

As part of CDI's and ACFID's continuing Solomon Islands NGO Leadership and Management Program a workshop for NGO leaders will take place in Honiara from 18-22 June. This workshop will focus on developing NGO Strategic Plans, identifying challenges, strengths and weakness of the sector and developing strategies to increase and improve impact. In particular the workshop will involve the re-launch of Development Services Exchange (DSE) as the NGO peak body in the Solomon Islands. Re-launching DSE in June is the result of an ongoing process that began with the first workshop held in early 2003 improving the management, effectiveness and profile of DSE as a representative NGO body.

11. AID EFFECTIVENESS SYMPOSIUM

On 24-25 June, Development Studies Network at the ANU will conduct its 'International Perspectives on Improving Aid Effectiveness' symposium in collaboration with ANU's National Institute for Social Sciences and Law; Deakin University and Massey University, New Zealand. The symposium will bring together internationally recognised social scientists, aid donors, aid recipients, government representatives, non-government and multilateral aid organisations, community leaders, academics and aid workers. The purpose is to review new perspectives on improving future development assistance specifically in relation to planning, delivering and measuring the impact of assistance. Discussions and presentations will look at the scale and structure of aid, how aid effectiveness is measured and who is doing the measuring. Roland Rich will be a panel discussant looking at key issues for improving aid effectiveness.

DSN Aid Effectiveness Symposium
**Featured Web Article**

12. THE 2003 GLOBAL PRESS FREEDOM WORLD TOUR

According to Reporters Without Borders, more than a third of the world’s population lives in countries with no press freedom. The 2003 Global Press Freedom World Tour examines the issue of global press freedom and notes a rise in media censoring and the number of reporters being detained and physically attacked in 2003. The report draws two broad conclusions. Firstly, the threat to press freedom is heightened where there is too much or too little political authority so that rule of law gives way to violence. Secondly, the ‘wrongdoers’ are becoming more cunning using legal harassment, economic pressure and rules for the protection of personal privacy in place of outright repression. The report also profiles those ministers, presidents, chiefs of staff and religious leaders seeking to suppress, imprison and torture reporters.

Press freedom in Asia is the topic of Losing Control: Freedom of the Press in Asia, a book co-edited by Roland Rich and Louise Williams of which the preface and contents are available on the CDI website.

Link to Article
Losing Control

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

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