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.

This edition:

1. SOLOMON ISLANDS FEDERALISM STUDY TOUR
In January 2002, the Kemakeza government adopted the recommendation of the State Government Task Force 2001 (SGTF) to devise a federal system of government for the Solomon Islands. This project was created in response to the request by the SGTF to assist the key decision makers in thinking through some of the difficult issues concerning the transition to a federal system. CDI invited the Minister, his Opposition counterpart, the Chairman of SGTF and the SGTF Legal Adviser to visit Australia for discussions over a period of one week. The discussions were held in Canberra with Australian experts including the President of the Australian Senate; the Commonwealth Grants Commission, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Agency for International Development. The group also participated in two round table discussions at the Australian National University with constitutional, economic and Pacific experts.

CDI reports page
Townsville Peace Agreement
Background Paper: Solomon Islands State Government Taskforce Report
Satish Chand’s economic analysis

2. INDONESIAN PARLIAMENTARY STRENGTHENING: AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT TOUR TO THE DPR
As part of the Indonesian Parliamentary Strengthening Project started in 1999, CDI facilitated a visit by a delegation of 4 senior Australian parliamentary staff led by the Clerk of the House, Mr Ian Harris, to the Indonesian Parliament (DPR) in May 2002. The visit was very encouraging.
involving substantial discussions covering many aspects of the conduct of parliamentary business. The visit also successfully built on the relationship between the two parliaments and will lead to new exchange initiatives. The report for this project will be on the website soon and featured in the July issue of CDI.NEWS.

**Program and participants**
Indonesian Parliament

### 3. THAI PARLIAMENTARY OMBUDSMAN STUDY TOUR
This project brought the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Thailand to Australia to meet key Australian counterparts for the purposes of holding discussions on the objectives and procedures of Ombudsman offices, looking at IT-related Ombudsman issues and examining possible future training needs. The program also covered broad issues concerning the Ombudsman’s powers and functions, and included a second stream of meetings for the IT specialist. The delegation attended an intensive program of lectures and discussions at the Commonwealth Ombudsman and the NSW Ombudsman offices in Canberra and Sydney.

**CDI report**
NSW Ombudsman
Commonwealth Ombudsman

### 4. PNG ELECTION REPORTING WORKSHOP
Twenty-five PNG journalists came together at the week-long PNG Election Reporting Workshop in Port Moresby in March 2002, to discuss strategies for covering the national elections and rehearsing news story approaches. The workshop was targeted specifically at improving news coverage of the elections by promoting a more sustained and professional approach to handling election news and issues, with the broader goal of contributing to the improved governance of Papua New Guinea. The workshop benefited from the insights and experience of Sean Dorney, Pacific Correspondent for Radio Australia. This project was facilitated by the Centre for Democratic Institutions and the Centre for International Journalism (CIJ) at the University of Queensland. The host organisation was the PNG Media Council.

**CDI report**
CIJ

### 5. MEDIA AND DEMOCRATISATION TRAINING PROJECT
Following two earlier workshops in 1999 and 2000, devised to help prepare Indonesian broadcasters for the transition from a government-controlled broadcasting system to a more independent public broadcasting model, this workshop took the training a step further, developing participants’ understanding of public broadcasting and the variety of legal, political and financial frameworks within which it can develop. The three workshops have been collaborations between the CDI, the Asia Research Centre and the School of Media, Communication and Culture at Murdoch University and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Participants also attended a conference at Curtin University on ‘Mediating Human Rights and Democracy: Indonesia, Australia and the Netherlands’.

**CDI report**
Mediating Human Rights and Democracy Conference
Television Republic Indonesia (TVRI)
The Australian Broadcasting Corporation

### 6. PNG WEWAK CITIZEN’S EDUCATION PROJECT
CDI together with the Asia South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education (ASPBAE) has been working with 3 civil society groups in PNG - HELP Resources, Baua Baua Popular Education Troupe and the East Sepik Council of Woman - to assist in the design and implementation of an innovative civil society program to disseminate key government publications related to improving citizen participation and strengthening government accountability. The project is in the process
of preparing, promoting and distributing discussion materials, leading to a series of ‘learning circles’ workshops. The project is initially targeted at the June parliamentary elections.

**CDI interim report**

7. EAST TIMOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OBSERVATION

CDI’s Executive Officer Pierre Huetter observed the East Timor Presidential Election as part of a delegation from the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) - Australian Section. The ICJ delegation comprised 13 people. The group visited approximately 20 polling stations in 3 districts; Dili, Manatuto and Liquica. From the stations visited by the group 3 broad observations were made: most voting took place early in the day; the polling stations were well organized and orderly throughout polling; and there was no evidence of violence, coercion or intimidation.

**CDI report and related information**

8. OXFORD SEMINAR ON TACKLING CORRUPTION

CDI Director Roland Rich was invited to a seminar at Corpus Christi College in Oxford to deliver three presentations relating to fighting corruption. He presented a formal paper, *Restraint and Enforcement – the Enron Lesson*, examining the deep and structural conflicts of interests in the Enron collapse in America and concluded that ultimately this was an example of the harm caused by money politics, an affliction which strikes all societies to a lesser or greater extent. He argued that Enron was not simply a corporate and accounting scandal but should also be seen as political corruption because Enron’s comparative advantage over its competitors was its ability successfully to lobby government. Enron was the largest contributor to the Bush campaign. The Seminar was sponsored by the British Council.

**CDI report**

*Restraint and Enforcement - the Enron Lesson*

**Seminar Program**

9. CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING 2002

The final meeting of the original CDI Consultative Group took place on 17 May. CDI is most grateful for the assistance the Consultative Group has provided over CDI’s formative years. The assistance provided to CDI by the Consultative Group includes not only advice and guidance on the conduct of CDI activities, but also active participation by individual members in CDI projects.

The members of the outgoing Consultative Group are:

- Sir Daryl Dawson, former Justice of the High Court (Chair)
- Mr Geoffrey Barker, The Australian Financial Review
- The Hon Laurie Breton, Member for Kingsford-Smith
- Mr Bruce Davis, Director General, AusAID
- Mr David Ritchie, Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- The Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser, Chairman, CARE Australia
- Mr Andy Becker, The Electoral Commissioner, Australian Electoral Commission
- Mr John Hyde, Senior Fellow, Institute for Public Affairs
- Professor Ian McAllister, Director, Research School of Social Sciences, The Australian National University
- Dr Michael Porter, Economist, Macquarie Bank
- Mr Roland Rich, Director, Centre for Democratic Institutions
- Ms Gillian Storey, Delegate to the Pacific Democrat Union
- Dr Andrew Southcott, Member for Boothby
- Professor Alice Tay, President, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
- Professor Richard Robison, Director, Asia Research Centre, Murdoch University
The process to appoint the Consultative Group for the second contract period is currently underway.

** Upcoming Events **

10. SENATE TOUR TO THAILAND AND CAMBODIA
To assist in increasing the effectiveness of the newly structured Thai and Cambodian Senates, 5 Australia Senators will attend two two-day workshops with their Thai and Cambodian counterparts, allowing for an opportunity to draw on the considerable experience of the Australian Senate. The emphasis on seeking workable solutions to various problems served the project well in the corresponding project last year and a similar approach will be used for this year’s workshops. The five Australian Senators involved in this project will be Senators George Brandis, Kay Denman, Meg Lees, Marise Payne and Sue West.

Senate Tour to Thailand and Cambodia 2001

11. AUSTRALIA-VIETNAM JUDICIAL EXCHANGE: VIETNAMESE JUDICIAL TOUR
The delegation from the Supreme People’s Court is in Australia at the time of writing. The report will be on the website shortly and featured in the July CDI.NEWS.

** Featured Web Articles **

12. ‘THE FUTURE OF ASEAN: AN ASSESSMENT OF DEMOCRACY, ECONOMIES AND INSTITUTIONS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA’ BY SIMON TAY
This article looks to the future of ASEAN. Tay believes developments stemming from the economic ‘miracle’ of the last few decades and the economic crisis of the late 90s, have left Southeast Asia and ASEAN irreversibly transformed. Accordingly Tay believes ASEAN will have to meet certain critical challenges: democratization, economic liberalization, and ‘development and human security’.

Link to article

All suggestions and comments are welcome.
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