Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the August-September 2006 issue of CDI.News from the Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI), Australia. This issue focuses on our recent Annual Democracy Address and a range of new projects CDI is undertaking.

CDI was established in 1998 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Hon Alexander Downer, to assist in the development and strengthening of democratic institutions in developing countries. CDI’s work combines technical assistance and capacity building programs, networking, and interpersonal and knowledge exchange, including the dissemination of CDI’s original research on democracy and its institutions. Our focus countries comprise Indonesia and Timor-Leste in South East Asia and Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in Melanesia.

CDI’s central goal is to support these regional focus countries in strengthening their political parties & systems of parliamentary governance.

Accordingly, CDI works to:

• Improve the operation and understanding of parliamentary machinery by members of parliament and parliamentary staff in focus countries
• Strengthen political parties in focus countries through improving the knowledge and skills of members and officials of political parties
• Extend networks in the region between Australian political party officials, parliamentarians and parliamentary staff and their counterparts from focus countries

CDI’s core budget is provided by AusAID, Australia’s Agency for International Development.

CDI.News will keep you informed periodically of our activities and events, and you can access this information and more at any time by visiting our website @ www.cdi.anu.edu.au

Benjamin Reilly
CDI Director

In this issue

Recent Activities
Anwar Ibrahim on "Islam & Democracy"
The CDI 2006 Annual Address ....................2
Fiji Parliamentary Induction Program ...........2
CDI Launches Political Parties in the Pacific Islands ..............................................3
Solomon Islands Parliamentary Induction Program .......................................................3
Visit of Indonesian Commission 1 Parliamentary Delegation to CDI .................4
20th IPSA World Congress ..........................4
CDI Launches Policy Paper Series on Political Governance ...................................4
9th CDI Consultative Council Meeting ........4
The Development of Electoral Democracy in East Asia .....................................................5

Forthcoming
Responsible Parliamentary Government Course .........................................................5
Political Party Roundtable ........................................5
Fiji Parliamentary Graduates to attend 2006 APSG Annual Conference ..................5

Feature Articles, Events, & Links
Universal Values and Muslim Democracy ...5
Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers .....6
The 2006 CDI Annual Address was delivered by the former Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Anwar Ibrahim, to an audience of over 400 packed into the Great Hall in Parliament House, Canberra, on 20 July 2006. Mr Ibrahim, who was imprisoned for six years after a dispute with former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, has risen to international prominence following his release as a leading spokesman on Islam and Democracy, the subject of his CDI address.

Mr Ibrahim’s speech covered a wide range of subjects, including the essential compatibility between traditional Islamic scripture and the basic freedoms and liberties on which representative democracy is based. He also discussed at length the importance of contemporary Indonesia as a model of Islamic democracy, and one which needed to be nurtured by the West as a successful example of a state which was both Muslim and democratic.

Australia needed to be sensitive in its relations with Indonesia, Mr Ibrahim suggested, and avoid being seen as pushy or condescending. At the same time, the East Asian countries should ensure that Australia, along with India and New Zealand, were included in plans for an East Asian community, which should be based on common interests rather than ethnic criteria.

Much of Mr Ibrahim’s talk dealt with the need for honest and objective treatment of the Muslim world, both by outsiders and fellow Muslims. The situation in the Middle East was one subject of such straight talking, as was the need for some Muslim societies to look honestly at their own internal difficulties.

The overwhelming message from the talk was that democracy’s values were universal, not Western, and that they consisted of much more than just having free and fair elections. The need for checks and balances, separation of powers, credible judges and lawyers, and a free media were all essential components of a functioning democracy, and collectively helped to ensure the basic liberties and human rights that are the hallmark of truly democratic societies.

Click on the following link to the Annual Address web page where you will find the complete video and further photographs of the CDI 2006 Annual Address, along with ‘Universal Values and Muslim Democracy’, an essay by Anwar Ibrahim in the July 2006 issue of the Journal of Democracy which covers core questions and issues from his CDI Annual Address:

Fiji Parliamentary Induction

Following their recent national elections, the Fiji Parliament has embarked on a capacity strengthening programme in which CDI played a key role in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other donors.

As part of the project, an Induction programme for Members of Parliament was held at the Warwick Resort and Spa Hotel, Korolevu from 26th – 29th June, 2006.

This program was designed and funded by a tripartite group of sponsors led by the UNDP with the support of CDI, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Fiji parliament. The workshop engaged both local and regional expertise with key speakers and resource personnel from Solomon Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. As well as playing an important role in the conception and design of the induction program,
CDI sponsored the attendance of the Hon John Elferink, former member of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, and Mr Repe Rambe from Papua New Guinea, to discuss aspects of constituency service and role of parliamentary committees.

The event was opened by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Pita Nacuva whilst the Prime Minister, Hon. Laisenia Qarase and the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mick Beddoes also addressed members. Of the 95 members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, 81 members attended the week long programme. A total of 11 women members made up this number.

One of the objectives of the programme was to encourage greater understanding of public leadership, constitutional frameworks, accountability, transparency and parliamentary oversight among sitting and newly elected members. In doing so, it raised awareness among participating parliamentarians of key government departments, offices, committees and their responsibilities and obligations in relation to accountability and leadership.

Click on the following link for complete reporting and program details on our website:

CDI sponsored the attendance of the Hon John Elferink, former member of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, and Mr Repe Rambe from Papua New Guinea, to discuss aspects of constituency service and role of parliamentary committees.

The event was opened by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Pita Nacuva whilst the Prime Minister, Hon. Laisenia Qarase and the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mick Beddoes also addressed members. Of the 95 members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, 81 members attended the week long programme. A total of 11 women members made up this number.

One of the objectives of the programme was to encourage greater understanding of public leadership, constitutional frameworks, accountability, transparency and parliamentary oversight among sitting and newly elected members. In doing so, it raised awareness among participating parliamentarians of key government departments, offices, committees and their responsibilities and obligations in relation to accountability and leadership.

Click on the following link for complete reporting and program details on our website:

CDI sponsored the attendance of the Hon John Elferink, former member of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, and Mr Repe Rambe from Papua New Guinea, to discuss aspects of constituency service and role of parliamentary committees.

The event was opened by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Pita Nacuva whilst the Prime Minister, Hon. Laisenia Qarase and the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mick Beddoes also addressed members. Of the 95 members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, 81 members attended the week long programme. A total of 11 women members made up this number.

One of the objectives of the programme was to encourage greater understanding of public leadership, constitutional frameworks, accountability, transparency and parliamentary oversight among sitting and newly elected members. In doing so, it raised awareness among participating parliamentarians of key government departments, offices, committees and their responsibilities and obligations in relation to accountability and leadership.

Click on the following link for complete reporting and program details on our website:

CDI sponsored the attendance of the Hon John Elferink, former member of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, and Mr Repe Rambe from Papua New Guinea, to discuss aspects of constituency service and role of parliamentary committees.

The event was opened by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Pita Nacuva whilst the Prime Minister, Hon. Laisenia Qarase and the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mick Beddoes also addressed members. Of the 95 members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, 81 members attended the week long programme. A total of 11 women members made up this number.

One of the objectives of the programme was to encourage greater understanding of public leadership, constitutional frameworks, accountability, transparency and parliamentary oversight among sitting and newly elected members. In doing so, it raised awareness among participating parliamentarians of key government departments, offices, committees and their responsibilities and obligations in relation to accountability and leadership.

Click on the following link for complete reporting and program details on our website:

CDI sponsored the attendance of the Hon John Elferink, former member of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, and Mr Repe Rambe from Papua New Guinea, to discuss aspects of constituency service and role of parliamentary committees.

The event was opened by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Pita Nacuva whilst the Prime Minister, Hon. Laisenia Qarase and the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mick Beddoes also addressed members. Of the 95 members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, 81 members attended the week long programme. A total of 11 women members made up this number.

One of the objectives of the programme was to encourage greater understanding of public leadership, constitutional frameworks, accountability, transparency and parliamentary oversight among sitting and newly elected members. In doing so, it raised awareness among participating parliamentarians of key government departments, offices, committees and their responsibilities and obligations in relation to accountability and leadership.

Click on the following link for complete reporting and program details on our website:

CDI sponsored the attendance of the Hon John Elferink, former member of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, and Mr Repe Rambe from Papua New Guinea, to discuss aspects of constituency service and role of parliamentary committees.

The event was opened by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Pita Nacuva whilst the Prime Minister, Hon. Laisenia Qarase and the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mick Beddoes also addressed members. Of the 95 members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, 81 members attended the week long programme. A total of 11 women members made up this number.

One of the objectives of the programme was to encourage greater understanding of public leadership, constitutional frameworks, accountability, transparency and parliamentary oversight among sitting and newly elected members. In doing so, it raised awareness among participating parliamentarians of key government departments, offices, committees and their responsibilities and obligations in relation to accountability and leadership.

Click on the following link for complete reporting and program details on our website:
Visit of Indonesian Commission 1 Parliamentary Delegation to CDI

As part of CDI’s ongoing cooperation with the Indonesian parliament, CDI held a meeting with members of Commission 1 of the DPR during their visit to Australia in June 2006. Commission 1 is the premier Indonesian parliamentary committee dealing with issues of defence, foreign affairs, communications and information. It includes members of all the major political parties in Indonesia and is an important and influential standing committee of the parliament. CDI has sponsored joint seminars between Commission 1 and relevant Australian parliamentary committees such as the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT) and the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (JSCFADT).

Discussions at the meeting covered a wide range of areas of possible assistance, and it was agreed that CDI will work closely with both Commission 1 and the relevant Australian parliamentary committees to ascertain agreed areas of co-operation as part of our ongoing work to strengthen parliamentary committees in the future. Click on the this link for more detail on our website:

20th IPSA World Congress

CDI Director Dr Ben Reilly attended and spoke at the 20th World Congress of the International Political Science Association (IPSA), which addressed the theme of “Is Democracy Working?”.

The meeting, held in Fukuoka, Japan, from 9-13 July 2006, focussed on democracy’s impact on the boundaries and institutions of global, national, regional and local politics. The World Congress was attended by several thousand political scientists, officials, and dignitaries from around the world, making it one of the largest gatherings to explore the impact of democracy. Dr Reilly chaired one session, on the growing impact of semi-presidentialism, and delivered a paper on the subject of political party reform in the Asia-Pacific. The keynote address was delivered by Mrs Sadako Ogata, the former head of the UNHCR. Click on the link below for more information and reporting:

CDI Launches Policy Paper Series on Political Governance

The first paper in CDI’s new Policy Paper Series focusing on pressing issues of political governance in the Asia-Pacific was launched at a seminar presented by the author Stephen Sherlock on June 5 here at the ANU. Stephen’s paper looks at the operation of Indonesia’s Regional Representative Assembly/Council - the Dewan Perwakilan Daerah (DPD).

Click on this link for more information on CDI’s Policy paper Series, a report on the June 5 seminar, and to access Stephen Sherlock’s paper:

CDI's Policy Paper Series

9th CDI Consultative Council Meeting

The CDI Consultative Council met at Parliament House Canberra on the 13th of June 2006. At this meeting, AusAID Director General Mr Bruce Davis briefed the Consultative Council on the recently published AusAID report ‘Australian Aid: Promoting Growth and Stability - the White Paper on the Australian Government’s overseas aid program’. His presentation covered the background to the White Paper as well as more specifically the reinforced emphasis on political governance and other issues central to CDI’s work. CDI Director Ben Reilly informed the Council of the work undertaken since the last meeting in November 2005, and spoke about the way ahead for CDI as set out in the Centre’s work plan for 2006-07 based on our core sectoral concerns of political
party development and parliamentary strengthening. Constructive and wide ranging discussion ensued on many issues, including fine tuning and coordinating the work of CDI in the context of the wider aid environment in the region, and developing strategies for effective and mutually beneficial engagement of Australian MPs, political parties, parliaments, committees and others in the implementation of CDI's work program. Click on the this link for more detail on our website:

Consultative Council

The Development of Electoral Democracy in East Asia

CDI has joined with the Center for the Study of Democracy (University of California, Irvine), the East Asian Barometer (Taiwan), and the East West Center (Hawaii), as part of a major new international collaborative project examining the development of electoral democracy in East Asia. Reflecting CDI’s sectoral focus on political party development, CDI's project contribution will concentrate on party systems and democracy in the East Asian region.

The first part of this collaborative process was a conference of experts from Australia, China, Japan, Taiwan and the United States, held at the East-West Center on 17 July which CDI Director Ben Reilly attended.

Details on the conference, and a link to Dr Reilly’s paper on East Asian Party Systems, are available through this link:

Electoral Democracy in East Asia

Forthcoming

Responsible Parliamentary Government

One of our flagship annual programs, CDI’s fifth Responsible Parliamentary Government Course (RPG) will again be conducted in August under the coordination of Dr Stephen Sherlock. The course is designed primarily for mid-level parliamentary officials from the Asia-Pacific region and examines the fundamental principles and doctrines underlying the practice of responsible parliamentary government. This year, in the program’s largest-ever cohort, parliamentary officials from East Timor, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Nauru, Thailand and Vietnam will take part in the three-week training programme.

More details in our next newsletter.

Political Party Roundtable

In September, as part of our increased focus on political party assistance, CDI will be holding a one-day workshop for Australian political parties and international democracy promotion organisations on the subject of international political party assistance.

The workshop will focus on lessons learned from the experience of political party assistance in the Asia-Pacific region, with the aim of sharing experiences to identify optimum strategies of party assistance and development in CDI’s target countries of Indonesia, East Timor, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and in the broader Asia-Pacific region.

The workshop will feature presentations from international party assistance organisations working in these countries, and from the major Australian political parties on their own experiences of international political party assistance.

More details in our next newsletter.

Fiji Parliamentary Graduates to attend 2006 APSG annual conference

CDI will assist a group of 7 graduates working in the Parliament of Fiji to attend the 2006 Australasian Parliamentary Study Group’s (APSG) annual conference to be held in Wellington NZ in late September 2006.

This conference will provide an opportunity for the graduates to build networks with counterparts from other jurisdictions in particular New Zealand and State Parliaments in Australia and other priority countries.

We’ll have more information on this project in the next issue of CDI.News.

Feature Articles, Events, & Links

Universal Values and Muslim Democracy

By Anwar Ibrahim

This article, published in the latest Journal of Democracy, is an essay by Anwar Ibrahim which addresses the core questions and issues he covered in his CDI Annual Address in Parliament House, Canberra.

This new and updated edition of IDEA’s Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers Handbook covers the ground of women’s access to the legislature in three steps: It looks into the obstacles women confront when entering Parliament – be they political, socio-economic or ideological and psychological. It presents solutions to overcome these obstacles, such as changing electoral systems and introducing quotas, and it details strategies for women to influence politics once they are elected to parliament, an institution which is traditionally male dominated.

The first Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers handbook was produced in 1998. Since its release in English in 1998, there has been an ongoing interest and demand for the handbook, and responding to the request for the translation of the handbook, IDEA has produced Spanish, French and Indonesian language versions and a Russian overview of the handbook during 2002-2003.

In the seven years since the first handbook was published, the picture regarding women’s political participation has slowly changed. Overall the past decade has seen gradual progress with regard to women’s presence in national parliaments. This second edition incorporates relevant global changes in the past years presenting new and updated case studies.

This publication was brought to our attention by our colleagues from the Network of Democracy Research Institutes.

The desire for freedom and self-government is written in human hearts everywhere; in this there can be no “clash of civilizations.” Claims that Islam is inherently hostile to democracy represent an unwarranted surrender to fundamentalist arguments; we should engage with a broad spectrum of Muslim groups, but without compromising our commitment to freedom and democracy.