Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the fifth issue of CDI.News for 2007. This issue highlights CDI’s 2007 Political Party Development course. One of CDI’s flagship activities, the course brings together senior political party leaders from the Asia-Pacific region with the Australian party secretariats for two weeks of intensive high-level training on the requirements for building a successful political party. This year, parties from East Timor, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu participated in the course.

More information on this event and other recent CDI activities are detailed in the following pages.

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 parliamentarians, political party officials, 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 at any time by visiting our website: www.cdi.anu.edu.au.

Benjamin Reilly | CDI Director
CDI's 2007 Political Party Development Course

CDI's flagship Political Party Development (PPD) course was held from 7 to 18 May in Canberra. The two-week course was again convened by CDI Associate Norm Kelly, and 18 senior party officials from 7 countries, including 4 women, were accepted for the course from over 40 nominations received this year.

The PPD course is designed to provide senior political party officials from the Southeast Asia – South Pacific region with the skills to strengthen their parties and party systems, with the objectives being improved governance and more stable democracies.

The course is designed to provide participants with

- An understanding of the core functions of political parties and the factors that influence the development of party systems;
- A better understanding of parties and party systems in the region;
- Information on the Australian political system, with insights into how Australian political parties administer and organise themselves;
- Opportunities to develop contacts and networks with other parties in their own countries and throughout the region; and
- Development of links with Australian parties and institutions.

Accordingly, the course covered a range of topics including Functions of Political Parties, Membership, Party Systems & Democratic Development, Policy, Campaigns, Electoral Systems, Finances, Women in Politics, Media, Regulation of Parties, and Coalitions.

As part of the course, the participants were required to give two presentations – an introductory talk on their party and its place in their country’s political system; and, at the end of the second week, a formal presentation on one of six topics which included A Voice for Women; Internal Party Democracy; MP – Party Relations; and Campaigning to Win. The standard of these presentations was very high, and enabled the group to gain a better understanding of regional differences in these topic areas.

As in 2006, the success of the course once again relied on the active involvement and support of the main Australian political parties, which was forthcoming from both the administrative and parliamentary wings of the parties. At the administrative level, the visits to the parties’ secretariats included presentations on the

continued over
general structure of the party administration, as well as coverage of particular topics such as policy formulation, pre-selection processes, campaigning, branch structures, and involvement of women.

At the parliamentary level, the willingness of parliamentarians to meet with the group during the sitting week was very much appreciated. The group met with the following Members and Senators:

- Liberal: Greg Hunt MP, Senator Marise Payne, and David Hawker MP.
- Labor: Robert McClelland MP and Senator Kate Lundy.
- Greens: Senator Rachel Siewert.

The sessions with these representatives were very useful for participants' understanding of the relationship between the parliamentary and lay wings of parties.

The experience and expertise of party officials added value to the course. Of particular importance were the presentations from:

- Tony Eggleton, former Federal Director of the Liberal Party and current Chair of CDI's Consultative Committee – on the role of a major party secretary,
- Andrew Hall, Nationals – working in coalition
- Stephen Swift (former Democrats' Campaign Director) – principles of campaigning
- Michael Morgan – ALP party structure and mechanisms,
- Bruce Edwards – Liberal party structure and policy development
- Linda Reynolds, Liberal Deputy Federal Director – campaigning
- Lorraine Finlay – women in the Liberal party
- Matt Cossey – Labor branch level structure and campaigning, and
- Stewart Jackson – Greens party structure and policy.

Graeme Dobell, an ABC journalist with more than 20 years experience covering regional politics, gave an excellent presentation on the role of the media in covering politics, with particular reference to states in conflict.

All participants exhibited a genuine desire to learn, and to put that learning into practice on their return to their respective countries. The participants were of an age, seniority and experience to benefit greatly from the course, and it is expected that many of them will use the knowledge gained to further train and educate others in their parties.

One tangible outcome of the course was a resolution by the three Solomon Islands’ representatives to draw up a framework for the development of political parties in that country. The country, which currently has a very weak party system, should benefit considerably from this proposal. Such an initiative is only possible by having party officials of a sufficiently high status being involved in the course.

The enthusiastic support and involvement of the Australian political parties and their parliamentarians was critical to the success of the course, and CDI acknowledges the willingness of the parties to support and actively participate in the various sessions. At the same time, PPD also helps the Australian parties gain a better understanding of some of the issues and challenges that confront political parties throughout the region.

Click on this link to access the full PPD 2007 report and more on our website:

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Indonesia-Australia Parliamentary Committee Workshop

In conjunction with the Department of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia, in May CDI held the second Indonesia-Australia Parliamentary Committee Workshop. This workshop followed on from a seminar convened by CDI on the Parliamentary Oversight of Treaties in 2005 in Jakarta, that brought together elected representatives and secretariat staff from both parliaments’ foreign affairs committees to discuss issues of international law and their implications for domestic politics.

The second Indonesia-Australia Workshop was held in Canberra. It involved Members and staff of the Indonesian Parliament’s Commission One (Commission on Foreign Affairs, Defence, Communication and Information), in cooperation with the Australian Parliament’s committees for Foreign Affairs, Treaties and Intelligence, together with senior staff from the House of Representatives, the Senate and the Parliamentary Research Service.

The workshop was held on Friday 25 May 2007 at Parliament House. The Indonesian delegation was led by continued over
Mr Sidarto Danusubroto, Vice Chair Commission I, and included Mr Abdillah Toha, Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation. The delegation was in Canberra for 4 days and during this time also observed a Senate estimates hearing, attended question time in the House of Representatives, and held a series of meetings with Australian Government and Opposition MPs and Senators.

The theme for the Workshop was ‘Understanding the role of Parliamentary Committees in policy making in Indonesia and Australia’. The breadth of this subject enabled in-depth discussions between members of Commission I and Australian parliamentarians on key challenges facing Australia and Indonesia in terms of foreign policy, and trade and security issues. Participants also took the opportunity to look at aspects of parliamentary practice in our respective parliaments.

Click on this link to visit our website for a complete report on this project:

**CDI Sponsors Attachments for Bougainville Parliamentary Staff**

CDI sponsored short attachments to the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) in Canberra for two staff members from the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) House of Representatives. The two officers were Mrs Loretta Masiria (Hansard), and Ms Michaelyne Sabin (Librarian).

Both the parliamentary library and Hansard are areas which the ABG House of Representatives has identified as requiring staff capacity building through exposure to best practice elsewhere.

The Clerk of the ACT Legislative Assembly, Mr Tom Duncan, kindly agreed to support the attachments and ensured a suitable program was organised. In addition, the ABG staff received a comprehensive study tour of the Parliamentary Library and Hansard Service of the Parliament of Australia organised through the Department of Parliamentary Services. The two staff members had an opportunity to observe and work in two different parliaments in Australia. The attachments took place in the week beginning 28 May 2007 so as to coincide with sitting weeks for the ACT Legislative Assembly and the Australian Parliament’s House of Representatives.

In further cooperation with the ABG House of Representatives, CDI recently organised a training workshop for the Bougainville Parliament on the role of parliamentary committees, which was successfully conducted in late June in Buka. A full report on this activity will be featured in the next issue of CDI.

Click on this link to access reports and further details on all our recent work with the ABG House of Representatives Members and staff:

**CDI Web Link**
New Efforts to Promote Democracy - Stanford Symposium

CDI Director Ben Reilly participated in an international symposium on “New Efforts to Promote Democracy” hosted by the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law at Stanford University, on 31 May and 1 June.

The Symposium brought together major US and international democracy promotion organisations to look at some of the new efforts to promote democracy, particularly by some of the smaller organisations around the world and how they can be effective. CDI was one of the first organisations invited to this symposium, with organiser Larry Diamond noting that “the small scale and focused strategy of CDI makes it a particularly relevant model for some of the new democracy promotion efforts around the world”.

The workshop focussed on questions of structure, approach, funding and evaluation for democracy promotion organisations. A website serving as a nodal point for democracy promotion organisations will be established as a result of the workshop.

Dr Reilly gave a presentation on the history, programme and structure of CDI. Other participants at the workshop included Carl Gershman, President of the National Endowment for Democracy; Wen-Cheng Lin, President of the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy; and Alejandro Toledo, former President of Peru, as well as representatives from the newer democracy promotion organizations in Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe. Representatives of the US and Canadian foreign services also attended the event.

Click on this link for more information:

CDI Web Link

Media Coverage

Recent CDI media contributions to debate and analysis of governance issues in the Asia-Pacific included:

22 June | Ben Reilly spoke to Agence France-Presse (AFP) about the 2007 national elections in Papua New Guinea. The resulting article appeared in The Age on 29 June.

Forthcoming

CDI assisting PNG Parliament with MP Induction Program

CDI is assisting the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea in planning and organising the induction program for Members of Parliament following the 2007 national elections. The induction program is scheduled to be held over three days from 14 to 16 August 2007 at Parliament House in Port Moresby, and CDI is working in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Parliamentary Support Project in PNG on this important activity.

CDI has arranged for the Hon Kevin Rozzoli, a former Speaker in the New South Wales Parliament to advise and assist the Clerk of the Papua New Guinea Parliament, Mr Don Pandan, and the Induction Program Core Team in planning and preparing the induction. CDI will be represented on the Induction Program Core Team by Deputy Director, Mr Quinton Clements.

Mr Rozzoli is currently an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Sydney and Monash University and is researching induction programmes. He is National President of the Australasian Study of Parliament Group (ASPG), a politically non-partisan body which was established in 1978 to encourage and stimulate research, writing, teaching and discussion about parliamentary institutions, particularly those in Australasia and the South Pacific.

Mr Rozzoli and Mr Clements visited Port Moresby from 6 to 13 June 2007 and participated in several meetings involving the Acting Deputy Clerk, Mr Simon Ila, and Division Heads of the Parliamentary Service and the UNDP Parliamentary Support Project to consider the program and logistical arrangements for the induction. Mr Rozzoli, Mr Clements and Mr Ila also held meetings with key PNG agencies that will make presentations at the induction including the Ombudsman Commission, the Registrar of Political Parties, the Electoral Commissioner, the National Research Institute and Transparency International (PNG).

Click on this link for more details on our website:

PNG Induction Program
2007 Responsible Parliamentary Government Course

CDI’s sixth annual Responsible Parliamentary Government (RPG) course will take place from 3 to 21 September 2007 in Canberra. The three-week program will again be coordinated by CDI Associate Dr Stephen Sherlock.

RPG is designed primarily for mid-level parliamentary officials and examines the fundamental principles and doctrines underlying the practice of responsible parliamentary government. Using the Australian Commonwealth Parliament as the principal example, the course covers issues including constitutional foundations, the main activities of parliament, and related structures for accountability and scrutiny of administration.

To foster cross-regional ties and learning, Speakers of selected Asian and Pacific parliaments have been invited to nominate officials to participate in RPG. In 2007 we expect up to 20 participants from countries including Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Thailand and Vietnam to attend the course.

As the major activity supported by CDI in the area of legislative strengthening, the RPG course has attracted increasing interest from parliaments in CDI target countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. RPG has now been undertaken by 84 senior and middle-level parliamentary officials since its inception in 2002.

Click on this link for more detail:

RPG 2007

Feature Articles, Publications
Events, & Links

Democracy & Society is a publication of the Center for Democracy and Civil Society at Georgetown University. It is intended to be a venue for the exchange of ideas about crucial issues relating to democracy and civil society, and an outlet for contributions from faculty and students both at Georgetown and from other institutions.

All issues of this publication are available on the Center for Democracy and Civil Society website, including the latest Spring 2007 edition, which features a number of articles that examine ‘the problematic experiences of democratization in several world regions.’

Click on this link to access the Center for Democracy and Civil Society website:

Governance Matters 2007: Release of WORLDWIDE GOVERNANCE INDICATORS

On July 10, 2007, the World Bank launched a new report in the ‘Governance Matters’ series, containing the updated and expanded set of worldwide Governance Indicators for 212 countries and territories.

The research methodology as well as the new data and analysis are contained in this new report, entitled ‘Governance Matters VI: Governance Indicators for 1996-2006’, authored by D. Kaufmann, A. Kraay, and M. Mastruzzi. This is the sixth such report in a research series that started in the late nineties.

Click on this link for more details and to access the report:

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

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