Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the first issue of CDI.News in 2008. This issue focuses on CDI’s recent Pacific Parliamentary Dialogue, which was held for the first time Papua New Guinea. The Dialogue, which brings together senior parliamentarians from the Pacific Islands, Australia and New Zealand, examined the role of parliaments in managing conflicts, a crucial issue across the Pacific region. More information on this event and other recent and upcoming 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
The 9th Annual CDI Pacific Parliamentary Dialogue

The Role of Parliament in Managing Conflicts
Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea | 11 - 13 December 2007

CDI’s 9th annual Pacific Parliamentary Dialogue concluded in the Papua New Guinea (PNG) highlands in December 2007 with parliamentary leaders from around the region emphasising the need to strengthen democracy to successfully manage conflicts in their societies.

The CDI Dialogue brought together leading political figures from the Pacific Island countries, Australia and New Zealand to explore the ways to address contentious issues in conflict-affected societies and thereby strengthen and enhance the political governance of Pacific Island Countries. This year, parliamentarians from PNG, the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, New Zealand, Australia, and, for the first time, Timor-Leste, met to discuss the role of Parliaments in managing conflicts and learn about political developments in PNG.

CDI holds the Dialogue every year to facilitate discussions by Pacific parliamentarians on issues of common interest whilst having the opportunity to look at aspects of parliamentary practice in other parliaments in the region. This year’s Dialogue was held in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, and hence the program was designed so that the first and third days focused on political and economic developments in PNG, thus giving parliamentarians from elsewhere the opportunity to learn about one of the most complex and challenging environments for democracy anywhere in the world.

Despite those challenges, democracy remains resilient in PNG, with the 2007 national elections being the seventh since independence. But while recent electoral and party reforms have seen a marked improvement in political stability and peaceful electioneering, it is clear that parliamentary democracy also faces real difficulties in PNG. These include the capacity of the public sector, the growing influence of money politics, the changing regional security environment, and the growing influence of non-democratic Asian countries on PNG politics. All of these issues received a frank airing at the dialogue.

Other speakers spoke openly about some of the major challenges facing their countries, from the recent conflicts in Timor-Leste to the coups in Fiji and the ongoing struggle for political reform in Tonga. This forthright focus ensured a rich...
and rewarding dialogue on difficult issues including the gap between the Pacific’s abundant natural resources and its low levels of human development, the worrying political situation in post-coup Fiji, and the need for better relations between Australia and the Pacific Island countries.

There was also a strong focus on cross-country learning, such as how other countries could emulate the success of Bougainville and Timor-Leste of integrating women into their political process, and the potential for other Pacific Island countries to borrow elements of PNG’s political party reforms.

The Governor-General of PNG, HE Grand Chief Sir Paulias Matane, delivered the keynote address on PNG democracy. Other senior figures from PNG to speak at the Dialogue included the Hon Moses Maladina; Hon Francis Marus (deputy Speaker of the National Parliament); Hon Bart Philemon (deputy opposition leader); General Jerry Singirok (PNGDF Ret., Chairman, Guns Control Committee & former Commander, PNG Defence Force); and Mr Paul Bengo (Registrar of Political Parties).

Representatives from other parliaments in the region included Mr John English and Mr John-Paul Langbroek from Queensland; Mrs Judith Hopwood from New South Wales; Hon Dominic Itta and Hon Francesca Semoso OBE from the Bougainville House of Representatives; Mrs Ro Teimumu V. Kepa and Mr Pita K. Nacuva from Fiji; Ms Jill Pettis and Mr Pita Paraone from New Zealand; Hon Fiane Naomi Mata’afa and Hon Tolofuiavalelei Falemo Leitataua from Samoa; Mr Domingos Sarmento and Mr Lucas Da Costa from Timor-Leste; and Mr ‘Isileli Pulu and Mrs Lepolo Mahe Taunisila from Tonga.

The Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Dr William F. Shija, also attended the Dialogue on what was his first-ever visit to the Pacific region.

CDI held the 2007 Dialogue with the support of the National Parliament of PNG and the Eastern Highlands Provincial Government. Funding from AusAID, with additional funding from NZAID and the CPA, helped to support this important contribution to improving political governance in partner countries by exposing participants to new ideas and enabling them to engage with fellow political practitioners from our region.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

2007 CDI Pacific Parliamentary Dialogue

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**Solomon Islands’ Prime Minister Visits ANU**

The new Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, the Hon Dr David Derek Sikua MP, visited the Australian National University in January 2008 to discuss recent political developments and plans for the future. CDI Director Ben Reilly and other senior ANU staff met with Dr Sikua and talked about a range of pressing issues, including planned political reforms, higher education initiatives, constitutional reforms and the future of the RAMSI operation. Dr Sikua has outlined some of these plans in a policy address on the inauguration of his new Government which you can access through this link:

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

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**Ongoing CDI Assistance to the PNG Parliament**

As part of CDI’s follow-up to the successful induction program for the National Parliament of PNG in August 2007 CDI is assisting the PNG Parliamentary Service in producing two new publications for Members of
The CDI Consultative Council met for the second time in 2007 on 3 December at the Australian National University to consider the Centre’s work plan and 2006-07 annual report. Following an introduction from Consultative Council Chair Tony Eggleton AO CVO, presentations from CDI Director Ben Reilly and Deputy Director Quinton Clements set out CDI’s achievements over the past six months as well as plans for some upcoming events.

The meeting was also an opportunity to farewell Ms Annmaree O’Keefe, the AusAID representative and longest-serving member of the Council, and to welcome her successor, Ms Ali Gillies. Ms O’Keefe noted in her remarks to the Council that CDI was delivering the kind of focussed, practical assistance to fragile states in the region that had always been envisaged, and the Council endorsed both CDI’s current work program and the specifics of particular parliamentary assistance projects in PNG and East Timor.

In another Australia Day award, CDI Consultative Council member Ian Campbell, the Australian Electoral Commissioner, received a federal Public Service Medal for his services to electoral administration and veteran’s affairs.

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

- December ’07 | “Young Australian politicians ignorant of PNG” CDI Director Ben Reilly interviewed in Goroka by The National.
- Women play major role in peace process” Deputy Speaker of the Autonomous Bougainville Parliament Francesca Semoso interviewed in Goroka by The National at the CDI Pacific Parliamentary Dialogue.
- November ’07 | Ben Reilly interviewed by IPS news on Australia’s position in the Pacific.
- October ’07 | Ben Reilly interviewed by the Washington Times about changing aid and security issues in the South Pacific.

One of CDI’s parliamentary development consultants, the Hon Kevin Rozzoli, was honoured for his services to democracy in this year’s Australia Day awards. Mr Rozzoli became a Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for service to the New South Wales Parliament, and to the community of the Greater Western Sydney area through a range of environmental protection, health and welfare, and educational organisations.

A long-serving member of the New South Wales parliament and former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Mr Rozzoli has worked for CDI on a number of recent activities, most notably the 2007 Parliamentary Induction program for the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea.

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Media Coverage

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Click on this link for more detail on our website:
Projects Running in February:

3rd La Trobe International PAC Summer School

The Public Sector Governance and Accountability Research Centre at La Trobe University in Melbourne is holding its third annual Summer School for Parliamentary Public Accounts Committees (PACs) in early 2008. The course is jointly sponsored by CDI, the World Bank Institute (WBI), and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), and will run from 3 - 13 February 2008.

The program will focus on building effective PACs as the parliament’s primary means of financial scrutiny of the executive. It will combine both the theoretical and the practical, with a six-day training course at La Trobe University’s Beechworth Campus, along with visits to a number of Australian parliaments.

The Summer School is aimed at chairs and members of PACs, auditors-general and audit office staff, and PAC staff. Participants from Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Liberia, Ethiopia and Bangladesh have been invited to participate.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

PAC Summer School

Effective Parliamentary Committee Inquiries Course

Directly following the La Trobe PAC Summer School, and with participation from the same countries, CDI will inaugurate a new residential training course in February 2008. This new course, developed by CDI and aimed specifically at parliamentary committee staff, will focus on the practical aspects of parliamentary committee work. Topics covered will include inquiry terms of reference, planning and budgeting, collecting written and oral evidence, conducting public hearings, writing a report and tabling the final report in Parliament.

The course will be conducted in conjunction with WBI and the CPA at the Australian National University in Canberra from Tuesday 12 to Friday 15 February 2008.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

CDI Inquiries Course

Recent Publications

Democracy and Diversity Now in Paperback

CDI Director Benjamin Reilly’s book Democracy and Diversity: Political Engineering in the Asia-Pacific is now available in paperback. A study of political reform across the new democracies of Asia and the Pacific, the book has been described by one reviewer as “an unusually comprehensive picture of institutional change across the Asia Pacific (including rarely studied Pacific nations like Fiji and Papua New Guinea) ... essential reading for anyone interested in the design of democratic institutions” (Political Studies Review).

Click on this link to access the draft program and other details on our website:

CDI - AIIA Forum

From War to Democracy - Dilemmas of Peacebuilding

Professor Reilly has contributed a chapter on post-war elections to a new major edited publication entitled From War to Democracy - Dilemmas of Peacebuilding, which will be launched in March 2008 at the International Studies Association 49th Annual Convention in San Francisco.

Through a study of six themes (peacekeeping, management...
of violence, power sharing, political party transformation, elections, civil society and international reactions to democratization crises) this volume considers the dilemmas that arise in pursuing peace after civil war through processes of democratization. The contributors’ research highlights the complex relationship between democratization, which is competitive, and peacebuilding or efforts to achieve reconciliation. The book offers insights into more effective action in peacebuilding in light of the short-term negative effects that democratization can introduce. It is a thought-provoking work that seeks both to advance theory and to provide policy-relevant findings to facilitate more effective and durable transitions from war to democracy.

To be published by Cambridge University Press, this volume has been edited by Anna Jarstad of Uppsala University, Sweden and Timothy Sisk of the University of Denver.

Click on the link below for complete details, further description, and reviews of this publication:

Donor Support to Political Parties: Status and Principles

By I Amundsen, Christian Michelsen Institute

How should donor support be provided to political parties in developing countries? This paper from the Christian Michelsen Institute outlines the current status, modalities and practices of donor support to political parties and recommends core principles by which such assistance should be provided. Current donor assistance hampers political party capacity building by failing to integrate and harmonise party support with democracy support.

Political parties are indispensable for good governance, and thus eligible for donor support. However, many political parties and party systems in developing and transitional countries have deep-rooted political, structural and institutional problems which make donor support necessary, but also difficult. Specific problems include authoritarian leadership, an emphasis on private interests and gain, corruption and embezzlement, lack of organisation and weak funding.

Once considered a preserve for party foundations with strong ideological overtones, political party assistance is increasingly being taken over by governmental development agencies and non-governmental organisations. However, donor support runs the risk of actual or perceived manipulation of party assistance, increased polarisation among parties, and the tendency to conserve established parties to the detriment of newcomers. As a result, direct support to political parties has often raised suspicion and is very rarely given by donor agencies. Two indirect methods of supporting political parties are preferred: via support to broader democratization processes and via political parties and party organisations in the donor countries.

Political party assistance is increasingly seen as a critical element of comprehensive democratisation process. As such, donors need to strengthen the range and quality of their support through:

- analysis of party systems, party regulations, circumstantial factors and political systems in recipient countries
- development of full partnerships between donor and recipients
- increased parallel support to political system reform
- cooperation and harmonisation, including internal coordination of support criteria, analysis and implementation and external coordination with other donors working in the same recipient country or region
- better monitoring, quality control and evaluation of assistance programmes.

Click on this link to access this article:

“Seeking Universality”

By Roland Rich - Executive Head, United Nations Democracy Fund

“Seeking Universality” is the first chapter of Pacific Asia in Quest of Democracy (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2007 www.rienner.com), and it examines whether liberal democracy is becoming accepted as the universally applicable system of governance. Samuel Huntington’s works provide critical tools to examine this question, but Rich asks whether his two seminal contributions to this field are in fact consistent. “The Third Wave treats the waves of democratization as global phenomena not bounded by civilizational contexts, while The Clash of Civilizations casts global politics under the thrall of civilizational divides.” Rich also argues that the third wave transcended the bounds of western civilization, and it is in Pacific Asia, on Asia’s Pacific rim, that the next critical mass of democratization took place. The balance of Pacific Asia in Quest of Democracy examines the depth of this democratic transformation and the challenges faced by its practitioners.

Click on this link to access this article: