Dear Colleagues,
Welcome to the 2nd issue of CDI.News in 2008. This issue highlights a number of recent CDI activities in Timor-Leste, where CDI is expanding our assistance program, and CDI’s new training course on Effective Parliamentary Committees. More information on these 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
At the request of the National Parliament of Timor-Leste, CDI conducted a training workshop for Members and staff in Dili in early March 2008. Held in conjunction with the International Republican Institute (IRI), the workshop focused on the role of parliamentary committees with an emphasis on engaging the community through committee work. This workshop followed on from the successful workshop on holding public hearings for Committee A of the Timorese Parliament that CDI and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) ran in 2007.

With on-the-ground logistical support from IRI, CDI Deputy Director Quinton Clements convened the workshop together with:

- Mr Tim Barnett - MP for Christchurch Central and Chief Government Whip, Parliament of New Zealand;
- Mr David Kusilifu – Committee Secretariat, National Parliament of Solomon Islands; and
- Mr Repe Rambe – Committee Secretary, Public Accounts Committee, National Parliament of Papua New Guinea (PNG).

45 of the 65 Members of Parliament participated in the workshop with good representation from both government and opposition parties. The workshop program was based on sharing the experiences of other parliaments in the region, specifically those of Australia, New Zealand, PNG and Solomon Islands, with Timorese parliamentarians.

The first day was devoted to presentations on the Australian, New Zealand and Pacific Islands experience of working with parliamentary committees followed by question and answer sessions. The parliamentarians then broke up into small groups to consider three themes – what makes effective committee membership, are the current operational processes for the Timorese parliamentary committees best serving the needs of those committees, and procedural issues such as the powers of committees and protecting witnesses. Day two sessions were focused on taking the parliamentarians through a typical inquiry process – establishing an inquiry, planning, collecting written and oral evidence, and reporting back to the Plenary. Each session involved a practical exercise including the holding of a mock public hearing.

The workshop was extremely well received by the parliamentarians and staff. Feedback from participants was that the workshop addressed the many operational and procedural issues they were grappling with. There were many achievements including encouraging all the Timorese parliamentarians to sit together outside of their party groupings for the first time to discuss the issues and problems confronting their parliament. Having Mr Kusilifu and Mr Rambe involved in the workshop proved invaluable as there is considerable interest on the part of the Timorese parliamentarians in the way the PNG and Solomon Islands parliaments work.

Click on this link for more details on our Website:

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**Democratic Governance in Timor-Leste**

CDI Director Ben Reilly and Timor-Leste Deputy Prime Minister Dr Jose Luis Guterres were amongst the speakers at an international conference held in Darwin on Democratic Governance in Timor-Leste: Reconciling the Local and the National on 7-8 February, 2008.

The conference, which spent a considerable amount of time analysing the threats to political stability in Timor-Leste, finished the day before a failed coup attempt in Timor-Leste that left President Jose Ramos-Horta injured. “He will survive, and this country will survive”, Dr Guterres was quoted as saying.

The conference focussed on how the process of ‘nation building’ might be envisaged given the international, national and local expectations that press upon the Timor-Leste government and parliament. Topics at the conference included the consolidation of democracy, the legal system, national identity, post-conflict peacebuilding, rural resettlement, and reconciling local and western modes of governance. Prof Reilly discussed the prospects for democratic development in Timor-Leste and the work of CDI in supporting Timor-Leste’s legislature and political parties.

Speakers also examined the emerging relations between the national and local governments during what is a critical phase in the country’s development.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:
Australia’s Role in Democracy Promotion

A ground-breaking public forum co-organised by CDI on ‘Australia’s role in democracy promotion’ has provided the new government with much needed ideas and insights, according to the Hon Bob McMullan, Australia’s Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance.

The forum, which brought together all the main players in Australia’s efforts to strengthen promoting and enhance democracy abroad, was held at the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) on 14 March and saw spirited debate and discussion on how best to strengthen democracy in Australia’s immediate neighbourhood and further afield.

This event attracted an audience of over 100 and marked the first time that all the main Australian actors, including government and opposition members and representatives of both major political parties, had come together since the change of government to discuss Australian initiatives in this field.

In his speech to the forum, Mr McMullan announced a review of Australia’s democracy promotion activities as part of the new government’s broader re-examination of Australia’s international policies and programs.

The forum was designed to examine Australia’s current approaches and policies to democracy promotion, and look at ways in which these could be improved, both in our immediate Asia-Pacific neighbourhood as well as further afield.

In addition to Mr McMullan, other speakers included CDI Director Ben Reilly, who examined Australia’s approach to democracy promotion in an international context; Senator Marise Payne, the Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, who gave an Opposition perspective on these issues; Michael Morgan and Linda Reynolds from the Australian Labor and Liberal parties who discussed the activities of their respective parties under the Australian Political Parties for Democracy Program; Michael Maley of the Australian Electoral Commission, who spoke about Australia’s long-standing support for international election activities; and Andrew Goledzinowski of the Department of Foreign Affairs, who looked at the growth of new international groupings in this area.

The Forum was chaired by Mr Tony Eggleton AO CVO, the chair of CDI’s Consultative Council. Click on this link for more detail on our website:
CDI inaugurated a new residential training course on "Effective Parliamentary Committee Inquiries" in February 2008. The course, developed by CDI and aimed specifically at parliamentary committee staff, focused on the practical aspects of parliamentary committee work. It was convened by CDI Deputy Director, Mr Quinton Clements, and Mr Steven Reynolds, the Clerk Assistant of Committees and the Usher of the Black Rod in the Legislative Council of the New South Wales Parliament.

18 parliamentary committee staff from CDI’s target countries of Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Fiji and Solomon Islands, together with their counterparts from Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania and Bangladesh, participated. The new Director of the Secretariat of the National Parliament of Timor-Leste, Mr Joao Rui Amaral, was among the participants.

The course program followed the process of conducting a committee inquiry from the beginning with the issuing of terms of reference for an inquiry through to the drafting of the final report and its tabling in Parliament. Topics covered included planning and budgeting for an inquiry, collecting evidence, processing written submissions, conducting public hearings and analysing the evidence received. Several guest presenters addressed specific issues and case studies including Mr Andrew Dawson and Mr Russell Chafer from the Australian Parliament, and Mr Leslie Gonye, Ms Helen Minnican, Ms Beverly Duffy and Ms Julie Langsworth of the New South Wales Parliament. Mr Dawson spoke about advertising an inquiry, Mr Chafer gave a presentation on preparing a budget for an inquiry, and Ms Minnican spoke about the hearing processes for NSW parliamentary committees.

As part of the course the participants visited the Australian Parliament’s House of Representatives during the first sitting week of the 42nd Parliament and met with the new Speaker, the Hon. Harry Jenkins MP. The group then held roundtable discussions on the importance of committee work, firstly with the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Mr Ian Harris, then with two committee secretaries, Mr James Catchpole and Ms Anna Dacre.

The program was designed to be very interactive and practically oriented. Participants not only learnt from the presenters but were encouraged to learn about committee work in each other’s respective parliaments. The group undertook a number of exercises, both in small groups and as individuals, including a mock public hearing in which each participant played a specific role.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:
Deputy Director visits Jakarta

CDI Deputy Director, Quinton Clements, visited Jakarta from 8 - 12 March. The purpose of his visit was to discuss areas of co-operation with Indonesia’s House of Representatives or Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat (DPR) and the Regional Representative Assembly or Dewan Perwakilan Daerah (DPD) as part of CDI’s ongoing assistance to the Indonesian Parliament.

Mr Clements held discussions on CDI’s 2008 program of activities and other proposed areas of assistance with the DPR’s Acting Secretary-General Dra. Ninindra Shaleh, and with senior Secretariat General officials. Mr Clements also met with the DPD Secretary-General Dr. Ir. Siti Nurbaya Bakar. Mr Clements also held discussions with Members of DPR’s Commission 1, Commission 11, the Budget Committee and the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Co-operation; the Chairman of the Supreme Audit Board (BPK), Professor Anwar Nasution; and a host of organisations involved in parliamentary strengthening activities in Indonesia including the National Democratic Institute and the World Bank.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

Web Page

Strengthening Political Parties in Fragile States


Prof Reilly’s presentation surveyed the growing trend for developing democracies to try to strengthen their party systems by regulating the way political parties can form, organize and behave. He examined these attempts at political party ‘engineering’ in conflict-prone societies and considered how best to promote stable, non-sectarian political parties – an essential component of democracy – whilst also allowing free political expression and minority representation. Prof Reilly discussed the practical application of these measures, particularly in key focus countries such as Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

Click on this link for more detail on our website and to access a copy of the CDI-IDEA-UNU Policy Brief:

Political Parties in Fragile States

CDI Sponsors 3rd Summer School for Parliamentary PACs

The La Trobe University’s 3rd annual Summer School for Parliamentary Public Accounts Committees ran from 3 - 13 February 2008. The course was co-sponsored by CDI, the World Bank Institute (WBI), and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

The Program focussed on building effective Public Accounts Committees as the Parliament’s primary means of financial scrutiny of the Executive. It combined both the theoretical and the practical, with a six-day retreat style, 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 Public Accounts Committees, Auditors-General and Audit Office staff, and Public Accounts Committees staff. Participants from Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Liberia, Ethiopia and Bangladesh participated in 2008.

As detailed in the article on page 4 of this newsletter, CDI’s new training course on Effective Parliamentary Committee Inquiries followed on directly from the 2008 La Trobe Summer School.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

2008 La Trobe PAC Summer School
CDI Director Consults with U.S. Partners

CDI Director Ben Reilly will meet with key CDI partners in the United States next month.

Following the launch of a new book on the dilemmas of democratization in San Francisco, Prof Reilly will travel to New York for talks with the United Nations Democracy Fund and the United Nations Development Program, before moving on to Washington DC for meetings with CDI’s American partners, including the National Endowment for Democracy, the International Republican Institute (IRI), and the National Democratic Institute (NDI). CDI works in partnership with both NDI and IRI on a number of projects, particularly in Indonesia and East Timor.

While in Washington, Prof Reilly will hold separate discussions with the U.S. Undersecretary for Democracy and Global Affairs, Paula Dobriansky, and the Council for the Community of Democracies. He will also visit the White House for discussions with the Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs, Mr Barry Jackson.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

World Movement for Democracy

CDI Director Ben Reilly will attend the 5th Assembly of the World Movement for Democracy (WMD), which will take place in Kyiv, Ukraine, on 6-9 April 2008. The World Movement for Democracy is the world’s largest gathering of democracy-support organisations, with over 500 organisations attending its triennial meetings. The WMD is supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) in the United States. Previous meetings were held in New Delhi, India, in 1999; São Paulo, Brazil in 2000; Durban, South Africa, in 2004; and Istanbul, Turkey, in 2006. The objectives of the Assembly include:

• providing participants with a forum to exchange practical, hands-on knowledge that they can use in the countries and regions in which they work;
• ensuring that the extent of repression exercised by regimes in closed societies will not pass unnoticed in the international community, and to devise new ways to enhance assistance to those inside those countries;
• directing attention to the needs of democrats in transitional and authoritarian countries;
• encouraging other established democracies, both old and new, to support democracy-promotion efforts; and
• exploring ways in which participants can use new information & communication technologies in their work.

CDI is a member of one of the WMD’s key functional networks, the Network of Democracy Research Institutes, and plays an active role in other WMD and NED networks in its capacity as Australia’s international democracy promotion organisation.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

CDI’s 2008 Political Party Development Course

CDI’s 2008 Political Party Development Course (PPD) will take place at the Australian National University in Canberra between 12-23 May.

One of CDI’s annual flagship products, the course will cover the nuts and bolts of party politics from the inside. Topics addressed included running effective campaigns; public opinion and polling; successful electoral strategies; media relations; policy development; membership recruitment; issue management; and political party funding.

The course will consist of a mixture of lectures, discussions, external site visits, and participatory forums. Networking is another major aspect of the course, both to enhance future relationships between Australia and regional countries at the party and governmental levels, and to establish new links between individuals. Participants will also gain an understanding of the administration and workings of the Australian political system, with visits to the headquarters of the major Australian parties.

As in previous years, the course will be convened by Mr Norm Kelly, a CDI Associate and former member of the West Australian Legislative Council.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

Recent Publications

Political Party Internationals as Guardians of Democracy – Their Untapped Potential

In the new landscape of global democratic politics most ideologies and political families are struggling to define themselves. Hardly any has a truly global following.

continued over
Despite these difficulties, the author argues that Party Internationals can make a critical and unique contribution to consolidating democratic gains worldwide. Universal political ideas can prevent the international political climate from sliding further into the morass of suspicion and confrontation. Internationals are operating below their potential.

Party Internationals have the opportunity to leverage their unique character and exercise peer pressure, if democratic membership criteria are properly applied. More intense interaction among like-minded political forces and interest groups could improve the quality of policies and politics, both at national level and in international forums. The conservative, liberal, and Green political families have each adopted useful strategies and practices for political coherence, while socialists and centrist democrats are broader churches with less clear profiles.

Click on the link below to access this complete article courtesy of the Journal of Democracy:

Full Hutchcroft Article

## CDI Alumni Update

News on past CDI course participants:
- **PPD 2007 participant Liew Chin Tong was elected to the Penang state parliament in the recent Malaysian election.**
- **PPD 2006 participant and Secretary of the National Alliance Party (NA) in PNG, Joyce Grant, was the NA campaign manager for the 2007 PNG national election which saw the NA returned to government.**

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

Alumni Update

## Media Coverage

Recent CDI media contributions to debate and analysis of governance issues in the Asia-Pacific includes:
- **February ’08 | CDI Director Ben Reilly spoke to Australian Associated Press about the political situation in Timor-Leste.**
- **January ’08 | Ben Reilly spoke to New Scientist magazine (US) about the political consequences of preferential voting in Australia and elsewhere.**

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

Media

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

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