Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 3rd issue of CDI.News in 2008. This issue features recent CDI parliamentary strengthening activities in Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands; our upcoming work assisting the National Parliament of Timor-Leste; and the recent appointment of new staff at CDI. More information on these and other 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

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At the request of the Clerk of the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea, CDI assisted with a training workshop for officers of the Parliamentary Service. The workshop was held 19-21 May at Parliament House in Port Moresby. Twelve Provincial Assembly Clerks and staff from East Sepik, Simbu, East New Britain, West New Britain, New Ireland, Manus, Madang, Morobe and Sandaun Provinces joined around 50 staff from all divisions of the PNG Parliamentary Service to participate in the three day course.

CDI Deputy Director, Mr Quinton Clements, convened the workshop together with:

- Ms Helen Minnican, Committee Manager, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of New South Wales;
- Ms Beverly Duffy, Committee Manager, Legislative Council, Parliament of New South Wales;
- Mr Derk Swieringa, Australian Business Volunteers.

The purpose of the workshop was to enable PNG parliamentary officials from the different divisions of the Parliamentary Service and the Provincial Assemblies to learn about different aspects of parliamentary work, further develop their professional skills and thereby raise the standards of service they provide to the Members they serve.

Accordingly, the workshop focused on developing staff capacity in the following core areas of parliamentary work:

- Understanding the Westminster parliamentary model;
- Parliamentary privilege and contempt;
- Planning and budgeting;
- Research and analysis;
- Writing; and
- Committee work.

The first day of the workshop was devoted to assessing participants’ knowledge and understanding of the core functions of Parliament. Participants also completed a survey on their writing skills, and this was followed by presentations and discussion on the basic principles of the Westminster model and the concept of parliamentary privilege. The afternoon sessions involved an exercise on the skills needed to provide sound administrative and procedural support to MPs, a presentation on negotiation skills, and an introduction to researching and analysing procedural issues.

The first part of Day Two focused on planning, preparing a budget, and monitoring expenditure. These were practical sessions led by Mr Swieringa which involved participants planning and preparing budgets for several hypothetical committee inquiries. In the afternoon sessions, Ms Duffy focused on good writing skills. She began by looking at the elements of plain language writing and then examined various parliamentary documents. Participants completed a number of practical exercises and were given an assignment on report writing to complete overnight.

The final day of the workshop was devoted to the second part of the writing skills sessions. In this session Ms Duffy took participants through the process of committee report writing. The completed assignments were marked by the other presenters and then feedback was given to all participants. The final sessions were focused on preparing
for and running a public hearing. Ms Minnican and Ms Duffy gave presentations on ‘things to consider’ and witness protection. Mr Lawrence Daveona, Director of the Committees Secretariat, then led the participants through the planning and preparing for a mock public hearing.

Overall, participants were involved in a practically oriented and highly interactive program that challenged them while improving their professional skills. The evaluation feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and strongly suggests that this type of course that addresses specific skills development is greatly needed in PNG at both the national and provincial levels. There were numerous requests to repeat the course later this year. The Provincial Assembly Clerks also requested that a similar but more intensive course be developed for Provincial Assembly staff in 2008-09.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

**PNG Parliamentary Staff Workshop**

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**Political Parties in the Pacific Islands Now Available Online**

First published in 2006, CDI’s edited volume *Political Parties in the Pacific Islands* is now available online through ANU E Press.

Addressing the implications of the lack of established party systems across the Pacific, this collection seeks to illuminate the underlying assumptions and suppositions behind the importance of coherent and effective parties to overall democratic functioning.

Focusing on the political systems of East Timor, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Fiji and Samoa, the coherent structure of the volume makes it useful as both an analytical text and a reference tool concerning the political composition, history and direction of Pacific states.

*Political Parties in the Pacific Islands* is the benchmark reference work on the political parties of the Pacific: an invaluable resource for students, scholars and researchers of the Pacific and international politics.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

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**CDI's 2008 Political Party Development Course Concludes in Canberra**

CDI's flagship Political Party Development course concluded in May in Canberra, featuring 19 senior party secretaries from Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

A full report on the 2008 PPD course will be included in the next CDI Newsletter. Click on this link to visit the PPD Web page:

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**New Appointments at CDI**

Ms Suzanne Francis commenced work as the CDI Project/Finance Officer in April. Suzanne has been working at the ANU for just over 2 years where she is also undertaking a diploma in Asian Studies. Suzanne replaces Vicki Veness who has recently moved on to a new position within the Crawford School at the ANU. We take this opportunity to welcome Suzanne and thank Vicki for her significant contribution to CDI over the last two years.

CDI also welcomes Dr Sun-Hee Lee who will join us in June on secondment from AusAID for 9 months as Special Adviser on Gender. Sun-Hee’s work will include leading the design and development of a new CDI training course aimed at intending and existing women candidates for public office in CDI’s focus countries.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:
As part of CDI’s program of in-country training courses for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, and at the request of the Speaker of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands, Rt Hon. Sir Peter Kenilorea, CDI conducted a training workshop for Members of the National Parliament at Parliament House in Honiara on 16-17 April 2008.

The workshop was organised in partnership with the Solomon Islands National Parliament Office and the UNDP Solomon Islands Parliamentary Support Project. The focus of the training was on the role of parliamentary committees with an emphasis on engaging the community through committee work.

CDI Deputy Director, Quinton Clements, convened the workshop, together with:

- Senator The Hon. Kay Patterson - Senator for Victoria, Parliament of Australia;
- Hon. Moses Maladina - Member for Esa’ala Open & Chair, Parliamentary Select Committee on the Ombudsman Commission, National Parliament of Papua New Guinea; and
- Mr Steven Reynolds - Clerk Assistant of Committees and the Usher of the Black Rod, Legislative Council, Parliament of New South Wales.

37 of the current 49 Members of the Solomon Islands Parliament participated in the two day workshop, including Prime Minister Derek Sikua, the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Manasseh Sogavare, and several current government ministers. Key senior Solomon Islands public servants were also invited to participate as a way of enhancing their understanding of the parliamentary process.

The workshop program was based on sharing the experiences of other parliaments in the region, specifically those of Australia and Papua New Guinea, with Solomon Islands parliamentarians and staff. The first day of the program was devoted to presentations on the Australian (both Federal and State levels) and Papua New Guinean experiences of working with parliamentary committees, followed by question and answer sessions.

Participants then broke into smaller groups to consider three themes - what makes effective committee membership, whether the current operational processes for Solomon Islands parliamentary committees best serve the needs of those committees, and procedural issues such as the powers of committees and protecting witnesses. The second day’s sessions were focused on taking the participants through a typical inquiry process - establishing an inquiry, planning, collecting written and oral evidence, and reporting back to the House. The workshop concluded on Thursday 17 April with the holding of a mock public hearing.

On the basis of the evaluation feedback from participants, the excellent attendance of Members and the level of their engagement in the program, the workshop was very successful. By including Mr Reynolds of the NSW Parliament in the team of facilitators/presenters, CDI was able to assist both parliaments with the twinning arrangement between them established as part of a recent Commonwealth Parliamentary Association initiative. CDI has also been able to encourage and assist with further capacity building in the Papua New Guinean National Parliament by enabling one its Members, Hon. Moses Maladina, to learn how the Solomon Islands Parliament has successfully undertaken its rebuilding process.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:
CDI Director Consults with U.S. Partners & Attends the World Movement for Democracy 5th Assembly in Kyiv

CDI Director Ben Reilly held discussions with key CDI partners in the United States in April.

Following the launch of a new book on dilemmas of democratization in San Francisco, Prof Reilly travelled to New York for discussions with the United Nations Democracy Fund and the United Nations Development Program. CDI cooperates with both agencies and has received co-funding and other forms of assistance from various UNDP offices for our party and parliamentary training programs.

Professor Reilly then travelled to Washington DC for consultations with CDI’s key American partners, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Republican Institute (IRI). CDI works in close partnership with both NDI and IRI on a number of projects, particularly in Indonesia and Timor-Leste, and as a result of these discussions will seek to expand this already strong cooperation in the future. While there, Prof Reilly gave a lunchtime presentation on CDI’s work at NDI and also gave a separate talk at Georgetown University.

While in Washington, Prof Reilly was also invited for separate discussions with the U.S. Undersecretary for Democracy and Global Affairs, Ms Paula Dobriansky, and with Mr Mike Kozak of the National Security Council. Prof Reilly was also invited to the White House for discussions with the Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives and External Affairs, Mr Barry Jackson. All of these discussions played a valuable role in helping situate CDI’s work program in a global context while also expanding knowledge of CDI’s activities in the US administration and building links for the future.

Following these meetings, Prof Reilly travelled to Kyiv, Ukraine, to attend the 5th Assembly of the World Movement for Democracy (WMD), where he was a panellist on NDI’s workshop on ‘Developing norms and standards for political parties’. The WMD is the world’s largest gathering of democracy-support organisations, with over 500 organisations attending its triennial meetings. The WMD is supported by NED in the United States. 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 and 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:

Visitors

Recent visitors to CDI included:

- Mr Bede Corry, Head of the Australia Division in the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ms Heather Riddell, New Zealand’s Deputy High Commissioner in Canberra, visited CDI in April to discuss cooperation in the South Pacific.

- Andrew Ellis, Director of Operations at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), visited CDI in April to discuss ongoing areas of cooperation. CDI and IDEA work together on a number of projects, including the forthcoming book Political Parties in Conflict-Prone Societies.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:
Media Coverage

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

April '08:
- CDI Director Ben Reilly was interviewed on ABC Radio’s PM on the subject of labour migration from the South Pacific.
- Prof Reilly spoke to Radio New Zealand about the problems and prospects of democracy in the developing world, including the South Pacific.

March '08:
- Prof Reilly joined other experts on Radio National’s “Australia Talks” program to discuss democracy promotion and other key issues in the wake of the 5th anniversary of the Iraq war.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

Review of Standing Orders - Timor-Leste

CDI & WBI to Launch New ‘e-training’ Course on Parliamentary Financial Scrutiny

CDI plans to launch a new training course on “Effective Financial Scrutiny: The Role of Parliament in Public Finance” in mid-2008, designed and developed in partnership with the World Bank Institute (WBI) as part of an ongoing professional development program for parliamentary members and staff in the region.

It is envisaged that the course will be delivered by videoconference and online over a period of four weeks with two sessions per week in August 2008. Two participants from six countries (five national legislatures and one provincial legislature) - Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Fiji and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville - are being invited to participate in the first course. Other key regional organisations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) are also being invited to support this initiative with in-kind contributions.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

CDI Alumni Update

News on past CDI course participants:
- PPD 2007 participant Mr Gabriel Suri was appointed acting Solomon Islands Attorney General in January 2008.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

Forthcoming Activities

CDI to Assist with Review of Timor-Leste Parliamentary Standing Orders

Following a request from the National Parliament of Timor-Leste in early 2008, CDI is examining the most effective way to assist their Committee A (Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Justice, Public Administration, Local Government and Government Legislation) in its task of reviewing and revising the Rules of Procedure - Standing Orders - of the National Parliament of Timor-Leste.

CDI has held discussions with Committee A on the best way to proceed with this task, which will ultimately involve advising Committee A on ways forward as a result of reviewing the Standing Orders for ‘gaps’ and problems, as well as ensuring they comply with and effectively complement other existing legal instruments such as the Constitution and the Organic Law on Parliament. CDI’s main role will be to facilitate the provision of expert advice on this process, drawing on Australian and regional expertise. This work will likely take place from mid-2008.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:
supporting parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to effectively participate in the budget process.

Accordingly, the course will focus on the following:

- Examining the evolution of parliament’s power of the purse;
- An introduction to the budget;
- The budget process;
- Parliamentary approval of the budget;
- Parliament and the audit of public accounts;
- Opening up the parliamentary process; and
- Strengthening parliamentary involvement.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

**CDI & WBI e-training**

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**Recent Publications**

**Democracy as Human Empowerment: The Role of Ordinary People in the Emergence and Survival of Democracy**

*Center for the Study of Democracy. Paper 08-03.*

Christian Welzel, Jacobs University Bremen & Ronald Inglehart, University of Michigan.

This article argues that “human empowerment” is the most important driving force behind effective democratization. Though elite agreements are central to establish nominal democracy, effective democracy does not emerge because elites concede it to the masses, but because ordinary people become increasingly capable and willing to place effective mass pressures on the elites. Effective democracy is thus the outcome of a broader process of “human empowerment.”

Click on these links to access this paper and the *Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD)* Website:

**Full Welzel & Inglehart Article**

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**The Democratic Rollback: The Resurgence of the Predatory State**

Larry Diamond, *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2008

After decades of historic gains, the world has slipped into a democratic recession. Predatory states are on the rise, threatening both nascent and established democracies throughout the world. But this trend can be reversed with the development of good governance and strict accountability and the help of conditional aid from the West.

Larry Diamond is a Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution and Co-Editor of the *Journal of Democracy*.

Click on the links below to access this complete essay and the *Foreign Affairs* Website:

**Full Diamond Essay**

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

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