Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the third issue of CDI.News for 2009. In this issue we highlight a range of recently-completed projects in both the parliamentary and political party areas.

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 Southeast 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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CDI’s 2009 Political Party Development Course

The Centre for Democratic Institution’s 2009 Political Party Development (PPD) course concluded on 29 May in Canberra. This was the fourth occasion the course has been conducted, being held annually since 2006. The two-week course is based at the Crawford School of Economics and Government at the Australian National University, and is presented by CDI Associate Dr Norm Kelly.

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 intention of the course is to provide participants with:

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

continued over
Development of links with Australian parties and institutions.

This course was again well supported by Australia’s main political parties, with requests for site visits, meetings and guest presenters positively received. Nineteen participants from seven countries attended the course, and the majority of these participants hold senior positions in their respective parties. In addition, the group included a political trainer from the International Republican Institute in East Timor, and a Solomon Islands’ advocate for women’s political representation. The group included one current Member of Parliament (Vanuatu’s only woman MP) and an MP elected at Fiji’s most recent democratic elections in 2006. It was the first time that Samoa was represented on the course, and only the second time that Malaysia has been included. CDI did not call for nominations from Indonesia this year due to that country’s focus on presidential and parliamentary elections this year.

There continues to be significant interest from the target countries to participate, with about 40 nominations being received – a very high number considering the absence of Indonesian nominations. Participants were required to be fluent in written and spoken English, and this enabled good dissemination of information and exchanges of ideas between participants and presenters. The course also included specific sessions on women in politics, with a focus on how Australia’s main parties encourage women’s involvement in administrative and campaign aspects of party work.

Click on this link for the full report and more on our website:

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Media Coverage

Click on the link below to our website to get all the details on the following news items:

30 June 2009 | CDI Director Ben Reilly was interviewed by Radio Australia’s Linda Mottram about regional security and democracy in the South Pacific.


Indonesia’s 2009 presidential and parliamentary election marks an important milestone - the third successive open and democratic election of the modern era. Indonesia is now clearly the most democratic country in Southeast Asia, and an increasingly influential model as the world’s largest Muslim democracy.

However, the 2009 elections also have the potential to throw up some major challenges for Indonesian democratization. Most notably, the Indonesian election...
system has undergone some major reform. Most notable of these is the new 'open list' voting system, which restricts electors to voting for candidates rather than political parties, and which is likely to have a significant effect on political behaviour and the future development of the Indonesian party system.

CDI joined with the new Institute for Peace and Democracy (IPD) to hold a special one-day seminar on these issues on 30 March 2009 in Bali, Indonesia.

The seminar featured presentations from CDI Director Ben Reilly and IPD Director Ketut Putra Erawan, as well as the findings of CDI’s new research paper, “Indonesia’s 2009 Elections: The New Electoral System & the Competing Parties”, by CDI Associate Stephen Sherlock. The paper suggests some of the ways that the new laws will affect the conduct of the campaign, the nature of coalition building and the possible results.

Over 100 political figures, academics, diplomats, and government officials attended this CDI-IPD seminar, the first joint event between both organisations

Click on this link for more detail and links on our website:

Recent visitors to CDI:

- **CDI and the Asia Pacific Democracy Partnership**

  On 3 July 2009, CDI hosted a visit from Mr Chris Camponovo, Special Advisor at the US Department of State, to discuss the Asia Pacific Democracy Partnership (APDP), a US initiative aimed at building a coalition of democracies in the Asia-Pacific region. The APDP has sponsored election observation missions in the region and aims to build capacity with like minded organisations such as the Institute for Peace and Democracy (IPD) and the Bali Democracy Forum (BDF), which CDI is also supporting. Discussions focussed on the potential for CDI to play a role in future APDP activities in the region.

  Click on this link for more detail on our website:

  **Visitors**

  ▲ Attendees at the Seminar in Bali.

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  CDI Professional Development Workshop for Melanesian National & Provincial Parliamentary Staff

  In partnership with the Parliamentary Service of the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea, CDI continued its support for the National Parliament and other legislatures in Melanesia by conducting the second in its annual series of professional skills development courses for parliamentary officers from the region. The course was held from 9-12 June 2009 at Parliament House in Port Moresby. Over 50 staff from the PNG Parliamentary Service, Provincial Assemblies and the parliaments of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and Solomon Islands participated in the four day course.

  CDI Deputy Director, Mr Quinton Clements, and Mr Simon Ila, Deputy Clerk of the National Parliament, convened the course. They were joined by a team of facilitators including:

  - Mr Michael Ries, Deputy Clerk, Parliament of Queensland;
  - Mr Les Gonye, Clerk Assistant Committees, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of New South Wales;
  - Ms Rachel Simpson, Committee Manager, Legislative Council, Parliament of New South Wales;
  - Mr Simon Johnston, Legislative Council, Parliament of New South Wales; and
  - Mr Derk Swieringa, Australian Business Volunteers.

  The course was designed to enable parliamentary officials from the different legislatures throughout the region to learn about all aspects of parliamentary work, further develop their professional skills and thereby raise the standards of service they provide to Members of Parliament.

  The course program focused on developing staff capacity in the following core areas of parliamentary work:

  - Research and analysis;
  - Writing;
  - Planning and budgeting; and
  - Understanding parliamentary practice.

  The course tested participants’ knowledge and understanding of the core functions of Parliament,
continued from page 3

the different roles MPs play, and the various ways parliamentary staff support MPs. Participants examined the basic principles of the Westminster model of parliamentary democracy and the concept of parliamentary privilege. Case studies from PNG were used to illustrate how privilege works in practice.

A large part of the course was devoted to writing skills and to 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. During the sessions on writing skills, participants examined the elements of plain language writing and then completed a number of practical exercises including the process of committee report writing.

The final sessions were focused on preparing for and running a public hearing. Mr Lawrence Daveona, Director of the PNG National Parliament Committees Secretariat, led the participants through the planning and preparation for a mock public hearing. The topic chosen was the recently-announced inquiry by a Special Parliamentary Committee into foreign owned and operated business enterprises in Papua New Guinea. Participants divided into three groups – Committee Members, witnesses, and Secretariat, and what followed was a very successful role play in which a number of useful administrative and procedural issues arose to challenge the participants.

Overall, participants were involved in a very practically oriented and highly interactive program that challenged them and stimulated their interest in 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 the region at both the national and provincial levels.

This course is part of an ongoing series of CDI activities for Members and parliamentary staff of the 8th National Parliament of Papua New Guinea that began with the induction program in August 2007.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:


At the request of the Speaker of the National Parliament of Vanuatu, Hon. George Andre Wells MP, CDI agreed to assist the Parliamentary Standing Orders Review Committee in its task of reviewing and revising the Standing Orders of the National Parliament.

From 26-27 May 2009, CDI conducted a specialised workshop for the Review Committee and other interested parliamentarians at Parliament House in Port Vila. The purpose of the workshop was to kickstart the review process by giving the Committee the necessary background regarding best practice elsewhere, and then to assist them in examining their own rules. During the workshop participants discussed key areas of the Standing

Strengthening Pacific Parliaments: CDI Seminar @ the Parliament of NSW

CDI Deputy Director Quinton Clements presented a seminar for Members and staff of the NSW Parliament in Sydney on 1 June 2009. In light of the NSW Parliament’s growing involvement in parliamentary strengthening activities in our region, in conjunction with CDI and through the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association’s Twinning Arrangements, Mr Clements examined current efforts to strengthen parliaments in this region.

Click on this link for more on our Web page:
CDI is assisting both Houses of the Indonesian Parliament - the Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat (DPR-RI) and the Dewan Perwakilan Daerah (DPD-RI) – with their upcoming induction programs for new parliamentarians following the April 2009 elections. The DPR-RI will hold its induction program from 4 - 8 August 2009, and the DPD-RI will conduct its induction program in two stages – from 3-6, and 28-30 September 2009.

Following CDI’s experience in organising successful induction programs for other parliaments in our region in recent years (including for Papua New Guinea in 2007, and Vanuatu in 2008), CDI has been providing advice over recent months to the Secretaries General and political leadership of both Houses of the Indonesian Parliament on the design and delivery of their induction programs in 2009. The emerging programs we have helped to design go beyond briefing new Members on the basics of parliamentary process and administration, and will encourage greater understanding of public leadership, the constitutional framework, accountability, transparency and...
parliamentary oversight. They will also raise awareness among participating parliamentarians of key government agencies and constitutional offices by explaining their structures, functions, services, and obligations in relation to leadership and accountability. This will balance MPs’ need for capacity building and skills transfer with demands for the greater engagement of MP in public policy discussions.

CDI Deputy Director, Quinton Clemens, and Hon. Kevin Rozzoli, former Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, visited Jakarta from 22 to 27 March as part of the induction program development process, meeting with the Secretaries General of the DPR-RI and DPD-RI, as well as other organisations involved in parliamentary strengthening in Indonesia such as the UNDP.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

## Publications, News & Events

### 11th Pacific Islands Political Studies Association Conference

**Theme:** Pacific Democracy, What’s Happening?

The Pacific Islands Political Studies Association (PIPSA) invites papers around the above theme for the 11th PIPSA conference to be held at the University of Auckland on 3-4 December 2009. The theme, *Pacific Democracy: What’s Happening?* is a timely and relevant one which captures the problems, dynamics, reconfiguration and re-examination of “democracy” in contemporary Oceania.

The conference invites papers which revolve around the theme. The papers may cover specific areas such as the relevance of contemporary models of democracy in the Pacific; democracy and socio-economic development; paradoxes of democratic governance; culture, identity and political participation; changing political culture in the Pacific; Pacific regionalism and sovereignty; civil society and citizen participation; media, information and freedom of expression; political regimes and human rights; extra-legal regime change; electoral processes; people and power; the global and local democratic governance interface; informal governance; etc. The paper could be based on theoretical analysis, empirical research or applied policy discussion. It can be global, regional or country in scope and focus.

**Submission Dates:** Abstract - A 200 word abstract based on the above theme is due by 31 August 2009.

**Paper:** The paper (4-5,000 words) is due by 10 November 2009. Both the abstract and the paper should be sent to one of the following:

Steven Ratuva (ratuva_s@usp.ac.fj); David Hegarty (david.hegarty@anu.edu.au); Jonathan Shultz (j.schultz@pgrad.unimelb.edu.au); Tarcisius Kabutaulaka (tkabutau@hawaii.edu); Sue Rider (sue.rider@anu.edu.au).

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### START | Campaigning for Pacific Women

CDI’s Gender & Political Leadership web page includes a new link through to the booklet *A Guide to Campaigning for Pacific Women*, which was co-produced by The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Australia Government’s Office for Women and the UNDP Pacific Centre.

This 24 page booklet aims to help women who want to get involved in their own local, national and regional governance to get STARTed to take on the challenge of elections. The START strategy has been developed as a quick reference point, to help women remember some of the key issues they will need to consider and key activities they need to undertake when running for elections. It is based on the experiences of Pacific women themselves who have stood for election, drawing on their successes and the lessons they learned along the way.

Click on this link to access the booklet:

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

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