Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 4th issue of CDI.News for 2009. In this issue we report on CDI’s new training programs for senior parliamentary officers and potential ministers.

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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CDI Establishes New Training Course for Presiding Officers in the Pacific Islands

"FIRST AMONG EQUALS" | A Professional Development Course for Parliamentary Speakers

CDI held its inaugural Professional Development Course for Parliamentary Speakers from Pacific Island Countries from 22-26 June 2009 at Parliament House in Brisbane. This highly specialised course was designed and developed by CDI with the support of the Parliament of Queensland, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and World Bank Institute (WBI). It was aimed specifically at those parliamentarians occupying key positions in their respective parliaments – ie. current Speakers, Deputy Speakers and other members who may be called upon to preside over parliamentary proceedings and those who may aspire to these roles. The course was designed to help them improve the conditions, quality and public standing of their parliaments.

The course was convened by Hon Kevin Rozzoli, former... continued over
Speaker of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, together with CDI Deputy Director Quinton Clements. 17 parliamentarians from the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu participated in the three day course. Among this group were the Speakers of the parliaments of Bougainville, Kiribati and Tuvalu.

The content of the course included:

- A historical perspective of the Speakership under the Westminster and other systems;
- Chairmanship from a parliamentary perspective including an understanding of the function and efficacy of Standing Orders and of conventions that impact on parliamentary process, the need for fairness, the importance of facilitating debate, controlling member’s behaviour, framing rulings – the importance of consistency, the usefulness of drawing on other procedural sources while adapting them to local jurisdictional needs;
- A Speaker’s role in the administration of the parliament, developing a compact with the Clerk and administrative officers, fighting for the parliamentary budget, dealing with the press;
- The role of Hansard, the library, and security;
- The protocol role, representing the parliament officially;
- The need for confidentiality in dealing with matters affecting members including winning the support of members by being seen as the member’s champion;
- Winning public support for a fairer, more democratic parliament.

The course also provided an opportunity for participants to meet and network within their specialist group. Speakers are essentially an isolated group who often do not have a colleague they can easily turn to in a difficult situation.

On Friday 26 June, following a visit to a typical MP’s electorate office in inner city Brisbane, the participants also attended a workshop on Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures organised by the CPA and supported by CDI. This workshop enabled the parliamentarians from the Pacific Island Parliaments to discuss a CPA Study Group report on parliamentary benchmarks and consider its use as a self assessment tool for parliaments to pursue in strengthening their capacity. The participants also contributed to the formulation of Benchmarks for Pacific Island Parliaments.

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

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**CDI Alumni Update**

News on past CDI course participants:

- PPD 2008 participant Luhur Pambudi was elected to the Central Java local district parliament in the April 2009 Indonesian election.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:
CDI-IPD Seminar - The 2009 Indonesian Presidential Election: Processes, Dynamics & Outcomes

Over 30 people attended a special CDI-IPD Seminar presented by Dr Ketut Putra Erawan at the ANU on 14 July 2009, which is the latest event in the CDI-IPD cooperative program. Dr Erawan is the Executive Director of the Institute for Peace and Democracy at Udayana University in Bali and his presentation at the ANU assessed the dynamics of the 2009 Presidential election - looking at the processes of electoral management, and the dynamics of the candidates, coalitions, legislation, strategies and consequences of Indonesia’s presidential election held on 8 July 2009. In his presentation, Dr Erawan focussed on the impacts of the 2008 Presidential Election Law which prescribes that candidates for President and Vice President must be nominated by a party or coalition that won at least 25% of the popular vote or 20% of the 560 seats of the People’s Representative Council in the parliamentary elections held 3 months earlier.

Click on this link for more details on this event and our growing work program with IPD:

CDI's Continuing Support for the Bougainville Parliament & CPA Twinning Arrangements

At the invitation of the Speaker of the Autonomous Bougainville Government House of Representatives, Andrew Miriki MHR, CDI Deputy Director Quinton Clements visited Buka, Bougainville from 13 to 15 June 2009 to discuss CDI’s further assistance to the Bougainville Parliament, in particular the planning of an induction program for new MPs following the Bougainville elections scheduled for mid-2010.

As part of CDI’s support for initiatives that enable Australian State and Territory Parliaments to assist Pacific Island Parliaments, Mr Clements was accompanied by Ms Lynn Lovelock, Clerk of the Legislative Council, and Mr Les Gonye, Clerk Assistant Committees, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of New South Wales. In facilitating their visit, CDI is continuing to support the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)-initiated twinning arrangement between the NSW and Bougainville Parliaments, an arrangement which in recent months has seen the NSW parliament host two Bougainville training activities:

- CDI arranged for the new Chair of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville House of Representatives Public Accounts Committee, Hon Magdalene Toroansi, to visit the NSW Parliament from 1-5 June 2009. On this visit, Ms Toroansi examined the role of the NSW Public Accounts Committee and gained a greater understanding of the role of parliamentary committee chairs by engaging with her NSW counterparts.

In May 2009, CDI arranged the secondment of an officer of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville House of Representatives to the NSW Parliament for a period of four weeks to work in a committee secretariat. The purpose of the secondment was for the Bougainvillean parliamentary continued over
officer to gain first-hand experience working alongside his NSW counterparts on a committee inquiry and related projects. Mr Donald Misang, Committee Officer with the Bougainville House of Representatives, undertook this placement very successfully, working in the secretariat serving the Public Bodies Review Committee as well as observing the work of several other parliamentary committees. During his secondment, Mr Misang also worked on the development of a draft committee manual for consideration by the House of Representatives when he returns to Buka. Senior NSW parliamentary officer Mr Les Gonye acted as mentor to Mr Misang during his work in Sydney.

The costs of these recent activities have been shared between CDI, the CPA and the NSW Parliament.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

**Party Democracy & Party Law**

CDI Director Ben Reilly was one of the speakers at a special session of the World Congress of Political Science in Santiago this July on the subject of ‘Party Democracy and Party Law: the Legal Regulation of Political Parties in Modern Democracies’. The World Congress is held every three years and is the major international meeting of political scientists from around the globe.

Building upon CDI’s previous work on this subject, the session focused on different types of law affecting political parties, investigating the underlying dimensions of party regulation and asking fundamental questions about its effectiveness and its relevance for the future of party democracy. The panel included papers with an empirical comparative focus and papers which contributed to the development of the theory of party regulation.

The panel featured a number of the world’s major scholars working on party regulation, including Professor Ingrid van Biezen from the University of Leiden and Emeritus Professor Kenneth Janda of Northwestern University. Professor Reilly’s paper looked at the increasing incidence of party engineering in developing democracies, and the growing tendency for South-South learning and imitation as part of this process.

The meeting also provided an occasion for a follow-up meeting of many of the authors associated with CDI’s book on this same subject, Political Parties in Conflict-Prone Societies, which was published by the United Nations University Press in 2008.

While in Santiago, Professor Reilly held separate meetings with several other CDI associates, including Professor Larry Diamond, who will present this year’s CDI Annual Address.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

**CDI Continues to Assist Solomon Islands Political Reform**

CDI is assisting the government of Solomon Islands develop proposed changes to the country’s Constitution and political party laws.

At the request of the Solomon Islands’ government, CDI Director Ben Reilly is one of a number of international experts who have commented on draft constitutional revisions and new laws aimed at strengthening the country’s political party system.

The draft legislation provides for the establishment of a Political Parties Integrity Commission which will oversee the registration, development and management of political parties in Solomon Islands. Other proposed reforms are designed to maintain stability of party allegiance and voting in parliament, including introducing new processes for the appointment of the prime minister and opposition leader based on the strength of party representation, restrictions on the ability of members to cross the floor (or become a Minister), and the regulation of party coalitions.

The Constitutional reform and Political Party Integrity bills are currently before parliament and will be debated in the second week of August 2009.

CDI will continue to support the work of the Solomon Islands government in the reform of its political system as the passage of this legislation proceeds.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:
Varieties of Unicameralism

CDI Deputy Director Quinton Clements convened a panel around the theme of the Asia-Pacific Region at a recent conference on Unicameralism which was held to mark the 20th anniversary of the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Australia’s youngest parliament. The conference was co-sponsored by the Parliamentary Studies Centre at the ANU and the ACT Legislative Assembly, with funding from the Australian Research Council.

The panel convened by Mr Clements included Dr Laode Ida, Deputy Speaker of the House of Regional Representatives or Dewan Perwakilan Daerah (DPD-R) of Indonesia; Mr Ian Harris, Clerk of the Australian Parliament’s House of Representatives; and Mr David Hegarty, an ANU based scholar of Pacific Islands politics. The panel discussed the development and characteristics of parliamentary systems throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

The aim of the conference was to locate the experience of the ACT Legislative Assembly in the wider Australian and international context, and to illustrate the many varieties of unicameralism.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

Unicameralism Conference

Forthcoming

Preparing for the Challenges of being a Government Minister - A New Professional Development Course for Parliamentarians

Canberra | 21-30 October 2009

CDI is preparing a new professional development course for parliamentarians from the Pacific Islands region and Timor-Leste. This highly specialised course is aimed specifically at relatively new parliamentarians who want to better understand their roles and responsibilities and who aspire to and wish to be better prepared for future positions of leadership. The course is designed to address a gap in programs to assist parliamentarians newly appointed to positions in government and thereby help them become more effective leaders and government ministers in their respective countries. It will meet a growing demand from the public throughout the region for strong and outcome-oriented people in ministerial positions who can make a difference.

The course is convened by Hon. Kay Patterson, former Senator and Minister in the Australian Federal Government, with the assistance of former Deputy Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Hon. Moses Maladina MP, and CDI Deputy Director Quinton Clements. It will be held in Canberra from Wednesday 21- Friday 30 October 2009.

This new flagship CDI training therefore will draw upon the Westminster model of responsible government and provide a practical, interactive course for current MPs using Australian best practice and addressing topics including:

- Constitutional and legal frameworks - understanding the concepts of responsible government and the separation of powers;
- Understanding the job of being both an MP and a Minister – parliamentary vs government responsibilities – developing job descriptions for MPs and Ministers intended to help them do their work and inform the public;
- Understanding the role of key parliamentary & government office-holders;
- Ministers’ relationship with Departments - building a relationship with your department(s) – creating a ministerial/departmental liaison mechanism;
- Cabinet – collective responsibility, understanding the policy making process, working with fellow ministers – cabinet solidarity;
- Dealing with stakeholders – the public, unions, international agencies;
- Dealing with the party – implementing party platforms;
- Ministerial conduct - principles of good leadership & good governance - ethics and codes of conduct for Ministers.

Gender-specific issues will be mainstreamed into this course as they are across our training activities. So too, discussion, training and debate on ethics, ministerial conduct and leadership will feature in the program alongside the more practical training aspects of the project listed above. The target audience for this course are backbench MPs – notably, young up & coming leaders – from Pacific Island Countries. Countries from which nominations would be sought would include our Melanesian focus countries and may stretch further into the Pacific.

The Course will run for 10 days in Canberra from 21-30 October 2009. Nominations are now open but must be received by 4 September 2009. Click on this link for all the details on our website including the nomination form:
Governance Strategies to Remedy the Natural Resource Curse

By Joseph Siegle

Joseph Siegle, director of research at the National Defense University’s Africa Center for Strategic Studies, published “Governance Strategies to Remedy the Natural Resource Curse” in the latest issue of UNESCO’s *International Social Science Journal*. Siegle’s work documents the “extent to which the paradox of the resource (predominantly hydrocarbon) curse is a function of regime type” and offers policy recommendations to promote democratic reform and transparency in resource-rich societies.

Click on this link to access the article - with thanks to the Network of Democracy Research Institutes (NDRI):

### Full Article

Australia: The State of Democracy

By Marian Sawer, Norman Abjorensen and Phil Larkin

There are now more notional democracies in the world than at any other time in history. Australia was an early pioneer of that form of democracy now prescribed as inseparable from good governance, as a recipe for accountability and as an antidote to corruption.

But how healthy is Australian democracy now? Since 2002 the Democratic Audit of Australia has been applying internationally tested indicators deriving from four principles – political equality, popular control of government, civil liberties and human rights, and the quality of public debate and discussion – to Australian political institutions and practices. The Audit takes and analyses data from the Australian Commonwealth, States and Territories as well as from three comparative democracies – Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom – to identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for reform.

*Australia: The State of Democracy* informs Australian and international readers as to how well Australia measures up against democratic values. Authored by key members of the Democratic Audit team, the book interprets Audit findings in a highly readable and accessible form and identifies the changes necessary to achieve a real democracy.

Click on this link through to Federation Press for more details and to order this volume:

### Australia: The State of Democracy

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

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