Dear Colleagues,

This issue of CDI.News highlights CDI’s research activities, which includes advice to governments, presentations at national and international scholarly conferences, and our new Policy Paper by Dr Ben Hillman on Political Parties and Post-Conflict Transition, the latest in CDI’s ongoing research on political governance in the Asia-Pacific.

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's Women in Politics Training Course 2009**

**CANBERRA** | The second CDI Women in Politics (WiP) course was convened by Ms. Monica Costa and conducted from 7 to 11 December 2009 at the Australian National University in Canberra.

Inaugurated in 2008, the WiP course aims to build the capacity of social and political actors in the region with the goal of improving women’s political representation. It is particularly designed for women intending to enter national politics in the Pacific Islands, whether as a candidate for elected office, a political party organiser, or similar role in the democratic process. To achieve this, the course assists participants from the Asia-Pacific region to identify strategies to get more women elected in their countries. The course equips participants with the tools and skills to engage in national politics and leadership at the highest level.

The course covers key issues:

- political parties’ role in promoting gender equality in politics,
- electoral and political reforms to improve women’s representation

continued over
political representation, including temporary special measures, and
- candidate training (e.g., election campaign, resource mobilization including campaign fund raising).

The WiP course offers a unique opportunity for participants to learn and discuss Australian experiences of and practices in promoting gender equality as well as share their own experiences. The course explores avenues to translate this knowledge into the reality of Asia-Pacific contexts.

18 participants from 10 countries, including all CDI focus countries, participated in the 2009 WiP course. Approximately half of the participants held positions related to politics while the other half was engaged in civil society. This year, for the first time, a UNIFEM staff member participated in the course as an observer/support to the convener. Close to 90 applications for 20 positions were received by CDI from 17 countries for the 2009 WiP course.

The course drew on a range of experts including Members of parliament, political party staff, private sector and academics. For example:

- Ms Anna Burke MP, Deputy Speaker (Labor) opened the course and set the scene on issues of women’s participation and representation in politics in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

- Ms Ruth Webber MP (Labor), Senator Marise Payne (Liberal), and Ms Meredith Hunter (Greens) discussed different approaches to gender equality within political parties and drew on personal experiences of getting into politics and getting elected and re-elected.

- Ms Amanda Rishworth MP (Labor), as the Chair of the Australia/Pacific Parliamentary Friendship Group, led a session on steps for success in politics and brought the discussion on national action plans to a close.

At the end of the course, participants were required to prepare and present country action plans, outlining practical strategies to improve women’s representation in politics at both national and sub-national levels. Participants were asked to consider how they and their organisation could contribute to improved women’s representation.

The course also created a unique opportunity for participants to build connections and networks between the participants and their Australian counterparts, be they female MPs, political party members and staff, journalists, or public servants.

The 2009 Women in Politics course built on the success of the inaugural 2008 course. The diversity of experiences brought to the course by the participants, both in terms of their country and sector of expertise was a key element for the success of this course. Overall participants were genuinely interested in learning, sharing and translating this knowledge into practice on their return. Several country representatives have asked CDI to deliver a similar course in their own countries.

The support and involvement of the Australian political parties and their parliamentarians was also critical to the success of the course. CDI thanks the parties for their support and active participation in the various sessions.

Click on this link for more on the details and outcomes of this course on our website:

WiP 2009
CDI Assists Bougainville Parliament with Committee Publication


At the request of the Committee, CDI has prepared the report for publication and funded its publication. 200 copies of the report have been printed and are being delivered to the House of Representatives in Buka.

The Committee’s secretariat staff have all participated in CDI training programs over recent years, including CDI’s annual Effective Parliamentary Committee Inquiries Course. As reflected in the quality of the Committee’s report they were able to effectively utilise the skills they gained at these programs in running this inquiry.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

Senate Report Calls for Enhanced Role for ANU in Pacific Governance

CANBERRA | The Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Reference Committee has released a report recommending an enhanced role for CDI and the Australian National University in the provision of Australian aid to the Pacific. The report, on 'Economic challenges facing Papua New Guinea and the island states of the southwest Pacific', praised the "valuable contribution" of CDI and other Australian organisations working in the Pacific region, but also called for greater coordination between them.

The report has recommended the creation of a "special unit, under the proposed partnership between ANU and the public service, that would serve as the hub of a network of all organisations engaged in preparing officials for overseas service. It would include institutions such as CDI, relevant research schools and NGOs working in the Pacific region."

The report’s recommendations are now being considered by the Government.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

Indonesian parliamentary publication highlights CDI's ongoing work and cooperation with the DPR-RI

JAKARTA | September 2009 | CDI’s ongoing work with the Indonesian parliament has been highlighted in the publication Diplomasi DPR, DPR RI, Jakarta, BKSAP 2009, pp. 171-5:

Developing Peaceful Relations with Our Neighboring Countries

... cooperation has also been developing with other countries such as Australia, our neighbor in the south. Indonesian-Australian cooperation is crucial to international peace, especially in regard to the bordering area between the two countries...

The House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia (DPR RI) has actively taken advantages from the activities of the Centre for Democratic Institution (CDI). CDI is an independent institution established by the Australian Government in 1998 to strengthen and improve cooperation among the parliamentary systems in Asia and Pacific countries. CDI regularly organizes dialogue forums between the Parliament of Australia and DPR RI. One of the results of the forums is a common understanding between the two legislative institutions that the two countries need to improve their relations and enhance cooperation at the state level as well as the institutions. The two institutions have also acknowledged that Indonesia-Australia bilateral relations have dynamically grown and significantly shaped regional cooperation in Asia Pacific.

Besides dealing with the parliamentary members, CDI has also established cooperation with the General Secretary of DPR RI. The activities include the trainings of capacity building for the parliamentary members and staff whereby CDI provides experts and resource persons. The cooperation has taken place for nine years...

(Translated by Evi Fitriani, Crawford School, ANU, Canberra, 16 October 2009)

Click on this link for more detail on our website:
CDI at ANZACATT Seminar

CANBERRA | CDI Deputy Director Quinton Clements, together with Professor John Uhr of the Parliamentary Studies Centre at the Australian National University, gave the opening address at the Australian and New Zealand Association of Clerks-At-The-Table (ANZACATT) Professional Development Seminar on 27 January at the ACT Legislative Assembly. The theme of the Seminar was “Strengthening, Securing and Promoting Parliament”. In his address, Mr Clements spoke about the attempts to implement development programs aimed at strengthening the capacity of parliaments in Australia’s immediate region and explained some of the issues that need to be considered when contemplating assisting parliaments.

ANZACATT was formed in 2001 and comprises 95 members from each House of Parliament in Australia, Norfolk Island and New Zealand. The objects of the Association are to advance the professional development of its members and to enable its members and other staff of Parliaments in Australia and New Zealand to expand their knowledge of the foundations and principles of parliamentary systems and parliamentary procedure in Australia and New Zealand as well as the administrative practices essential to the smooth operation of Parliament. The sharing of professional experiences and knowledge about the institution of Parliament and the development of links with similar organizations are also amongst the Association’s aims.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

ANZACATT 2010

Forthcoming CDI Activities

CDI Supports Bougainville Parliamentary Induction Program

ARAWA | At the request of the Speaker, Hon. Andrew Miriki MHR, CDI is assisting the Autonomous Bougainville Region House of Representatives with an induction program for Members of Parliament following the 2010 elections in May.

CDI is assisting the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Mr Robert Tapi, and the Induction Program Steering Committee with the design and delivery of the program. CDI Deputy Director, Quinton Clements, visited Buka from 11-13 November 2009 as part of this assistance. He was accompanied by the Hon. Kevin Rozzoli, CDI technical expert and a former Speaker of the Parliament of New South Wales. They held meetings with the President of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Hon. James Tanis; the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Francesca Semosa, and the Assistant Speaker, Hon. Januries Tenevi, and with the Acting Chief Administrator, Mr Partick Koles, and the Acting Electoral Commissioner, Mr Reitama Taravaru. Mr Clements and Mr Rozzoli also met with the Senior Management of the ABG Administration, the Election Steering Committee and the staff of the House of Representatives.

At the meeting of the Elections Steering Committee, it was decided that the swearing-in of the new Members of the House and the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker would take place on 15 June 2010 in Buka, and the induction program will take place in Arawa from 21 to 23 June 2010. Following the induction, it was agreed that CDI would assist with organising a specialised training workshop for the new Ministers in the Autonomous Bougainville Government and a training workshop on the role of parliamentary committees for the new MPs.

Most existing induction programs are conducted by parliamentary staff and concentrate on briefing new members on the basics of parliamentary process and administration. CDI has proposed that the induction format for the Bougainville Parliament take a wider view, believing that Members in newer parliaments need to be assisted in the development of their broader role as representatives of the communities that elect them, both at the local constituency and regional level. Accordingly, CDI is helping design a program that will encourage greater understanding of public leadership, the constitutional framework, accountability, transparency and parliamentary oversight among newly elected Members of Parliament. The programs 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 MPs in public policy discussions.

CDI has extensive experience in assisting parliaments in the region with the design and delivery of successful induction programs drawing on best practice from parliaments around the world, including for the parliaments of Solomon Islands in May-June 2006, Fiji in June 2006, Papua New Guinea in August 2007, Vanuatu in September-October 2008 and Indonesia in September 2009.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:
CDI Policy Paper Series Launch:

Political Parties and Post-Conflict Transition: the Results and Implications of the 2009 Parliamentary Elections in Aceh

Ben Hillman

Canberra | Since Indonesia’s return to democracy, only national parties with a cross-regional organisational basis have been allowed to contest elections. Local political parties are restricted from contesting even local elections, making Indonesia unique in the world of multiparty democracies. Despite widespread antipathy to local political parties in Indonesia, the peace agreement between the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) paved the way for parties representing exclusively local interests to contest provincial legislative elections in Aceh in April 2009. In a major test for Indonesia’s democratic political system, the local party representing the former rebels secured an impressive victory in those elections.

Based on a province-wide survey of voters in Aceh and in-depth interviews with local and national party leaders, this study examines the Aceh Party victory and its implications for Jakarta-Aceh relations. The study finds that, while the introduction of local political parties in Aceh represents a milestone for peace and democracy in Aceh, new policies are needed if local political parties are to be securely integrated into Indonesia’s broader political party system.

This CDI Policy Paper will be launched at a special seminar by Dr Hillman at the ANU on Tuesday 23 February at 5pm. All Welcome and light refreshments will be included but RSVP by email is essential.

Ben Hillman is Lecturer in Political Science at the Crawford School of Economics and Government at the Australian National University (ANU). He teaches graduate courses on comparative government and democracy. In 2006 he headed the United Nations Development Programme’s technical support program for Aceh’s first post-conflict elections. He has also worked as an advisor to UNDP and the Indonesian General Elections Commission on implementing local executive elections in Indonesia.

Click on this link for all the seminar details on our website and to access an electronic copy of the full Policy paper:

CDI Alumni Update

PPD 2008 participant Ms Ledia Hanifa Moechsoen was elected to the Indonesian House of Representatives (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat, Republik Indonesia (DPR-RI)) for the Prosperous Justice Party at the 2009 Indonesian election.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:
20th Anniversary Issue of the Journal of Democracy

This article courtesy of the Network of Democracy Research Institutes (NDRI)

WASHINGTON | The January 2010 Journal of Democracy commemorates the twentieth anniversary of the Journal. In line with the mission of the Journal and the recent anniversary of the fall of communism, the issue contains two clusters of articles examining the state of democracy in the world. The first, “Democracy’s Past and Future,” features nine essays by leading democracy scholars such as Robert Putnam, Francis Fukuyama, Philippe C. Schmitter, Guillermo O’Donnell, as well as the Journal’s editors, Marc F. Plattner and Larry Diamond. Three articles are freely available on the Journal’s website:

- “Democracy’s Past and Future,” written by the Journal’s editors, traces the remarkable journey that the Journal of Democracy has taken since its inception twenty years ago. It also outlines democracy’s advances and retreats over these years, which the Journal has sought to detail and examine in order to aid democracy scholars and civil society in their efforts.

- In “Populism, Pluralism, and Liberal Democracy,” Marc F. Plattner asserts that belief in democratic ideals will continue into the future despite the emergence of many new threats and challenges over the past decade. He believes “that liberal democracy today owes much of its resilience to the ways in which its two leading sources of internal opposition—populism and radical pluralism—are inherently at odds with each other.” The author concludes by emphasizing that the most effective way to ensure the continuance of democracy is for the populace to maintain its desire for an increasingly democratic government.

- In “Why Are There No Arab Democracies?,” Larry Diamond examines the reasons behind the lack of liberal democracies in the Middle East. Mr. Diamond argues that three conditions must be met before another wave of democratization can sweep the region: the emergence of a vibrant democracy to serve as an example; a change in U.S. policy to more effectively and modestly approach the region’s challenges; and a decrease in oil prices, which would reduce the ability of unpopular and undemocratic regimes to sustain themselves would help to precipitate such a shift toward democracy.

Click on the links below to access these articles and more at the Journal of Democracy, and NDRI:

- Journal of Democracy
- Network of Democracy Research Institutes

All suggestions and comments on our newsletter are very welcome to cdi@anu.edu.au

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