Dear Colleagues,

This is my first issue of CDI.News as Director of CDI. Although I have been working with CDI as an Associate for over a decade now, taking on this role in the leading staff position is an exciting new undertaking. Let me express my thanks to the many people who have offered their congratulations and best wishes.

The other important staffing news for CDI is that we are very glad to welcome our new Deputy Director, Grant Harrison. His wide experience as a parliamentary officer and in the non-government and consultancy sector of the international development assistance world will be a major asset.

The coming period will be a time of consolidation and planning for CDI as we pick up from a period when the leading positions in the Centre were vacant and a large burden fell on our very capable supporting staff. Full marks to Luke Hambly and Suzanne Francis for keeping the ship afloat.

Following the recommendations of the Political Governance Review commissioned by AusAID, discussions with senior staff at AusAID and ANU, and consultation with partner organisations in our target countries, we intend to begin working on some important initiatives which will refine the focus of CDI’s goals in the coming period.

These include:

- Identifying an agenda of emerging issues in parliamentary, electoral and political systems in order to strengthen CDI’s profile as a research organisation.
- Increasing efforts to deliver more of our programs in-country and within partner organisations.
- Shifting the emphasis in training programs to include more attention to long-term engagement and mentoring of emerging leaders in our target countries.
- Beginning analytical work on the challenges involved in democracy assistance at the sub-national level, with a view to expanding our activities in this arena of politics.

We will keep you informed of developments through CDI.News and on our website: www.cdi.anu.edu.au.

Stephen Sherlock | CDI Director
Canberra | Confidence in East Timor’s state institutions has increased markedly since the low point of the 2006 crisis, the nation’s President José Ramos-Horta said in a wide-ranging speech at ANU on Tuesday 22 June 2010. The East Timorese head of state delivered the Centre for Democratic Institutions 2010 Annual Address in Llewellyn Hall to an audience of 1100 people.

President Ramos-Horta said that the relative youth of his nation meant that there was still a sense of fragility about the current state of peace. In 2006, conflict between sections of the East Timorese military sparked wider social disquiet and led to the resignation of then Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri. The President said this crisis might have been avoided if the original UN peacekeeping mission overseeing the nation’s transition to independence had lasted for five years instead of two. But Ramos-Horta said that his nation had regained stability thanks in part to bilateral support from countries like Australia and Portugal, leading to a “tremendous recovery in trust in the institutions by the people we are supposed to serve.”

“The country today is at [its] most peaceful than ever before” President Ramos-Horta said, referring to UN statistics showing that per capita rates of homicide and assault in East Timor were considerably lower than in many advanced nations. The Nobel Peace Prize winner thanked Australia for its ongoing friendship and support of East Timor, but said we should “never forget democracy is a living thing”.

As an illustration of the growing stability in East Timor, President Ramos-Horta referred to the popularity of the recent Dili Marathon which attracted 1000 competitors from around the world. He joked that he had won the five-kilometre version of the race, beating the Australian ambassador by 200 metres.

Click on this link to access the video, podcast and photos of this event on our website:

http://www.cdi.anu.edu.au
CDI's 2010 Political Party Development Course

CANBERRA | The Centre for Democratic Institutions’ Political Party Development (PPD) course was held in Canberra 7 - 18 June 2010 for the fifth time 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 South-East 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
- Development of links with Australian parties and institutions

This course was again generally well supported by Australia’s main political parties and parliamentarians, with requests for site visits, meetings and guest presenters positively received. Eighteen participants from six countries attended the course, and the majority of these participants hold senior positions in their respective parties, with two being former Members of Parliament and Government Ministers.

There continues to be significant interest from CDI’s focus countries to participate in PPD, with about 40 nominations being received this year. The South Pacific region has the lowest levels of women’s parliamentary representation in the world, and CDI is keen to encourage women’s participation in regional politics. This year, five women (28 per cent) participated on the PPD course, the highest level so far.

The course includes specific sessions on women in politics, and meetings with senior women parliamentarians, with a focus on how Australia’s main parties encourage women’s involvement in administrative and campaign aspects of party work. CDI will continue to seek significant numbers of nominations from women for future courses.

Click on these links for more details on our website including the full course report:

CDI PPD Alumni Update - Solomon Islands

- PPD 2009 Solomon Islands participant Silas Kerry Vaqara Tausinga was elected to the national parliament of Solomon Islands in the August 2010 election to represent the people of West New Georgia-Vona Vona for the next four years. Silas Tausinga is the youngest ever MP to enter the national Parliament, and comes from a political family with his father Job Dudley Tausinga being re-elected in 2010 for his seventh term in the national parliament.

- PPD 2007 Solomon Islands participant John Moffat Fugui was also elected to the national parliament of Solomon Islands in the August 2010 election for the seat of Central Honiara.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:
CDI at the OLIPPAC 2010 Conference - Papua New Guinea

ALOTAU | CDI associate Dr Norm Kelly recently participated in a crucial conference dealing with the future of political party regulation in Papua New Guinea. The Organic Law on the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates (OLIPPAC) conference was sponsored by the PNG Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission (IPPPCC) and the PNG Government, and held in Alotau, Milne Bay Province. The conference timing was fortuitous, as on 7 July 2010, the PNG Supreme Court nullified significant sections of OLIPPAC. Therefore, although the conference theme was ‘Navigating OLIPPAC into Vision 2050’, in reality, the forum concentrated on the future of OLIPPAC in light of the Supreme Court ruling.

During the conference, there was significant media coverage of the attempts in Port Moresby to overthrow the government – due to the opportunity the Supreme Court decision provided. Despite this, the importance of the conference was underscored by the number of senior party officials in attendance from over 20 registered parties, including all currently represented in parliament.

The conference was attended by about 80 senior political party officials, government officials, lawyers, academics, and NGOs. It was pleasing to see that of the 20 PNG officials who have attended CDI’s Political Party Development (PPD) course over the past five years, eight of them were at the conference, a good indicator that CDI is targeting the right people for the course. The conference was an ideal setting to reaffirm these alumni networks, and assess possible future needs for training and assistance. The conference also presented an opportunity for CDI to re-connect with several agencies that we have worked with in the past, including the PNG Electoral Commission, National Research Institute (NRI), IPPCC, Registrar of Political Parties, and UNIFEM.

Dr Kelly’s presentation to the conference was very well received and covered issues including basic theory on developing strong party systems, and challenges for the future including moving from personality-based politics to party-based politics; rationalising the number of parties; political party funding; and representation of women. Dr Kelly was also able to identify, refine and discuss a number of agreed key areas and opportunities for CDI’s continuing engagement in this area, including provision of assistance and advice to the IPPCC and Registrar’s office, training of potential women candidates ahead of the 2012 PNG national election, and leadership training for PNG’s political parties.

CDI is currently working with the IPPCC to support a program of activities to foster continuing public debate on the future of party integrity legislation in PNG.

Click on this link for more details on our website:

OLIPPAC 2010 Conference

CDI Director Joins Intensive Workshop on Political Parties in Indonesia

SINGAPORE | CDI Director Dr Stephen Sherlock, was a presenter at a workshop in Singapore in July 2010 bringing together many of the world’s leading researchers on Indonesian political parties. Entitled “Dynamics of Parties and Party System in Post-Reformasi Indonesia”, the workshop was convened by the Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) at Singapore’s Nanyang University.

Dr Sherlock’s paper, entitled “Parties, Parliament and Policy-making”, introduced a discussion of issues about the activities of political parties in the Indonesian parliament. He argued that while a lot of attention has been given to the behaviour of parties during election campaigns and in the post-election formation of government, there has been less serious study of how they operate in the legislature. In particular, there is a need to examine the dynamic of the relationship between party organisations and the party caucuses in parliament. The dearth of policy development amongst the parties means that there is little consistency in the policy positions argued by the parties’ representatives in parliament. The work of parliament in drafting good quality legislation and enforcing accountability over executive government is weakened as a result.

Other papers were presented by scholars from the Australian National University, other Australian universities, and universities from the Asian region and other parts of the world. A notable feature was presentations by leading figures from a number of Indonesian parties. Sessions included papers on each of the major parties, changes in the nature of the party “system”, patterns in party campaigning, the growing importance of the arena of politics at the regional level and international assistance to political parties. The objective of the workshop, apart from an intensive exchange of views amongst specialists in the field, was to produce papers for an upcoming special edition of the RSIS journal focusing on Indonesian political parties.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

RSIS Indonesian Political Parties Workshop
2010 Solomon Islands National Election Training Workshop for Women Candidates

HONIARA | Having identified a need for the training and development of future women leaders in the Solomon Islands, CDI conducted a Women Candidates Training Workshop in Honiara from 8-12 March 2010. Fittingly, the workshop commenced on International Women’s Day, and follows on from the success of a similar workshop that CDI conducted in Buka, Bougainville in November 2009. CDI’s partners in delivering the workshop were the Solomon Islands National Council of Women (NCW), through their Women in Shared Decision-Making (WISDM) program, the Solomon Islands Ministry of Women, Youth and Children Affairs, and the Solomon Islands Parliament.

The workshop was led by CDI Associate and former parliamentarian and campaign manager Dr Norm Kelly, with assistance from experienced campaigners from the Australian Labor and Liberal parties. There was an emphasis on the practicalities of conducting a successful election campaign, with an emphasis on five key areas:

- Electoral Laws - understanding the rules of the game
- Machinery of a campaign – building a campaign team
- Money – fundraising and designing a campaign budget
- Message – how to develop a unique candidate message and how to get the message out, and
- Strategic Campaign Plan – bringing the above components together.

The workshop was designed for participants intending to stand as candidates, or who plan to be on a candidate’s campaign team. The clear aim of this workshop was to equip Women candidates and their teams with practical and strategic information and skills that will help enable them to realise their potential and effectively coordinate their resources to be the best candidates they can be as they contest the 2010 poll.

Click on these links for more detail on our website:

CDI Joins Electoral Observer Missions to Melanesia

BOUGAINVILLE & SOLOMON ISLANDS | CDI has recently sponsored CDI Associate Dr Norm Kelly as a full member of two international Electoral Observer Missions (EOM) to Melanesia - to the Autonomous Region of Melanesia elections in May 2010, and the Solomon Islands general election in August 2010. These missions have been implemented by the East-West Center (EWC) in Hawaii under the auspices of the US State Department’s Asia Pacific Democracy Partnership (APDP).

The EOMs’ full election reports will be completed in the coming months, as will a separate CDI policy paper Dr Kelly is developing that will compare and contrast the electoral and party systems of Bougainville and the Solomon Islands. As part of our follow-up and evaluation of CDI’s recent training activities in both these jurisdictions, this paper will include a focus on the campaigning experience for all candidates but with a particular emphasis on the experience and performance of female candidates. In turn, this policy paper will serve to help inform our future activities in this area.

Click on this link for all the details on our website:
The size and complexity of government can be a daunting challenge facing parliamentarians when performing their core roles of representation, oversight and legislating. In order to be more effective, parliamentarians need access to a professional and independent research and analysis service.

In order to make a contribution towards supporting Indonesian and East Timorese parliamentarians and parliamentary officials to more effectively perform their roles, CDI in partnership with the Institute for Peace & Democracy in Indonesia (IPD) developed and implemented a new residential training program specifically targeted at the staff who advise MPs in Indonesia and East Timor.

The course addressed issues such as dealing with the public, interest groups, the media and other stakeholders in order to improve the quality of debate and legislation; how to conduct research; understanding the role of the parliament in accountability of the government as well as its role in legislation; Staff-MP relations; and related matters.

The Course was conducted at the Australian National University in Canberra from 15-24 March 2010. It was convened jointly by Mr Ian Harris, former Clerk of the Australian Parliament’s House of Representatives, and Dr Ketut Erawan, Executive Director of the Institute for Peace and Democracy.

Click on this link for all the details on our website:
3rd Annual CDI Effective Parliamentary Committee Inquiries Course

SYDNEY | The 3rd Annual CDI Effective Parliamentary Committee Inquiries Course was held at Parliament House in Sydney from 15-19 February 2010. The Course has been designed and developed by CDI with the support of the Parliament of New South Wales, World Bank Institute and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

The Course is designed specifically for parliamentary committee staff and focuses on the practical aspects of parliamentary committee work. Topics covered in the program included inquiry terms of reference, planning and budgeting for an inquiry, collecting written and oral evidence, conducting public hearings, writing a report and tabling the final report in Parliament.

19 participants from 12 countries in the Asia-Pacific region were involved in this training course in 2010.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

Bougainville House of Representatives 2010 Members' Induction Program

BUKA | Three representatives of the New South Wales Parliament travelled to Buka, Bougainville in June 2010 to participate in the induction program for newly elected Members of the second Autonomous Region of Bougainville’s House of Representatives. The participation of the NSW Parliament representatives was at the invitation of the Speaker, the Hon Andrew Miriki, and Clerk, Mr Robert Tapi, of the House of Representatives. The Hon Diane Beamer MP and Mr Les Gonye, Clerk Assistant – Committees (Legislative Assembly) and Mr Simon Johnston, NSW Parliament Twinning Project Coordinator, were also participating on behalf of the Centre for Democratic Institutions, which scheduled activities to assist with the induction.

The induction program consisted of one full day covering the role of Members in the parliamentary context and the relationship between the NSW Parliament and the Bougainville House of Representatives under the Parliamentary Partnership Agreement (an arrangement under the auspices of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association). A three day program was jointly presented by the Autonomous Bougainville Government (the Administration) and the House of Representatives. The program covered areas such as the recent history and political structures of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, the Bougainville Peace Agreement, the Bougainville Constitution, the structure and funding arrangements of the Administration, economic development prospects for Bougainville.

The NSW Parliament representatives were heavily involved in the one-day program, and participated in the three-day program as observers, with some contribution from the Hon Diane Beamer MP in relation to the relationship of NSW with the Federal government under the Constitution.

A full report of the induction program and associated activities is being finalised by the NSW Parliament and will appear on their website in the near future.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:
Vanuatu Parliament Standing Orders Review Committee Workshop

PORT VILA | Following the very successful CDI workshop convened in May 2009 to examine the existing standing orders of the Parliament of Vanuatu, the Parliament’s Standing Orders Review Committee met on a number of occasions to work through the changes they wish to recommend to the Parliament based on the information gained from the workshop. Subsequently, CDI Associate the Hon. Kevin Rozzoli visited Vanuatu in February 2010 to supply technical advice and assistance to the Committee.

At the first meeting of the February Workshop the Chairman of the Committee set down the procedure which would be followed, namely line by line consideration of the standing orders and discussion of the problems perceived by the Committee that needed to be addressed. Resolutions were taken at the conclusion of discussion on each standing order.

Taking the aims and objectives above into account the deliberations of the committee addressed four major factors:

- If the existing standing orders were basically satisfactory could they be improved;
- Were there practices that had developed and become accepted over the years, which were not covered by the standing orders, and for which it would be a benefit to the parliament if they were set down;
- Were there problems that confronted the Parliament that appropriate standing orders could address;
- Were there procedures that were commonly adopted in other parliaments that would be of benefit to the overall functioning of the Parliament

The Committee worked very well and constructively, dealing with their problems and aspirations with commendable frankness. All issues were discussed in depth with translations from English to Bislama, and Bislama to English, frequently used to ensure a complete understanding of the often complex nature of the discussions and the explanation of procedures new to the Members. In dealing with these new procedures the Clerk provided valuable support revealing his depth of understanding of procedures used in other Parliaments.

It is important that once the new standing orders have been adopted that there is a settling in period. There is no doubt that, in time, there may well be the need for further refinement and development but it seems clear that the changes that have been decided by the committee mark a major improvement and the committee is to be commended for its sterling work.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

CDI at Pacific Parliaments Meeting

AUCKLAND | CDI Deputy Director Grant Harrison participated in a meeting of Pacific parliamentarians and parliamentary officials held in Auckland on 9 - 10 August 2010. The Parliaments of Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, East Timor, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Australia and New Zealand were represented at the meeting.

The meeting was convened by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) as a forum to reflect upon regional parliamentary strengthening initiatives. CDI (along with UNDP, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and AusAID) provided funding assistance to support attendance of delegates. The meeting featured presentations and panel discussions in which the experience of past projects was shared and opportunities for future initiatives were explored. In his presentation, Mr Harrison recounted CDI’s experience over the last 12 years in working with parliaments on these issues and gave an overview of CDI’s likely activities over the next 12 months.

The meeting was a valuable opportunity for parliamentarians, officials and capacity building partners to share lessons, to discuss current and future needs, and to commit to close collaboration in our strengthening efforts across the region.

Click on this link for more details on our website:

Legal Analysis Training for East Timor's Parliamentary Research Centre & Trainee Legal Drafting Staff

DILI | CDI recently provided funding to enable the Director of the Law and Bills Digest Section of the Australian Parliamentary Library, Mr Angus Martyn, to conduct a training workshop in Timor-Leste with the objective of improving participants’ skills of legal analysis in the Parliamentary context. The training was provided over 4 days, from 3 - 7 May 2010. Around 25 persons attended, including staff of the Timor-Leste Parliamentary Research Centre (PRC), and trainee legal drafters undertaking training under the legal support component of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) project Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy in Timor-Leste.

Mr Martyn’s training sessions included providing background on the work of the Australian Parliamentary Library, particularly focussing on law-related matters, and included
within this was a discussion of both client-commissioned work and Bills Digests, the rationale for doing for these, and a broad outline of key Parliamentary Library procedures. Mr Martyn also gave a presentation on legal analysis, which covered topics including the possible issues in draft legislation that could be considered in a legal analysis, and the practical aspects of undertaking legal analysis. To the extent possible, the presentation was tailored to the Timor-Leste context and it was accompanied by significant discussion by all participants.

Participants also undertook a practical exercise in undertaking an analysis of a recently proposed Timor-Leste law that dealt with a significant revision of many aspects of Timor-Leste's land title system, including prioritisation of conflicting titles. The final part of the training focussed on process of law-making and related constitutional and Parliamentary process issues, and involved a discussion of the comparisons between the Australian and Timor-Leste systems.

Click on this link for more details on our website:

**New CDI Associates**

**CANBERRA** | CDI is proud to announce that the Hon. Kevin Rozzoli AM has accepted our offer to become a CDI Associate, in recognition of his continuing work with CDI as a consultant on parliamentary reform and strengthening in the region.

In 2008 the Australian Government made Kevin a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) for service to the New South Wales Parliament, and to the community of the Greater Western Sydney through a range of environmental protection, health and welfare, and educational organisations.

CDI is also proud to announce that Ms Monica Costa has also accepted our offer to become a CDI Associate. Monica is a gender and development expert with international experience and will convene our Women in Politics training course again in Canberra in late 2010.

**ASPG 2010 Annual Conference**

**CANBERRA** | CDI Staff participated in the 2010 Australasian Study of Parliament Group (ASPG) annual conference, which this year was hosted by the ACT Legislative Assembly from 5-7 August. The conference theme was *The Good, The Bad and the Ugly - Perceptions of Parliament*. A large group of Australian and New Zealand current and former parliamentarians, parliamentary officials, journalists and academics attended the conference.

The ASPG is a politically non-partisan body which was established in 1978 to encourage and stimulate research, writing, teaching and discussion about parliamentary institutions, particularly those in Australasia and the South Pacific. The ASPG has Chapters in all States and Territories of Australia and in New Zealand. *The Australasian Parliamentary Review* is the ASPG’s official journal and is published twice a year.

Along with the conference proper, this event was an excellent opportunity for CDI’s new Director and Deputy Director to meet and network extensively with key CDI partners with whom we work regularly in assisting Pacific Island Parliaments, including ASPG President & CDI Associate The Hon. Kevin Rozzoli, and representatives of the State and Territory Parliaments of Australia.

Click on this link for more details on our website:

**CDI and the Institute for Peace and Democracy**

**BALI** | Former CDI Director Ben Reilly was a speaker at an international workshop in Bali in February 2010 organised by International IDEA and the Institute for Peace and Democracy on the subject of “Indonesian and Asian Democratic Transition and Reform Experiences”.

The workshop looked at lessons learned from Indonesia’s democratization experience and from other members of the Bali Democracy Forum. Indonesia has now experienced a decade of...
democratization since the fall of the Suharto regime in 1998. The workshop aimed to discuss starting points for the next step in Indonesia's democratisation process, and to document this experience, so as to compare knowledge production and references to other countries as well as provide direct guidance from Indonesia's experiences.

At the same time, it was realized that Indonesia's experience can both learn from and inform other countries. Much of the discussion at the conference focussed on the need to discuss and learn from Indonesia’s experiences of democratic transition and at the same time, to share other Asian countries’ experiences, several of which are going through transitional processes of their own. To this end, a selection of Bali Democracy Forum countries attended the workshop, including national legislators, government officials, civic/opinion leaders and academics.

While in Bali, Professor Reilly also met with the new Indonesian Foreign Minister, Dr Marty Natalegawa, and also visited the offices of the Institute for Peace and Democracy for discussions with the Institute’s Director, Dr Ketut Erawan.

Click on this link for more detail on our website: Publications, News & Events

Former CDI Director Awarded Democracy Fellowship

WASHINGTON | Former CDI Director Professor Ben Reilly has been awarded a Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellowship at the National Endowment of Democracy (NED) in Washington D.C.

Named in honour of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the late congressman Dante Fascell, the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program was established in 2001 with funding from the U.S. Congress to enable democratic practitioners, scholars, and journalists from around the world to deepen their understanding of democracy and enhance their ability to promote democratic change.

Professor Reilly’s fellowship encompasses a multi-facted research agenda on the subject of “Strengthening Democracy in the Asia-Pacific”, studying the increasing trend toward ‘political engineering’ of key institutions in Asia’s new democracies, as well as Australia’s role in international democracy promotion in the Asia-Pacific region.

Click on this link for more on our website: Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellowship

Publications, News & Events

Journal of Democracy

THIS ARTICLE COURTESY OF THE NETWORK OF DEMOCRACY RESEARCH INSTITUTES (NDRI)

WASHINGTON | The Journal of Democracy’s website features two gratis articles from the July 2010 issue: “The Democratic Instinct in the 21st Century,” by Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, examines Indonesia’s experience in building a multiparty and multiethnic democracy shows and shows how democracy can succeed even under difficult and initially unpromising conditions.

Larry Diamond’s “Liberation Technology” examines how citizens can use the Internet, mobile phones, and other forms of “liberation technology” to express opinions, mobilize protests, and expand the horizons of freedom and how autocratic governments are also learning to master these technologies. He argues that the contest between democrats and autocrats will ultimately depend not just on technology, but on political organization and strategy.

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

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

To subscribe to CDI News visit the CDI website @ http://www.cdi.anu.edu.au/cdinews/cdinews.htm