Dear Friends,

It has been a while since we have been able to catch up with you about all the things that have been happening in the world of CDI. So I am very glad to be able to present you with a very full CDI News, including a review of just a sample of the activities that we and our colleagues have been involved in over the last several months.

In the back of our minds have been the dramatic events in north Africa and the Middle East. The overthrow of authoritarian regimes in Tunisia and Egypt and the uprisings in Libya, Yemen, Syria, Bahrain, Jordan and occupied Palestine have proven once again the power of popular courage and determination, but also the fearsome obstacles that entrenched regimes can throw up against pro-democracy forces. In countries such as Tunisia and Egypt, where the first stage of revolutionary change has succeeded, people are grappling with the new tasks of building genuinely representative and accountable institutions. This is very much at the heart of what CDI is about.

Although these events are taking place in a part of the world which is well outside CDI’s geographical focus, we have taken the opportunity to support efforts by one of our major target countries, Indonesia, to encourage democratisation in Egypt. This CDI News features special coverage of the recent workshop held in Jakarta where representatives of various political and non-government organisations from Egypt met with their counterparts in Indonesia to discuss the two countries common experience with the transition to democracy.

Other highlights in this CDI News include reviews of the major training courses that we hold each year for political party activists, MPs and staff of parliaments in our region. These include:

- The Political Party Development Course for senior and middle-level political party officials and MPs.
- The Effective Parliamentary Committee Inquiries Course to assist parliamentary staff who support the operation of parliamentary committees.
- The Women in Politics Course, designed to encourage and assist the emergence of women political leaders.

CDI has also been giving special attention to developing our research profile. Please read on for further details about our efforts to foster comparative research by the scholars and practitioners who work on Indonesia and the South Pacific and our continuing focus on producing analytical material on elections in our region.

We are very keen to keep in touch with the growing numbers of people who have attended our courses or who have been engaged with us in our research work, or who we have met in seminars and conferences around the region. We intend to follow up on the example of our first alumni gathering held in Jakarta this year with similar events in our other partner countries. In the meantime, to keep up with continuing CDI activities, don’t forget that we regularly update our website: www.cdi.anu.edu.au

Best wishes

Stephen Sherlock | CDI Director
CDI Supports Indonesia’s Engagement with Democratisation in Egypt

JAKARTA | Dramatic events have been sweeping the Middle East and north Africa since early 2011. Popular uprisings, first in Tunisia and then in Egypt, brought an end to the rule of long-standing authoritarian regimes. Popular movements have arisen in Libya, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Bahrain, Jordan, Syria, Algeria and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Developments in the Middle East have been strikingly similar to the overthrow of the Suharto regime in Indonesia in 1998. Many observers were quick to see the parallels, not only in relation to the overthrow of regimes but also regarding the tasks of constructing a new democratic order. In particular, the similarity between Egypt and Indonesia in terms of size, socio-religious composition and recent political history, suggested that there could be lessons from the Indonesian experience that might be shared with Egypt. A dialogue with individuals involved in the democratic transformation of Indonesia could be a source of ideas and inspiration for those leading the reconstruction of Egyptian politics.

In response to a clear feeling amongst partner organisations in Indonesia that they would like to contribute to pro-democracy forces in other parts of the world, CDI launched a venture to encourage Indonesia’s engagement with democrats in Egypt. Beginning in March 2011, CDI joined forces with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) to support a series of activities led by the Institute of Peace and Democracy (IPD) in Bali. Under the leadership of Dr Hassan Wirajuda, former Foreign Minister of Indonesia and Patron of IPD, the Institute has begun a program of dialogue on democratisation between Indonesia and Egypt.

The objective is to build on the long-standing feeling of affinity between Egyptians and Indonesians dating back to their mutual support during the fight for independence. Dialogue about the recent common struggle for democracy could provide Egyptians with inspiration and ideas, while Indonesians could be encouraged to pause and consider their recent past and lessons to be learnt. From CDI’s perspective, this is an exciting opportunity to support a further stage in the process of democratic consolidation in Indonesia as the country begins to play a role in strengthening regional and global movements for democracy.

The first meeting in the IPD “Egypt-Indonesia Dialogue on Democratic Transition” took place in Jakarta on 25-26 May 2011. A wide range of political leaders, democracy activists, academics and representatives from NGOs and media organisations from Egypt and Indonesia gathered to share ideas about political renaissance, revolutionary change and democratic reform. A two-day workshop discussed the agenda for change in Egypt, with the Indonesian participants presenting their views on the nature of their country’s political transition after 1998 and conclusions they had drawn from that experience. The Egyptian participants were invited to raise issues about current events in their home country, whether to seek more details and elaboration or to challenge the Indonesians to explain and justify the decisions they had made.

Highlights of the dialogue

Discussion in the workshop sparked immediately after the presentation by the first panel of speakers and continued over two days of lively and animated dialogue. Some concern was initially expressed by a number of Egyptian participants that they might not have enough opportunity to express their views, but the workshop soon developed into a genuine two-way exchange of ideas. The following is a summary of highlights.

• The role of the military in the transition and its place in a democratic society.

With the key role played by the military in the old regime of both countries, both as an institution and in terms of prominent individual leaders, it was agreed that negotiating the withdrawal of the military from politics was a critical task for a new democracy. Both the military and police contained many different elements and while some leading officers might support change, there was always the potential for retrograde factions to threaten progress and to try to hold on to political and economic privileges. The right of former military figures and rank and file soldiers to exercise their democratic rights to stand for office and to vote was the focus of particular discussion in the workshop.

• Constitutional and political reform

The need to change the constitution and empower representative institutions has been at the forefront of thinking in Egypt, as it was for Indonesians after 1998. The contrast between “reformasi” or gradual reform in Indonesia and the urge for revolutionary change in Egypt was highlighted at various times during the workshop, with a number of Egyptians expressing concern that incremental reforms within existing arrangements might impede progress towards political renewal. Post-1998 political institutions in Indonesia, including the presidential system and decentralisation of governmental powers to the regions, was subjected to detailed questioning by the Egyptian side.

continued over
• Election laws and management, including the importance of an independent elections commission

There was predictably intense interest in the question of how both countries could design and manage an electoral system that both guaranteed free and fair elections and produced truly representative and workable institutions of government. The Egyptians were impressed with Indonesia’s success in managing a huge managerial and logistical task and took particular note of the governance structures of the independent elections commission.

• The role of political parties and civil society in building a representative democracy

The strong representation of political parties and activist groups in the Egyptian delegation ensured that there was a lively discussion about the role of civil society in the political transformation of both countries. A particular point of contention arose around the question of banning the ruling party from the old regime, which had recently occurred in Egypt but which had never happened in Indonesia. This generated a fascinating discussion about the continuing political role of figures from the old order, whether they could and should take part in the process of reform, as well as the question of accountability for past policies and practices, including trials for corruption and abuse of human rights.

• Islam, politics and the state

Both sides affirmed the fundamental affinity between the Egyptian and Indonesian attitude of tolerance and inclusiveness regarding the place of religion in society and politics. In both countries Islam is the majority religion, but significant minorities profess adherence to other faiths. Some Egyptians expressed concern about the dangers of intrusion into private religious belief, whether by the state, religious authorities or extremist groups, particularly the potential impact on the rights and security of minority groups. Various ideas about the appropriateness of the notion of secularism in an Islamic majority country were aired, given the argument that Islamic ideas about the role of the state in religion do not always accord with those current in the West. In this context, questions were raised about how state sponsorship of religious values and standards could be reconciled with the civic rights of the individual in a democratic state.

• The role of the media in consolidating democracy

There was strong representation from Egyptian media organisations in the workshop. The dialogue with a number of well-known figures from Indonesian media world on the place of the media in a democracy was particularly stimulating. Speakers observed that rapid changes in media technology meant that pro-democracy activists in Indonesia in 1998 had made use of different forms of technology from those used in the Egyptian uprising more than a decade later, but the clear conclusion was that innovative use of communications technology was critical to the success of popular mobilisation. A significant part of the exchange of ideas about the media concentrated on the issue of how and when the laws on the media should be reformed in Egypt. In the light of Indonesian experience after 1998, a number of Egyptian participants expressed their appreciation of the valuable lessons that they had been able to draw from the Indonesian approach to media law reform.

• Ensuring the full participation of women in the political process

Discussion on the question of the participation of women in the political process in Egypt and Indonesia quickly returned to themes similar to those that had come to the fore during the earlier session on Islam and the state. There was agreement that the intertwining of Islamic ideas and traditional cultural practices created special challenges for women in pluralistic societies. Many speakers argued that the dominant interpretations of Islam in both Egypt and Indonesia had supported an equal role for women in public life, but that pressure on women reflected trends towards intolerance of political and cultural diversity in some sections of society. The relative merits of methods to promote women’s political leadership, such as quotas and other special provisions in the electoral law, proved to be a point of special interest.

The way forward for dialogue

The success of the workshop for both sides was clearly indicated by the enthusiasm for maintaining the dialogue in the near future and for further activities to be convened in Egypt. Many participants expressed the hope that the dialogue would form the basis for a more solid partnership with a wider program of activities. As a first step, the Egyptian side initiated the creation of a Facebook group, through which participants can share thoughts and experiences, maintain communication and publicise future events in the dialogue.

IPD is currently developing plans for a second workshop to be held in Cairo in the near future, which will aim to involve a wider range of Egyptian participants and to bring a group of Indonesians into closer contact with the debates currently occurring in Egypt. CDI, along with our close partners in NDI, have already expressed our keen willingness to support the continuation of the dialogue in any way we can.

Click on this link for more details on our website:
CANBERRA | Supporting the development of political parties is a consistent thread in CDI’s work. We provide advice to counterparts on party regulation, publish research on the influence of parties on political representation and conduct practical training courses for senior party officials. A core component of our training strategy is our annual Asia-Pacific regional Political Party Development course. The 6th annual PPD was conducted in Canberra in May 2011. Twenty senior party officials from seven countries across the region participated in a program designed to enhance their knowledge base, leadership skills and organisational know-how. This year’s course included three current members of parliament and, for the first time, equal numbers of men and women.

The course was presented by CDI Associate Dr Norm Kelly and aimed to provide an introduction to party systems in the region, with a particular focus on strategies for party administration and management. The course covered recruiting and managing party members, participatory decision-making, running election campaigns, media relations and managing party finances. It featured presentations from academics and practitioners and opportunities for participants to share their own experiences and learn from each other.

As in previous years, the chance to visit the headquarters of Australia’s major political parties for briefings from senior party officials on the operation of their parties was particularly valuable. Visits to Parliament House for meetings with members of parliament provided a rare insight into the workings of Australia’s political parties.

This year’s course attracted a record number of applicants, indicating that there is strong interest in political party development in the region. We are keen to keep improving our work in this area and are planning to refine our approach by providing more in-country training assistance and by sharpening our focus on the ‘nuts and bolts’ of party management, especially election campaigning.

Click on this link for more details on our website including the full course report:

CDI 2011 Political Party Development Course

SYDNEY | CDI’s 4th annual Effective Parliamentary Committee Inquiries Course (EPCIC) was held at Parliament House in February 2011. The course was co-convened by CDI Deputy Director Grant Harrison, Steven Reynolds (from the NSW Legislative Council) and Les Gonye (from the NSW Legislative Assembly) and was supported by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

EPCIC is designed for parliamentary officials who support the work of parliamentary committees. Topics included:

- preparing terms of reference for an inquiry;
- planning and budgeting for an inquiry, collecting evidence in writing and at public hearings;
- analysing evidence and drafting committee reports;
- tabling reports in parliament.

Officials from parliaments in East Timor, Papua New Guinea, the PNG Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Samoa and Kiribati participated in the 2011 course.

The aim of EPCIC is to allow participants:

- to be exposed to the principles and practices that underpin the effective operation of parliamentary committees in the NSW Parliament;
- to learn about the operation of parliaments and
CDI continues its support for the Summer Residential Program for Public Accounts Committees by sponsoring the participation of a delegation from the Indonesian Parliament’s Badan Akuntabilitas Keuangan Negara (BAKN) to the 6th Summer Residential Program which was held in Melbourne and Beechworth in February 2011.

The Summer Residential Program is a one-week intensive training for members and staff from public accounts committees in developing countries.

CDI’s sponsorship of a delegation from BAKN is part of a continuing program of assistance to the committee, which is a relatively new committee in the Indonesian parliament and still establishing its profile and standing. CDI convened an introductory workshop on parliamentary financial scrutiny for BAKN (and other Indonesian officials) in February 2010 and we are currently working with the committee to devise a series of further training activities to support the committee’s consideration of reports from the State Audit Commission (Badan Pemeriksa Keuangan or BPK).

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

CDI continues its support for the Conference of Australasian Public Accounts Committees (ACPAC) as the major get-together for parliamentarians and staff who work in Public Accounts Committees (PACs) in parliaments at the national, state and territory level in Australia and New Zealand. It is an opportunity to share experiences and discuss recent developments in issues related to parliamentary oversight of the expenditure of public money. The eleventh ACPAC conference took place in Perth from 27 to 30 April 2011.

It has become standard practice for the ACPAC conferences to be attended by observers from a range of countries in Asia, the Pacific and Africa. While the focus of discussions is on Australasian parliamentary practice, the conference now has a very international character and brings a comparative perspective from Australia’s region and beyond. Given the presence of a large number of representatives from new and developing democracies, CDI convened a special session devoted entirely to the concerns and needs of Public Accounts Committees in emerging democracies. The session was chaired by CDI Director Dr Stephen Sherlock, with the principal presentation given by Mr Peter Loney, former Chair of the PAC of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria and now at Deakin University.

Mr Loney provided the session with a stimulating and provocative presentation about the variety of approaches to dealing with problems presented by the limited resources available to parliamentary committees in developing countries. While the delegates in the meeting came from a diverse range of countries, they found that the commonality of challenges they faced provided the basis for a very valuable exchange of views and ideas. The contacts and networks built during the conference will prove very useful in future efforts to play an effective parliamentary oversight and audit role.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:
Policy Workshop on Political Party Integrity Legislation in PNG

PORT MORESBY | CDI is continuing its support for a review of political party integrity legislation being conducted by PNG’s Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission (IPPCC).

On 12 & 13 April the IPPCC convened a policy review workshop at Gaire Village, near Port Moresby. The workshop was designed and facilitated with assistance from CDI and PNG’s National Research Institute. It involved a small group of highly credentialed national and international experts who were invited to address a series of questions, structured around six themes:

- patterns of political behaviour in PNG;
- lessons from administering OLIPPAC;
- lessons from international experience;
- approaches to regulating political parties;
- incentives for political parties to nominate female candidates; and
- strategies for encouraging candidate, parliamentary and party integrity.

Many participants had responded to focus questions on these topics before the workshop and some (including Dr Alphonse Gelu, John Nonggorr, Professor Ted Wolfers, Dr Jon Fraenkel, Illa Geno, Dr Orovu Sepoe and Chronox Manek) were invited to make brief presentations to introduce the topics and generate discussion. The discussions, which involved all participants, were wide-ranging and well-informed, drawing on the immense practical and academic experience of the participants.

At the conclusion of the workshop IPPCC Chairperson, Dr Orovu Sepoe, thanked the participants for their observations and suggestions. She said that the IPPCC would now prepare a policy paper, summarising the many administrative, policy and legislation changes that had been discussed during the workshop, with the aim of presenting its reform options to the annual OLIPPAC conference to be held in Kokopo, East New Britain in July 2011.

In response to requests from the IPPCC and from Sir Kina Bona, the Registrar of Political Parties, CDI will continue to assist the Commission as it analyses the results of the workshop discussions and prepares its policy paper.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

IPPCC Workshop

2010 Women in Politics Course

CANBERRA | CDI’s Women in Politics Training Course (WiP) was conducted in late 2010. The course was convened by CDI Associate Ms Monica Costa.

In its third year, this course is designed to improve women’s political representation in the Asia-Pacific region. The course was developed to support women intending to enter national politics whether as a candidate for elected office, a political party organiser, or similar role in the democratic process.

The course offered an opportunity for participants to learn and discuss best practices in promoting gender equality, as well as share their own country-based experiences.

The course explored avenues to translate this knowledge into the context of the Asia-Pacific through the development of national strategies to address challenges faced by women in engaging with the political arena.

Nineteen participants from the six CDI priority countries participated in the course, roughly half of whom hold positions in political parties and half in civil society organizations committed to support improvements in women’s representation in politics. There is strong demand for this course as indicated by the number of applications - around 180 applications from 15 countries for 20 positions.

Key to the success of the course was the diversity of experiences brought to the course by the participants. Course members were genuinely interested in learning and sharing.

The 2010 Women in Politics training course covered topics including:
Getting elected and re-elected
Leadership
Electoral systems and reforms affecting women
Lobbying/networking
Role of political parties and politicians
Government, NGOs and academia’s contribution

Along with participants’ experiences, the course also drew on a range of experts from political parties, NGOs, media and academia. On the last day of the course, participants presented country-based strategies for collaboration on addressing a specific challenge. The standard of these presentations was very high, with participants focused on practical measures for strengthening collaboration between participants (such as fundraising for women candidates, research, awareness initiatives and training for women candidates).

The course produced the following results:
• built a network among the participants
• strengthened networks between these participants and Australian political parties and institutions
• documented the experiences of women in running for politics in the region
• identified country level strategies to overcome obstacles to women’s involvement in politics

The enthusiastic support and involvement of the speakers, in particular Australian political parties and their parliamentarians, was critical to the success of the course. Their contributions provided inspiration for participants’ day-to-day work in promoting women’s political representation and their political aspirations. CDI thanks the parties for their support and active participation in the various sessions. A specific thanks goes to Hon Kate Ellis - Minister for Employment Participation and Childcare and the Minister for the Status of Women.

Click on these links for more detail on our website:

WiP 2010

**Women Candidate Training in PNG**

LAE | Across the Pacific women face substantial obstacles in getting elected to national parliaments. Some of the barriers are cultural, some financial, some relating to the nature of electoral systems and some practical, relating to knowledge, skills and confidence. The existence of these barriers is particularly evident in Papua New Guinea, where Dame Carol Kidu is the only woman out of 109 members of parliament. As Dame Carol has announced that she will not be re-contesting her seat at the July 2012 elections, PNG faces the prospect of having no female members of parliament in 12 months time.

As part of a sustained effort to enhance women’s political representation, CDI has in recent years devised a program of training support for women candidates standing for election. This training, which focuses on the practicalities of getting elected (such as campaign planning and strategy, media relations, mobilizing support and campaign financing) has been developed with local partners in the Solomon Islands and in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Building on this experience, we have been working over the last few months with PNG’s Office for the Development of Women and UNDP’s Women in Leadership Project to develop a training strategy for women candidates and their campaign managers in the lead-up to the 2012 elections. The Strategy was developed in consultation with national and regional women’s groups from across PNG and was recently endorsed by the Joint Technical Working Group on Women in Leadership (chaired by Dame Carol).

The first Strategy event, a train the trainer workshop for facilitators from each of PNG’s four regions, will be held in Port Moresby in August 2011. Subsequent events will include 5-day workshops in each region for candidates and their campaign managers 6 months before the election; progress checks in each region, 3 months before the election; and drop-in campaign plan sessions also in each region in the first week of campaigning.

National and regional women’s groups are key partners in the Strategy and will be closely involved in delivering all components of the training, helping ensure that it is targeted and can be replicated for subsequent national and local level elections.

Click on this link for all the details on our website:
Around 20 scholars and practitioners from Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the US gathered in Bali in November 2010 to participate in a workshop organised jointly by CDI and IPD under the title “Electoral Systems, Parties and Parliaments: Making the Connections”.

The intensive two-day program is part of efforts by CDI and IPD to facilitate research on democratic institutions in Southeast Asia and the Pacific and to develop networks amongst people working in the area from both scholarly and practical perspectives. The aim of the workshop was to make connections in two main ways:

- In thematic terms, the workshop focused on the ways in which the design of electoral systems influences the nature and behaviour of political parties and the composition and functioning of parliaments in countries in the region.

- In regional terms, the workshop was designed to foster dialogue, sharing of perspectives and networking between people who work on the issues in the Pacific and those whose specialisation is in Southeast Asia. Despite the geographical closeness of the two regions there is only limited mutual knowledge and interchange, a situation which CDI and IPD were partly established to help overcome.

**Highlights of the workshop discussion**

Legislation and regulations are a determining element in the nature and behaviour of political parties. As a conceptual focus in the workshop, this was at the centre of discussions, was returned to repeatedly and formed a starting point from which other ideas tended to flow. A recurring theme was the limitations to the effectiveness of legislative “engineering” in achieving objectives such as influencing the nature and behaviour of parties, providing for stable government or providing for representation of particular social groups.

The regional comparative dimensions of the discussion began to emerge particularly during the second half of the workshop. The Indonesian specialists found the experience of the Pacific very illuminating and vice versa, and both sides observed that the problems and characteristic of the other region were interestingly familiar. The most engaging and potentially productive focus for comparative study developed around the commonalities of politics in eastern Indonesia and Melanesia. There was a particularly fascinating dialogue about the phenomenon of “big men” in Melanesian politics and the growth of local dynasties in sub-national Indonesian politics.

An obvious difference was identified in the discourse about political parties in the two regions: while much attention in Indonesia is focused on the alleged stranglehold of parties and the need to reduce their number, in the Pacific the perceived problem is the absence of meaningful party structures and allegiances and the need to encourage or engineer a party system.

**Where to from here?**

The final session of the workshop was devoted to dialogue on the question of where this IPD-CDI project should go from here. The activity has been planned as a two-stage undertaking, with the second workshop to be held in late 2011 with more precisely-focused papers designed for a publication of collected papers in 2012.

Click on this link for all the details on our website:

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**CDI’s New Senior Researcher - Indonesia**

**JAKARTA** | In late 2010 Hazelia Margaretha commenced work as a Senior Research Officer with CDI based in Jakarta. She is also attached to the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI). Both at CDI and NDI, Hazelia is closely monitoring parliamentary affairs and regularly meets with members of Parliaments and their staff.

Hazelia holds a Master of Science in Asian Studies from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and she has a Bachelor’s Degree in International Relations from Paramadina University, Jakarta, where she graduated *Summa Cum Laude*.

Hazelia’s current research interests are in Indonesian political affairs, especially political parties, parliament, civil society, and regional autonomy.

Click on this link for more details on our website:
Solomon Islands Post-Election Diagnostic Workshop for Women Candidates

HONIARA | Women candidates who stood for election at the August 2010 national elections were better prepared than those who contested the 2006 elections. This was the conclusion of a post-election diagnostic workshop conducted by the Solomon Islands National Council of Women (NCW) in Honiara in November 2010.

While participants at the workshop expressed disappointment that no women were elected to the national parliament, there was agreement that the support provided to candidates by the NCW’s Women in Shared Decision Making (WISDM) project and the training assistance provided by CDI was well targeted and valuable.

CDI Associate Dr Norm Kelly, who had been involved in delivering the pre-election training, participated in the post-election diagnostic and reported that a number of the candidates who were present observed that, as in the 2006 elections, ‘money politics’ (the expectation that candidates will buy votes), the use of dummy candidates (to split support for woman candidates) and gender stereotyping were obstacles commonly faced by women candidates. The workshop devised an action plan for continuing community education about the role of women in politics and advocacy about temporary special measures to boost women’s representation in parliament.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

Solomon Islands NCW Workshop

Strengthening Leadership in the Indonesian Legislature

JAKARTA | CDI programs are increasingly concentrating on providing advice and support to emerging leaders within political institutions and parties in our partner countries. Our approach is not only to assist individuals in formal positions of leadership, but to encourage the wider spectrum of people who are taking on the key strategic thinking and planning roles within their organisations. This requires a long term commitment to interchange of ideas, mentoring and knowledge transfer.

As part of this approach, CDI is developing a relationship with leading figures in the committees of the Indonesian Regional Representatives Council (DPD). The committee structure is the principal working mechanism within the DPD and it is here that existing and emerging leaders within the institution, both elected members and their advisory staff, will be able to play their most effective role.

In early 2011, CDI Associate and former Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, Hon Kevin Rozzoli, accompanied by CDI Director Dr Stephen Sherlock, conducted a scoping study of the DPD committees in order to identify ways to contribute to their role in carrying out the DPD’s constitutional and political functions. Mr Rozzoli and Dr Sherlock held intensive discussions with leading DPD office-holders including the Deputy Speakers, the chairs of several committees, a range of committees and senior staff of the Secretariat. They also conferred with representatives of several Indonesian and international organisations with views on the developmental needs of the DPD, either from the perspective of observers and commentators or as providers of assistance.

Mr Rozzoli has produced a report on the scoping study for CDI, which will form the basis of plans to develop a series of activities in the DPD over the coming months and years. In order to build on CDI’s continuing efforts to deliver programs in-country rather than in Australia, these activities will all take place in Indonesia, both in Jakarta and regional centres.

Click on this link for all the details on our website:

CDI Seminar - Assessing Indonesia’s Parliamentary Performance: Progress or Decline?

CANBERRA | The Indonesian National Parliament (DPR) has been transformed from a rubber-stamp of Suharto’s New Order into one of Indonesia’s most powerful political institutions. Many believe that a well-functioning DPR can provide checks and balances to executive government and contribute to Indonesia’s democratic consolidation and robust development. Expectations were high for the current DPR (2009 - 2014), where the elected members were, on average, better educated and younger than before. Yet, critics have pointed out that over one year into its tenure, the DPR has not been performing well - missing deadlines for passing bills, meeting public outcry over luxurious facilities and overseas trips, and generally being embroiled in one political controversy after another.

But is this a fair assessment of the DPR’s performance? The parliament attracts constant adverse criticism, but is its record any more problematic than other Indonesian state institutions, including the presidency itself? How do we assess and understand the underlying dynamics between the DPR and the Government? What are some of the key issues shaping parliamentary affairs? What are the key prospects and challenges facing the DPR moving into the 2014 general elections?

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These issues were discussed at a very well-attended presentation by CDI’s Jakarta-based Senior Researcher Hazelia Margaretha, held in the Crawford School of Economics and Government at the ANU in February 2011. Over 30 scholars, students and officials from government listened to the results of Hazelia’s intensive research and interviews conducted in Jakarta over the last few months. The presentation provided fresh and revealing insights into the most recent developments in the arena of parliamentary politics in Indonesia. Hazelia put forward a nuanced understanding of the contradictions and tensions created by the complex political and institutional situation of the DPR and stimulated an extended session of audience questions and discussion.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

Assessing the DPR’s Performance

Fundamental to democracy: Parliamentary Research & Library Services International Symposium

CANBERRA | In March 2011, CDI sponsored delegates from East Timor, Indonesia, PNG, Solomons and Vanuatu to an international symposium at Parliament House in Canberra entitled Fundamental to democracy: Parliamentary Research & Library Services. The event was hosted by the Australian Parliamentary Library and supported by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Australasia, as well as by CDI.

CDI was keen to be involved in the event because it was a great opportunity to foster dialogue and networks between staff of parliaments in countries where we work and the staff of Australian and international parliaments. In modern parliaments, research and library services need to deliver traditional services in new ways. They need to deliver innovative services that support members of parliament who are increasingly mobile - with high expectations of access to support wherever they are. The pressures of parliamentary business are significant, with a complexity of issues generated by world and local forces producing a need to support work in all policy areas.

The symposium:
• assisted the development of parliamentary libraries in our region through information and knowledge sharing
• encouraged innovative and best fit research services practices
• built staff capacity in ICT and service delivery
• strengthened cooperation between the IFLA Section, the Global Centre for ICT in Parliaments, the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments, and Commonwealth Parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

As well as a symposium bringing together thinkers and practitioners from the Australasian and Pacific regions and around the globe, the program included a training day for parliamentary staff on using information technology in parliament.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

Fundamental to Democracy

CDI Director Attends the 3rd Bali Democracy Forum

BALI | CDI Director Dr Stephen Sherlock joined delegates to the 3rd Bali Democracy Forum (BDF) in Denpasar in December 2010. The BDF is an initiative of the Government of Indonesia, with the aim of promoting democratic strengthening and peaceful cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. The meeting was attended by representatives of over 70 countries, including four heads of state and numerous ministerial level figures. Australia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, The Hon Kevin Rudd MP, led the Australian delegation to the gathering.

The theme of the Forum was “Democracy and the Promotion of Peace and Stability”, with delegates expressing their commitment to supporting regional stability, economic prosperity and the promotion of democratic values and institutions. In his address to the opening meeting of the BDF, Mr Rudd stressed that “democracy is not a finish line that we cross at one particular point in history” and that all countries in the region needed to continue efforts to strengthen democratic institutions. He mentioned that the Centre for Democratic Institutions is part of Australia’s “strong record of supporting democracy in our region”, including by providing “capacity development activities for more than 4,000 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, political representatives and other stakeholders” since the Centre’s foundation in 1998.

Apart from deliberations in the formal sessions, the BDF is an extremely valuable opportunity to mix informally with leaders and government officials from around the region. Dr Sherlock was especially glad to be able to establish and build on connections with international organisations active in the field of democracy promotion and to extend the network of supportive individuals from Indonesia and other countries who might become involved in CDI activities in the future.

Click on this link for more details on our website:

2010 Bali Democracy Forum
IPD-CDI Discussion Meeting - Electoral Democracy in the Asia-Pacific Region: Observations by Bali Democracy Forum Countries

The Australian federal election on 21 August 2010 was observed with great professional interest by a group of election administrators visiting from 20 countries from the Asia-Pacific region, through the Australian Electoral Commission’s (AEC) Election Visitors Program (EVP). The group, composed of senior electoral staff, including heads of electoral commissions from a number of countries, were given the opportunity to observe the operation of the Australian electoral system. This included visits to urban and rural polling places and to the National Tally Room in Canberra.

CDI and the Institute for Peace and Democracy (IPD) took the opportunity of the presence of electoral specialists from member countries of the Bali Democracy Forum (BDF) to convene a special meeting to discuss their experience and observations of the Australian 2010 election through the AEC’s EVP, and to build links amongst the Election Management Bodies (EMBs) from BDF countries. IPD and CDI jointly convened the half-day meeting under the title of “Electoral Democracy in the Asia-Pacific Region: Observations by Bali Democracy Forum Countries”. The discussion was facilitated by the IPD Director, Dr Ketut Erawan and CDI Director, Dr Stephen Sherlock.

The meeting was attended by delegates from nine BDF countries. It provided an opportunity for them to gain deeper insights into the Australian political process, to share their observations of the Australian election and to consider the implications for future challenges in election administration in Asia-Pacific countries. The gathering was informal and collegial, resulting in a free-flowing interchange after the busy and informative EVP.

Click on this link for more on our website:

Parliamentary Strengthening Consultations in Vanuatu

PORT VILA | In March 2011 CDI Deputy Director Grant Harrison and CDI Associate the Hon Kevin Rozzoli visited the Vanuatu Parliament for consultations with senior parliamentary staff and members of parliament. Meetings were held with:

- the Clerk, Lino Bulekuli dit Sacsac;
- the Deputy Clerk, Leon Teter;
- the Parliamentary Librarian, Leiwa Moli;
- the Private Secretary to the Speaker, Yoan Mariasua;
- Hon Bob Loughman MP, formerly Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee; and
- Hon Ralph Regenvanu MP, Minister for Justice and formerly a member of the Standing Orders Committee.

The visit was an opportunity to plan for the final phase of the review of Standing Orders (a project undertaken during 2010 by the Standing Orders Committee of the Vanuatu Parliament with technical assistance from CDI) and to develop a program of additional parliamentary strengthening activities.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

Bougainville & Solomon Islands 2010 Elections - Policy Paper & Workshop

CANBERRA | CDI was pleased to contribute to a workshop convened by the State Society and Governance Melanesia (SSGM) Program (our colleagues in the College of Asia and the Pacific at the ANU) on the 2010 elections in Bougainville and the Solomon Islands.

The workshop featured presentations from leading scholars and practitioners, many of whom have participated previously in CDI training and research events.

CDI hosted a well-attended reception on Tuesday 2 November to welcome participants to the workshop. The reception featured the launch of the latest in CDI’s Policy Paper Series – Electoral Democracy in Post-Conflict Melanesia: the 2010 Bougainville and Solomon Islands Elections by CDI Associate Dr Norm Kelly. Dr Kelly’s paper looks at the background to the elections and describes the electoral systems and administrative structures that were used in the...
2010 elections. He assesses the conduct of the elections and analyses the results, paying particular attention to political party systems and prospects for increasing women’s representation. Dr Kelly’s paper argues in favour of further electoral reform in both jurisdictions, including a concerted effort to improve the comprehensiveness and accuracy of elector rolls and the introduction in the Solomon Islands of reserved seats for women and political party regulation.

Dr Kelly’s findings were directly relevant to many of the SSGM workshop sessions and provided the basis for his contributions as discussant to the session on ‘Electoral Administration and the Integrity of Voting Systems and Scrutiny.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

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**CDI’s Indonesian Alumni gather in Jakarta**

**JAKARTA** | CDI has been working in Indonesia since 1998 and since then several hundred people have attended our courses, workshops and other activities, both in Australia and Indonesia. Many other people have helped us in lots of different practical ways, such as setting up meetings with key individuals and office-holders in the parliament and political parties. While we try to keep in touch with our alumni through the CDI website and email, we also think it is important to catch up with people in person from time to time. A key objective of CDI courses is to build and maintain connections amongst participants who might not otherwise meet each other in their ordinary work.

Taking the opportunity of a visit to Indonesia, CDI Director Dr Stephen Sherlock hosted a reception for CDI’s Indonesian alumni in Jakarta on 24 March 2011. Around 25 CDI alumni and associates braved Jakarta’s late afternoon traffic to gather together and renew contacts and friendships. They included a number of MPs, staff from the parliament, activists from political parties and representatives of a range of other organisations. Special thanks go to the support of the National Democratic Institute in Jakarta, who provided their meeting rooms for the reception.

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**CDI Director Attends Workshop on Politics & Development**

**PERTH** | CDI Director Dr Stephen Sherlock joined a panel of speakers at the workshop “Politics and the Development Problem” at Murdoch University on 13-14 December 2010.

The basis for the workshop was the research conducted as part of the project, ‘Sustainable Demand for Governance – Political Dimensions of Change’, funded by AusAID through its Australian Development Research Awards (ADRA) program and undertaken by researchers from Murdoch University, IISS/Erasmus University, The Netherlands, and Universitas Gajah Mada, Indonesia. A key objective was to bring the work resulting from the study into the larger debate about political economy and development policy now taking place within national and international development agencies.

One of the most important shifts in the thinking of policymakers in the development field has been an increasing recognition that politics and political economy influence and shape the processes and outcomes of development policy. Amongst researchers and within development institutions there has been debate about how these influences operate and how they can be accommodated in policy.

Click on this link for more details on our website:

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**2010 Melanesian Elections**

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