Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! Welcome to the first edition of CDI News for 2012. This edition of our quarterly newsletter is full of reports of CDI activities during the last part of 2011. A special feature is the range of research activities we have implemented in recent months. An important element of CDI’s mandate is to support the expansion of research and publications. We work on issues related to parliamentary institutions and political parties in our target countries, on elections and electoral systems in the region and on trends in thinking on governance, development and the promotion of democracy generally. We organise regular seminars and workshops on these issues, host visiting international and Australian speakers, publish our own series of policy papers and sponsor the publication of journal articles and book collections.

In the last few months we have organised the following research activities:

- Roundtable on Electoral Reform in Indonesia since 1998, in cooperation with the Institute of Peace and Democracy (IPD). This meeting brought together a leading international scholar on electoral systems, Prof Matthew Shugart, with scholars and practitioners on electoral reform in Indonesia.
- Workshop on Electoral Systems, Parliaments and Political Parties, in cooperation with IPD. The objective of the workshop was to discuss papers to be published in a book collection focusing on Indonesia and the South Pacific.
- Workshop on Money Politics in Southeast Asia, in cooperation with IPD. The workshop developed a plan of research and publication to be pursued in the next two years or more on an issue of critical importance to politics in our region.
- CDI research paper on women’s representation in the Solomon Islands.
- A CDI Associate presented a paper at an international conference in Switzerland on parliamentary strengthening.

In all of our research work, CDI relies on the intellectual resources and connections of our home base, the Australian National University (ANU). In particular, we draw upon the wells of expertise in the Crawford School of Economics and Government within the College of Asia and the Pacific, where CDI is located. We are also able to benefit from connections in the scholarly and policy-making community in the rest of Australia and in the countries where we work, as well as with various international organisations who work in the field of democracy promotion and political governance.

In the coming months, we will be sponsoring a new round of research activities and public seminars, both in Australia and in our partner countries. To keep up with future CDI programs, don’t forget to check on our website: www.cdi.anu.edu.au

Best wishes

Stephen Sherlock

Stephen Sherlock | Director
Jakarta | Building on its longstanding and close relationship with the Indonesian parliament, CDI, in cooperation with the Institute for Peace and Democracy (IPD), ran a training course for parliamentary research staff in Jakarta on 20-21 December 2011. The goal of the training was to increase the capacity of researchers to respond to the needs of the parliament, including Members, committees and other parliamentary bodies and political party caucuses in the Parliament of Indonesia (DPR - Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat or People’s Representative Council).

The Indonesian parliament is supported by information, research and analysis provided from two main sources: staff from the Pusat Pengkajian dan Pengelolaan Data dan Informasi (PPPDI - The Centre for Analysis and Data and Information Management), and specialist advisers (tenaga ahli) attached to committees, other parliamentary bodies and party caucuses.

Before the training, CDI carried out an assessment of the needs and capacity of research support in the DPR, including interviews with management and researchers, as well as users of the service. It was clear that while existing services have a lot to offer there is a need to increase the researchers’ understanding of the specific needs of the DPR in terms of type and presentation of information and analysis. It was also clear that potential users of services needed more information about what was available. In addition, about half of the PPPDI researchers were recent recruits with limited parliamentary experience.

The CDI/IPD training was designed to address these needs. The two-day curriculum included topics such as international comparisons of parliamentary research services (Uganda, Australia, Sweden); pro-active research services (UK case study); practical policy research vs. academic research; analysis and writing for our audience; DPR research needs (Member’s experience); and others. CDI utilised adult training methodology that builds on participants’ experience and perspectives and includes a range of different techniques to engage participants’ different learning styles.

Along with 22 researchers from PPPDI, five specialist staff from political party factions in parliament attended the training. According to the end-of-training evaluations, 93% of participants found the training ‘highly satisfactory’ or ‘satisfactory’. Participants requested further opportunities to learn more about international norms and experience of parliamentary research services and about the needs of their own clients and potential clients.

The training was designed and delivered by Vanessa Johanson Alpern and Ketut Erawan, with input from Stephen Sherlock and Hazelia Margaretha.

Click on this link for more details on our website:

DPR Research Training

CDI Leads Discussion with African Diplomats on Democratic Transition

Canberra | On 27 October 2011, CDI Director, Dr Stephen Sherlock, led a training session for visiting African diplomats conducted by ANU’s Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy.

The seven-week course is designed for mid-level career diplomats and is designed to enhance the skills of the participants and to enable them to work more effectively in their respective governments. Course content includes international law, the history of international relations and diplomacy, as well old and new security threats, human rights and resource diplomacy. Dr Sherlock led a session entitled “Democratic Transition in Theory and Practice”, which focused on the prerequisite conditions that experience has shown is necessary for a successful and sustainable transition from authoritarian rule to democracy. His presentation used the example of the transition to democracy in Indonesia since 1998 as a case study and made special reference to comparative recent examples of rapid political change in north Africa and the Middle East.
The Centre for Democratic Institutions’ fourth annual Women in Politics Training Course (WiP) was conducted from 23 November to 1 December 2011 in Canberra. WiP is a highly popular course for women intending to enter national or local politics, either as a candidate for election, a party activist or official, or campaign supporter for women candidates. The course was convened by CDI Associate Ms. Monica Costa.

**Objectives and Participants**

Despite government commitments to improving women’s representation in the political arena, progress on women’s political representation in the Asia-Pacific region has been limited. This course assists efforts to improve regional indicators on women’s political representation. WiP aims to support the emergence of more gender-balanced political representation. Specifically, the course aims to help improve women’s political representation by:

- enhancing political leadership and practical campaigning skills;
- enabling participants understanding of barriers to women’s political representation in their own countries and region and to develop nationally-specific strategies to overcome these barriers; and
- fostering national and regional networks.

Participants for the 2011 WiP represented a mix of interests and experiences, including women running for political office, advocates for improvements in women’s representation in politics and agents for change inside political parties. Twenty participants from the CDI priority countries of East Timor, Fiji, Indonesia, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu were selected from over 130 applications to participate in the course. This year’s course did not include participants from Papua New Guinea because CDI is conducting training courses for women candidates in the 2012 PNG elections. CDI encouraged applications from young and upcoming female leaders.

**Program structure**

WiP covers a broad range of issues, from issues around women’s substantive and descriptive political representation to the practicalities of running election campaigns. The range of topics covered by the training course included:

- Challenges and opportunities for women’s engagement in politics in the region.
- Arguments for and against women’s engagement in politics.
- Diversity of political and electoral systems in the region.
- Campaigning and resource mobilisation strategies.
- Communicating with voters and engaging with the media.
- Electoral systems and their impact on women’s political participation.
- Debates on electoral reform in the Asia-Pacific region including so-called temporary special measures.
- Strategies to lobby and network effectively to improve gender indicators in the political arena.
- Role of government, NGOS, academia and female and male political leaders in improving women’s participation in politics and promoting a gender equality agenda.
- Approaches adopted by political parties to getting more women elected and promoting gender equality.

**Conclusion and outcomes**

Critical to the success of the course was the interest and enthusiasm that the participants brought with them to Canberra. The 2011 course built on the successes of previous courses. The approach to the course was retained using a mix of lectures, external site visits, group work and participatory forums. Two important revisions to the approach in 2011 were (i) expanding the time allocated for participants to exchange and learn from each others experiences; and (ii) introducing sessions on the diversity of political and electoral contexts in the Asia-Pacific region. As detailed in the full report the course was considered a success by all participants and was effective in achieving its three stated objectives as follows:

**Enhancing political leadership and practical campaigning skills**

Participants were exposed to the challenges of women’s political leadership by hearing the personal experiences of Australian women members of Parliament. Many of these experiences resonated with the participants’ own political journeys. These accounts were highlighted in the course...
evaluation as an influential and inspiring component of the course. A number of course components were focussed on strengthening campaigning skills including resource mobilisation, campaign planning and engaging with media. The practical focus of these activities asked participants’ to develop an actual a campaign plan, develop a media release and undergo a mock interview. In 2011, as with previous years, this component of the course was identified as a highlight for these women as they start to plan their own campaign. Course evaluations recommended that the course could be improved with the inclusion of male champions from political parties in Australia.

Identifying barriers to women’s political representation and developing nationally-specific strategies to overcome these barriers

The engagement with researchers was critical to building participants understanding of the barriers to women’s political representation in the region. In many cases participants were challenged by research findings from across the region and their own countries. Course evaluations noted that the research component of the course was important for participants to build their confidence to engage in political and electoral reform debates in their own country. As detailed above the development of country strategies was a core output of the course. It allowed participants to translate information learned from course sessions into practical measures to improve women’s political representation in their countries. The quality and complexity of the strategies delivered, as well as the significant debate that these generated within the group, are an indicator of their success.

Building national and regional networks

One the aims of the national strategies was to focus attention on the necessary national networks to improve women’s political representation. Having participants from a range of institutions brought different perspectives to the discussion and worked well to identify workable and tangible steps that would need to be taken by different stakeholders to affect change. Course members were able to build a high degree of affinity and have committed to maintain contact and support each other both within countries and across the region. While this year’s course expanded the amount of time dedicated to sharing experiences, participants suggested even more time should be devoted to this activity in future courses. This recommendation would further contribute to building regional networks.

The WiP training course was received with great enthusiasm and commitment by guest speakers in academia, civil society, public and private institutions. Their investment and support to this training is very much appreciated. In particular CDI thanks the political parties, and their parliamentarians, for their time and investment in sharing experiences with emerging women leaders in the Asia-Pacific region. These contributions have been critical to the success of the course and have provided inspiration for participants’ day-to-day work in promoting women’s political representation and their political aspirations. The support provided by the Parliament and the Museum of Australian Democracy is also highly appreciated - Their staff were extraordinarily helpful in responding to the group’s questions and in providing opportunities for participants to experience democracy in action. CDI also wishes to thank both the Australian Electoral Commission and AusAID for supporting the WiP training course through the direct involvement of their staff.

Click on this link for more details on our website:

CDI-IPD Authors' Workshop | Electoral Systems, Parties and Parliaments in Indonesia and the South Pacific: Making the Connections

BAI | The second stage of the joint CDI-IPD research project entitled “Making the Connections: Electoral Systems, Parties and Parliaments in Indonesia and the South Pacific” took place in Bali on 15-16 December 2011. Following the highly successful first exploratory workshop in November 2010, where 20 leading scholars and practitioners forged a new research and publication agenda, the second workshop brought together a range of participants presenting draft papers for publication on issues related to electoral systems and their interaction with the behaviour of political
parties in the electoral sphere and in parliaments. The research project has aimed to make connections in two different ways:

- In thematic terms, to investigate connections between the ways in which different types of electoral systems create incentives and pressures for parties and election candidates in order to achieve their political goals. Following the conclusions of the first workshop, the effect of decisions by the courts and the role of popular pressure and advocacy were also added to the research agenda as critical elements of the mix of factors that influence behaviour and decision-making by political actors. These various influences affect the building of coalitions between and within parties during electoral campaigns, and in parliaments during the distribution of positions and resources within political organisations and during the formation of government and debates on policy, legislation and allocation of state resources.

- In regional terms, to make connections between politics in Indonesia and the South Pacific, in order to break down some of the walls created by area studies boundaries. There are particularly interesting fields for new scholarly inquiry in an area of the world that is usually seen as part of two separate regions but which has long-standing historical and ethno-cultural commonalities and which was divided only because of lines on colonial maps.

The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to air the ideas in their papers and to receive suggestions and feedback from the other participants. The authors also identified common themes and connections across the two regions and were able to develop a number of clear matches between papers that will form the basis for either jointly-authored articles or for two or more articles in a logical comparative group. The participants committed themselves to the completion of their papers in order to expedite the production of a collected volume of articles.

During discussion on the participants’ draft papers a range of themes emerged that will be prominent in the collected volume. Amongst a rich range of other issues, these included:

- The evolving nature of political parties in Indonesia and the Pacific. While there are clear and often stark differences in the nature of parties in the two regions, particularly in relation to degree of institutionalisation, there are common trends. Questions were raised about, for example, whether there has been a general shift away from party-focused to candidate-focused politics in Indonesia, a trend that would move closer to the personalised politics of the Pacific. A major theme of the collection will be the clear parallels between the conduct of sub-national politics in Indonesia and politics in Melanesia and the question of the role of sheer size of a polity in determining the way politics is conducted.

- Debate on the importance of electoral legislation in influencing trends. The type of electoral system can frequently be identified as changing the incentive structure for parties and candidates, with a clear example being the introduction of an open-list voting system in Indonesia. But there are differences of opinion about the extent of this effect and whether other non-regulatory issues, such as historical legacies and social cleavages, are in fact more important as causal factors.

- Fragmentation of the political spectrum. The proliferation of parties is seen as a matter of concern in both Indonesia and the Pacific and the workshop repeatedly returned to questions about the causes and consequences of the phenomenon and what future trends might be. This led to discussion about the underlying assumptions about what the central role of parties in a democracy should be and whether the legacy of parties in the West was historically-specific and unlikely to be replicated in post-independence Asia and the Pacific.

- The role of women in parties and parliaments. A major theme of the workshop was the attempts that have been made in both Southeast Asia and the Pacific to increase women’s representation through legislative action and the respective effectiveness of various measures, as well as wider questions about what the measures are actually designed to achieve.

- The effect of parliamentary rules and procedures on the nature of political parties and the kind of coalitions that are built for the formation of governments and the passage of legislation.

The next stage of the research program will be to collect completed drafts of the papers presented at the workshop, in order to start the process of peer-review and redrafting. The objective is to have a completed collection of articles for submission for publication before the end of 2012.

Click on this link for more details on our website:
canberra

Prof Matthew Shugart, one of the world’s leading authorities on electoral systems, was the principal discussant at the Roundtable on Electoral Reform in Indonesia held at the Australian National University on 14 November 2011, sponsored by CDI and the Institute for Peace and Democracy (IPD). Prof Shugart was a guest of ANU’s College of Asia and the Pacific and had been invited by Dr Yusaku Horiuchi of CDI’s academic umbrella, the Crawford School of Economics and Government. CDI and IPD invited four prominent figures from Indonesian organisations involved in the theory and practice of reform of the Indonesian electoral system since 1999. The roundtable was an opportunity for Prof Shugart to gain a fuller understanding of the nature of debate and experimentation in electoral reform in Indonesia since the first democratic election of 1999. The Indonesia-based participants were able to draw useful insights and a comparative perspective from the great breadth of knowledge about international electoral systems that Prof Shugart has developed from his research and writings.

The participants at the Roundtable were:

- Prof Matthew Shugart, University of California, San Diego
- Dr Ketut Erawan, Institute for Peace and Democracy, Bali
- Dr Ramlam Surbakti, Airlangga University, Surabaya
- Mr Hadar Gumay, Centre for Electoral Reform, Jakarta
- Dr Kuskridho Ambardi, Lembagi Survei Indonesia
- Mr Paul Rowland, Director, National Democratic Institute, Indonesia
- Dr Andrew McIntyre, Dean, College of Asia and the Pacific, ANU
- Dr Stephen Sherlock, Director, Centre for Democratic Institutions
- Dr Yusaku Horiuchi, Crawford School, ANU
- Dr Edward Aspinall, Political and Social Change, ANU
- Dr Greg Fealy, Dept of Political and Social Change, ANU
- Dr Jon Fraenkel, State Society and Governance in Melanesia, ANU
- Ms Sheila Flores, Centre for Democratic Institutions

Click on this link for more details on our website:

New CDI Policy Paper
National Elections and Women Candidates in Solomon Islands: Results from the People’s Survey

Christine McMurray
Adjunct Associate Professor, The Australian Demographic & Social Research Institute (ADSRI), ANU

Christine McMurray’s paper explores data on Solomon Islanders’ perceptions of the role of an elected Member of Parliament, their experience of elections and their perceptions of women as leaders. The data are drawn from the People’s Survey which has been conducted annually since 2007 to inform evaluations of The Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) and to provide feedback to the Solomon Islands Government and the community.

Since attaining independence in 1978, Solomon Islands has been governed by a national parliament based on the Westminster system. There are currently 50 elected members to represent nine provinces and the capital, Honiara. Elected provincial governments are responsible for local government, while at the community level, chiefs and elders still make many of the decisions.

Corruption and poor management have impaired the performance of both national and provincial governments and many people do not have access to basic infrastructure or economic opportunities. A striking feature of elected governments in Solomon Islands is the general scarcity of women. Although some community elders are women and women have achieved senior positions in the public service and civil society, very few women have been elected to provincial governments and only one has ever won a seat in the national Parliament. Prior to the 2006 and 2010 national elections, various donors and local organizations made substantial efforts to educate communities in the concept of democracy, civic rights and the importance of voting independently for the candidates most likely to provide good governance. They also helped to encourage, organise and support women candidates and in the 2010 election women contested 21 of the 50 seats. Despite this, women candidates received only 4% of the vote in the 21 seats they contested. Not a single woman won office or even came close to receiving most votes in the seats they contested. The majority of women candidates were among the least successful.

Click on this link to access the full paper on our website:
BANDUNG | The Indonesian Parliament’s commitment to enhanced public sector oversight took another step forward recently when members and staff from the parliament’s public accounts committee (the Badan Akuntabilitas Keuangan Negara or BAKN) participated in a two-day workshop on public accounts committee work practices convened by the Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI).

Improving the capacity of parliament to oversee the operation of executive government and its agencies is an important theme in CDI’s work. This workshop is in the latest in a series of CDI initiatives to support the emergence of BAKN as a significant body in the Indonesian parliament.

The BAKN was established by the DPR in 2009 to review reports from Supreme Audit Agency (BPK) on the financial and operational performance of public sector agencies and to advise DPR committees on issues which warrant further and closer examination by the parliament. This role places BAKN at the heart of parliamentary oversight processes in Indonesia.

Since its inception BAKN has developed an approach focussing on consideration of BPK’s annual report on central government finances and BPK’s twice yearly summary reports of financial, performance and special purpose audit reports.

In close consultation with BAKN members and staff, CDI devised a two day workshop to allow BAKN to reflect on international practice in parliamentary review of audit reports. The aim of the workshop was to consider whether aspects of BAKN’s practices and procedures could be refined to enhance parliamentary oversight of public sector performance, efficiency and effectiveness.

The workshop, which was facilitated by Professor Kerry Jacobs (Professor of Accounting at the Australian National University and an international expert in parliamentary financial oversight) and Grant Harrison (CDI’s Deputy Director and former Chief Adviser to the Australian Parliament’s Public Accounts Committee), was conducted in Bandung on 19 and 20 October.

At the conclusion of the workshop BAKN members and staff identified four areas where it could adjust its work practices to provide more effective advice to the DPR and enhance parliamentary oversight of executive agencies. These were:

- to develop criteria to guide its assessment of which BPK audit findings warrant parliamentary attention – ensuring that ‘public value’ is considered and that deeper attention is given to fewer issues;
- to gather information from a broader range of informants (including through public hearings) – deepening its understanding of audit findings and agency responses;
- to present more targeted, evidence-based reports - to persuade readers (especially those on DPR committees) to take action; and
- to provide advice to BPK (on behalf of parliament) about potential audit topics and on the quality & usefulness of BPK reporting

Participants also saw value in seeking to establish a BAKN website (to encourage easier public access to information about the work of the committee) and to lobby within DPR for changes to BAKN’s legislative mandate directed at expand its powers of investigation.

The workshop was a rare opportunity for BAKN to take time out from its work and consider how the Indonesian parliament can improve its oversight of public sector performance. The ideas discussed and developed during the workshop have significant potential to enhance the impact of BAKN’s work. CDI will be liaising closely with BAKN in the coming months to look for opportunities to support the implementation of these changes.

The Workshop on BAKN Practice is the latest in a series of CDI initiatives to support the emergence of BAKN as a significant body in the Indonesian parliament – for more information about previous activities see the following links:

Click on this link for more details on our website:
CDI-IPD Workshop
Money Politics in Southeast Asia: Patronage, Clientelism, and Electoral Dynamics

BALI | During two days of intense discussion in Bali on 12-13 December 2011, around 15 academics, NGO workers and policy makers sketched out the elements of a new program of research on the issue of “money politics” in Southeast Asia. The discussion was sponsored by the Centre for Democratic Institutions and the Institute for Peace and Democracy, in what the organisers hope will be the first of a series of workshops and other activities to place take over the coming years.

The planned program of research has been motivated by growing concerns about the corrosive influence that money is having on the political process throughout Southeast Asia. There is much public discussion about corruption at high levels, about vote-buying and the use of money to build political coalitions and networks. But scholars and policy makers alike lack systematic knowledge on what makes ‘money politics’ tick in the region, and on how it differs between countries and between regions within the same country.

Many questions remain unanswered: How and under what conditions do politicians try to buy votes, rather than making political programs central to their appeals to voters? Does vote buying work or are voters who are offered money or other rewards turned off by such offers? How and when do attempts to buy individuals’ votes give way to pork-barrel politics in which politicians offer targeted material rewards to groups or communities of voters? To what extent are political parties, networks and loyalties in the region built on the basis of material exchange and reward, rather than on other foundations, such as ideology? What are the sources of the funds that politicians use to build their networks and their voter bases? What sort of policy interventions can be taken to reduce or control the baleful influence of money politics?

These and similar questions were topics for the participants at the Bali workshop, who came together from Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and the United States. They explored the state of knowledge on ‘money politics’ in the region, comparing findings from academic literature, participants’ own research and the work of the survey institutes and NGOs represented at the meeting. They noted many similar patterns in the politics of brokerage and money politics across the region, but also some striking variations (such as the extent to which political parties are central to, or bypassed by, the politics of patronage). They also identified significant gaps in our knowledge base: for example, although some surveys have been conducted about vote buying in the countries of the region, survey data on the topic is far from being systematic.

Participants in the workshop also discussed the state of the academic literature on patronage and clientelism, noting that although many of the pioneering analyses of these topics were written by experts of Southeast Asia, in recent years much new innovative work has been done by scholars working in other parts of the world, especially Latin America and Africa. They discussed and compared new research methods that have been employed to tease out the mechanisms, meanings and implications of money politics (including cross national surveys, survey experiments, field experiments and network analysis) and discussed the possibility of applying or adapting some of these methods to the Southeast Asian region.

Participants agreed to make this meeting the first in a multi-year and multi-country collaborative research effort on money politics in the region. The next meeting is being planned for later in 2012. Meanwhile, participants are back at work in their home countries and institutes, designing research proposals, planning surveys and mapping out detailed country-specific research plans.

Click on this link for more details on our website:

Money Politics Workshop

CDI Associate Attends International Conference on Capacity Building for Parliamentarians

BERN | An important goal for CDI is to contribute to international thinking on the most effective ways to help parliamentarians develop their professional skills. CDI was therefore pleased to take the opportunity to support one of our Associates, former Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, Hon Kevin Rozzoli, to present a paper at a conference on capacity building for parliamentarians held in Bern in Switzerland in October 2011. The conference was part of an Australian Research Council (ARC) funded project ‘Parliamentary Careers: Design, Delivery and Evaluation of...’

continued over
Improved Professional Development'. The project is led by Associate Professor Ken Coghill, Director, Monash Governance Research Unit and Co-Director, Parliamentary Studies Unit at Monash University. The conference brought together around 140 participants, including scholars of parliaments, MPs, secretaries general and other parliamentary staff, to discuss a range of issues related to the theory and practice of parliamentary capacity building. There were special discussions on what skills parliamentarians actually need, how those needs are changing, how parliamentarians learn to do their job and how they can most effectively be assisted, both by outside organisations and by internal training and mentoring.

Mr Rozzoli presented a paper entitled “Experiences in the Field, Parliamentary training in Indonesia and the South Pacific” which drew upon his observations from working with CDI in the provision of support to parliamentary institutions in CDI partner countries. His conclusions emphasised the importance of developing a long-term engagement with partner institutions in order to gain an intimate knowledge of their procedures and personalities and to foster close working relationships over a sustained period. Mr Rozzoli also produced a report on the conference which highlights the key points of discussion during the sessions and some of the conclusions that could be drawn from the delegates’ exchange of views.

Click on this link for more on our website:

**Capacity Building for Parliamentarians**

### CDI Develops Links with Australian and NZ International Election Monitors Institute

**CANBERRA** | In November 2011, CDI Director Dr Stephen Sherlock and Deputy Director Grant Harrison, were pleased to host a visit to CDI by leading members of the newly-founded Australian and New Zealand International Election Monitors Institute (ANZIEMI). ANZIEMI was formed in May 2011 by a group of former members of Australian and New Zealand parliaments. The Institute’s objectives are to provide former Australian and NZ MPs to participate in international election monitoring missions and to engage in other democracy-strengthening activities such as guidance and training to parliamentarians in emerging democracies.

The Institute’s delegation to CDI was led by its President, former member of the NZ Parliament, Mr Murray Smith, and included Dr Tony Lamb and Ms Elizabeth Harvey-Truman.

### CDI Director Forges New Links with Indonesian Democracy Development Organisations

**INDONESIA** | CDI is making vigorous efforts to expand the range and depth of our engagement with local and international organisations in Indonesia. The objective is to develop networks amongst the organisations involved in the strengthening of democratic institutions and processes in Indonesia and to catalyse cooperative activities amongst the extensive but sometimes unconnected resources of political expertise in the country.

To this end, the Director of CDI, Dr Stephen Sherlock, visited Indonesia in November 2011 to hold discussions with leading figures in a number of organisations. He met with Dr Rizal Sukma, the Director of Indonesia’s leading political think-tank, the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), to discuss a proposal to create a discussion network amongst leaders of Indonesian political parties to develop ideas on how parties can reform and strengthen themselves as the country moves into its second decade of democracy. He met with Dr Sandy Widjaja of the Partnership for Governance Reform to discuss his organisation’s research agenda on political parties and to explore the options for the Partnership’s involvement in the discussion forum. Given the long experience of international political party foundations in the field, Dr Sherlock also met with the Director the National Democratic Institute (NDI), Mr Paul Rowland, and Dr Rainer Erkens, the Director of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) to discuss their recent programs as well as their potential roles in a party discussion forum.

Dr Sherlock’s visit included consultations regarding CDI’s cooperative activities with the Institute for Peace and Democracy (IPD). This includes upcoming research workshops on political parties and electoral systems and on the problems of “money politics” in Indonesia, as well as training programs for parliamentary staff to be jointly run by CDI and IPD. CDI is also developing close working relations with the Representation Program (ProRep), funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), which is leading a program of capacity-building activities in the Indonesian parliament. Dr Sherlock conferred with ProRep Parliamentary Specialist, Mr Alvin Lie, a former Member of the Indonesian parliament and long-standing partner in CDI activities.

Click on this link for more details on our website.
both former Australian MPs. The meeting was also joined by CDI Associate, Hon Kevin Rozzoli, himself a very experienced former MP and parliamentary Speaker. Dr Sherlock welcomed the formation of ANZIEMI because the Institute has the potential to tap into the vast resources of know-how and experience of former parliamentarians and to mobilise this expertise in support of new members of parliament in our region. CDI programs can be greatly enriched by input from former parliamentarians and ANZIEMI can provide a systematic way to make contact with ex-MPs who are interested in working with parliaments and other democratic institutions in emerging democracies. ANZIEMI is in the process of expanding its networks of former parliamentarians. Mr Smith made the point that there was an obvious match between the objectives of the Institute and CDI programs and expressed his enthusiasm with the idea of linking up the resources of the two organisations.

### Upcoming Activity:

**Pacific Parliamentary Leadership Dialogue | Canberra | 7-13 February 2012**

### CANBERRA | Many parliaments in the Pacific have struggled to establish themselves as credible and effective institutions. They are commonly criticised for being weak and, in many cases, subordinate to the executive arm of government. Elected members of parliament often find themselves absorbed in a cycle of negotiations to form and re-form government. By focusing on coalition making, members overlook the contribution they can make as parliamentarians to public policy and law making.

The Pacific Parliamentary Leadership Dialogue is a four-day program of discussions and briefings designed to challenge participants to distinguish between their roles as politician and as parliamentarian, and to consider the critically important contribution that parliament can make to good governance. These discussions will be informed by meetings with Australian parliamentarians and parliamentary officials and be guided by a panel of facilitators, including prominent Australian and Pacific parliamentary leaders.

The Dialogue will allow a select group of influential and emerging parliamentarians from across the Pacific to reflect on what it means to be a parliamentarian today and to consider what they as individuals can do to re-vitalize the performance of their parliaments. This can assist parliaments in the region to assume their place as effective institutions of government.

Click on this link for more on our website: