Dear Friends,

Welcome to the last CDI. News for 2012. It has been an exciting and challenging year for the Centre, with a highly appreciated increase in funding from AusAID at the beginning of 2012 allowing us to expand our program and boost our staff numbers. In the last year, we have been very happy to welcome two new staff to our Canberra office and one in Papua New Guinea (PNG), as well as to establish working relationships with a number of new consultants and Associates.

With stronger human and financial resources behind us we have been able to forge new partnerships with international and local organisations in our six target countries. To name a few, these have included Transparency International (TI) and the National Research Institute (NRI) in PNG, the Indonesian electoral NGO, Perludem, and the Asia Foundation in Indonesia and East Timor. Such new cooperative relationships, along with the strengthening of existing ones, multiply the impact and effectiveness of our program dollars.

An especially gratifying development for CDI has been that our longstanding relationship with the Institute of Peace and Democracy (IPD) in Bali has moved into a higher phase of cooperation during the year. IPD should be congratulated for its successful efforts to overcome a number of institutional challenges and to establish itself as a body with the potential to play a prominent role in democracy promotion, both in Indonesia and the Asia-Pacific region. This was reflected in the Prime Minister’s announcement, at the recent Bali Democracy Forum (BDF), of increased Australian funding for the Institute. CDI has worked alongside IPD to assist the development of the Institute since its inception in 2008 and we look forward to a maturing and deepening relationship which draws upon our respective expertise and networks.

This Newsletter features special coverage of CDI’s work with the new PNG Parliament. The elections in June/July this year saw the entry of a large cohort of new MPs and a new Speaker. These changes have opened up a diverse range of opportunities for CDI to assist with the strengthening of the Parliament, including working with the new Members and the new leadership. There are ambitions for major reform of the Parliament’s operations and this Newsletter describes our initial phase of activities to support these changes.

Other coverage in the Newsletter includes:

- CDI’s expanding program of cooperative research and publication on governance issues, in this case an international conference on the implications of growing religious intolerance in Indonesia for governance and democratic progress in the country.
- An example of our close working relationship with IPD and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Indonesia which led to the convening of an innovative program of training and mentoring for young political party activists from around the region.

Happy reading and have an enjoyable holiday break!

Stephen Sherlock | CDI Director
PNG’s New Parliament – a special focus for CDI

PNG held national elections in June/July this year and in August 111 MPs took up their seats in the first sitting of the new Parliament. As in other years there was a high turnover amongst MPs, with around 50% of MPs representing their electorates for the first time. The Members voted to elect a new Speaker, Hon. Theo Zurenuoc MP. Accompanying the change at the political level, senior echelons of the parliamentary administration have also changed, with the Parliament now supported by the Acting Clerk, Mr Simon Ila and his staff.

The election of a new Parliament in Port Moresby, together with changing leadership at both the political and official levels, has created a wide range of openings for CDI for cooperative activities with PNG’s national legislature. To date, this has included supporting the Parliament’s Induction Program for new and returning MPs, hosting a Speaker’s Retreat and assisting the development of a program of support for Committee Chairs and the Committee Secretariat. Over the coming months CDI will provide continuing support for the Speaker’s initiatives in institutional strengthening and staff professional development. This is in response to the Speaker’s request for technical advice for what he has called the “restoration, reform and modernisation” of Parliament.

Getting started as a people’s representative in PNG: Parliamentary Induction for New & Returning MPs

PORT MORESBY | Taking a seat in Parliament for the first time can be a daunting task for an inexperienced representative. To help new (and returning) MPs understand their responsibilities as Parliamentarians, CDI assisted in the design and delivery of an Induction Program to coincide with the official opening of Parliament.

Three CDI staff played a hands-on role in the event: CDI’s Deputy Director Grant Harrison; Program Manager Bronwen Harvey; and PNG based Research and Project Officer, John Varey.

Our role in the Induction was multi-faceted. Initially we worked with the office of the Deputy Clerk and other Parliamentary Staff to help them think about the scope and structure of the Induction program. As a result the final program design shifted from a focus on MP’s entitlements and the roles of Parliamentary staff to a focus on the duties of an MP and the services provided by Parliament to help them perform these duties.

CDI helped Parliamentary staff to design and rehearse their various presentations. We supported the Parliament to engage and brief a number of external speakers including representatives from:

- the Ombudsman Commission;
- the Office of Rural Development;
- the Department of Justice and the Attorney General;
- the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission;
- the National Research Institute;
- the Law Reform Commission;

continued over
• the PNG Media Council; and
• Transparency International - PNG.

With the support of the Australian and New Zealand International Election Monitors Institute (ANZIEMI), CDI also brought two former New Zealand Parliamentarians, the Hon Rick Barker and the Hon Steve Chadwick, to the Induction program to share their experiences of the role of an MP as a legislator, an accountability agent and an electorate representative. Their contributions were greatly appreciated and prompted much discussion amongst the new MPs.

CDI’s Grant Harrison also chaired sessions on the role of parliamentary committees. These were a great opportunity for MPs from both sides of the chamber to develop an understanding of how they can use committees to have a voice and contribute actively to the work of Parliament.

The CDI team was delighted to be able to meet so many members of the 9th Parliament and to talk to them about their interests and concerns. We were very impressed with the leadership demonstrated by Speaker Zurenuoc who gave an inspiring speech on the first day and attended sessions each day.

Click on this link for more details on our website:

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PORT MORESBY | On 5 September 2012, the PNG Parliament appointed the members of 31 permanent and referral committees, as well as the members tasked with the responsibility of leading the committees – the Chairs and Deputy Chairs.

The vast majority of the Chairs and Deputies are first term MPs with no previous experience of the committee system.

The Speaker has made the committee system a special target for institutional strengthening, highlighting the role that Parliamentary committees can play in:

• Improving accountability and good governance by overseeing the actions of government and the expenditure of public funds;
• Making information available to the Parliament, the media and the public;
• Influencing government service delivery and public sector performance; and
• Providing an effective avenue for public engagement with Parliament.

CDI developed a program to help Chairs and Deputy Chairs understand the role and importance of committees and motivate them to effectively lead their committees to fulfil their accountability and review responsibilities and thus contribute to the restoration of the role of Parliament.

The program commenced with a one-day workshop in Port Moresby on Monday 22 October. The workshop was structured to allow participants develop a common understanding of:

• Why parliament has committees;
• How committees work (their processes and procedures);
• How effective committees can make the Parliament more effective;
• The roles and responsibilities of Committee Chairs, members and staff.

The workshop was convened by CDI consultant, Mr Warren Cahill, together with support from full time CDI staff. Staff from the PNG Parliamentary Services Committee Secretariat also contributed, including Mr Joe Warau, Mr Michael
Kunjil, Mrs Debbie Kanu and Mr Werner Cohill. CDI also sponsored the participation of Mr. Michael Crandon, Chair of the Queensland Parliament’s Finance and Administration Committee and Mr. Rob Hansen, Acting Manager of the committee office of the Queensland Parliament, both of whom attended with the support of the Queensland Parliament as part of the twinning arrangements supported by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

The Speaker gave the welcome address followed by a brief introduction from the Acting Clerk which helped to give the MPs confidence that the Parliament fully supported the activity. As the day progressed a number of common issues emerged during the discussions and questioning. Issues such as coordination, communication and resourcing, were considered in detail by groups of Chairs and resource persons. The matters addressed provided an excellent opportunity for the parliament’s administration and committee secretariat to respond and engage with Chairs on the issues that will need to be tackled over the term of this Parliament.

The workshop was followed by working breakfasts over the next three days in which Chairs and Deputy Chairs began to develop preliminary work plans for their committees. In these sessions, jointly facilitated by CDI and PNG Parliament Committee Secretariat staff, the Chairs and Deputy Chairs:

- considered the strategic impact they would like to achieve in their committee work and discussed strategic priorities, risks and opportunities for their committee;
- assessed the available resources and the resource requirements of the strategic priorities identified;
- considered individual inquiries (or activities) they would like to conduct;
- developed a draft plan of action.

Some important issues emerged during the discussions including:

- In some cases the mandate of the committee has not been clearly defined in the resolution establishing it.
- There will be significant value in establishing the role, responsibilities and powers of committees in the minds of Ministers and senior public servants and promoting a positive and non-threatening engagement.
- Departmental briefings to committees can provide an excellent mechanism for the committee to become aware of the government’s priorities over the budget period 2013 and help define the mandate of the committee.

Special Feature - CDI & PNG’s New Parliament
Supporting the work of Committees: Discussions with PNG parliamentary staff

PORT MORESBY | No parliamentary committee can operate effectively without the support of staff. They manage information flows and relations with stakeholders, conduct research and keep the administrative wheels turning. The PNG Parliament has a small team ready to support the operations of the committee system. To complement the program of support to Committee Chairs, CDI met with Secretariat Staff to discuss some of the planning and resourcing issues they will need to address for the 31 committees of the 9th Parliament to function effectively.

This session was designed to:
• update staff on the outcomes of the workshop planning sessions with Chairs;
• discuss, analyse and assess proposals developed by Chairs; and
• define the oversight mandate of each committee as well as the responsible portfolios, departments and agencies and key legislation falling under the committee’s purview.

The session enabled committee and other interested support staff to discuss the issues that had emerged in the earlier discussion with committee chairs and to begin to plan how the secretariat could respond to the demands and challenges resulting from an active committee system.

Staff discussed the resourcing issues that had been raised and supported the proposal for a strategically planned approach to increasing staff resources. Some issues discussed included:
• an annual graduate program;
• clustering committee support according to sectors;
• ensuring that committee secretariat resources are flexible and able to be redirected to support whichever committees are busy.

Staff then undertook a facilitated mapping exercise to define the oversight mandate of each committee as well as the responsible portfolios, departments and agencies and key legislation for each committee. The Secretariat committed to do further work to complete the mapping exercise for each committee and ensure the absolute accuracy of information before it is provided to each committee Chair. The following additional resources were suggested:
• Parliamentary Library and Parliamentary Counsel- for gazetted lists including the Allocation of Ministers and Ministerial Responsibilities, the Administrative Arrangements Order, and annual reports of departments; and
• Budget Papers for confirmation of Portfolio Departments

CDI convenes PNG Speaker's Retreat

CAIRNS | CDI hosted a weekend retreat in September for the newly elected Speaker of the PNG Parliament, during which he was joined by two former Speakers and two serving Clerks from Australia and the Pacific region, along with the Acting Clerk of the PNG Parliament. The program involved semi-structured discussions about the role of the Speaker including:
• encouraging parliament to fulfill its legislative and accountability responsibilities;
• managing parliamentary business in a way that balances executive and parliamentary interests; and
• managing question time and debate.

Discussion also covered approaches to institutional strengthening, in particular drawing from the Solomon Islands experience.

Retreat Participants:
Papua New Guinea: Mr Speaker (The Hon Theo Zurenuoc), Simon Ila (Acting Clerk of Parliament), Ken Thomson (Adviser to the Speaker)
Australia: Mr Harry Jenkins (former Speaker of the Australian Parliament), Mr Neil Laurie (Clerk of the QLD Parliament)
Solomon Islands: Ms Taeasi Sanga (Clerk of the Solomon Islands Parliament)
New Zealand: The Hon Margaret Wilson (former Speaker of NZ Parliament).

Facilitators: Mr Grant Harrison and Ms Bronwen Harvey, CDI

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and Authorities including State Owned Enterprises.

Participating in the discussion were Mr Repe Rembe (Secretary PAC), Mr Jonathan Rami (Public Accounts Officer), Mr Michael Kunjil (A/Deputy Director, Committee Secretariat), Mr Werner Cohill (Committee Secretary), Mrs Debbie Kanu (Secretary), Mr Frank Me’alin (A/Executive Officer to the Clerk) and Mr Derrick Ruben (Hansard Reporter).

Click on this link for more on our website:
Committee Secretariat Workshop

Revitalising Parliamentary Links - PNG Speaker Leads Delegation to the Queensland Parliament

BRISBANE | The Speaker of the national parliament of PNG, the Hon Theo Zurenuoc, led a parliamentary delegation on a 4 day visit to the Queensland Parliament in November 2012 supported by CDI. The visit saw the PNG delegation intensely engaged with their Queensland counterparts through a program that dealt comprehensively with how the Queensland Parliament responds, plans and works on all levels as an institution to maintain and strengthen its democratic role, procedures and integrity.

The delegation met with the speaker and Clerk and a range of MPs and senior staff. The program included briefings on the operations of the Queensland Parliament and observation of key elements of proceedings such as Question Time and committee meetings. Staff introduced the delegation to the Parliament’s public engagement strategies, with a special focus on the role of the web-site in providing information and access for the community. The visit was also a chance for the Queenslanders and the Papua New Guineans to discuss future activities under the twinning arrangements between their two parliaments.

The visitors took advantage of every opportunity to learn from the program, taking detailed notes and asking pertinent questions. The tenor of discussions made it clear that they were focused on ways in which practices in the Queensland Parliament might be implemented in PNG or could be adapted to meet their country’s particular needs and circumstances. Some particular points of interest for the delegates included:
• The highly effective collaboration between the Speaker and the Clerk;
• The Corporate Plan and its use as a performance monitoring tool;
• The committee system and the way in which the recent reforms have helped drive up the quality of Parliamentary debate; and
• The way in which the Parliament uses IT and the media to good effect.

The delegation was particularly interested to witness a Queensland Government Minister’s resignation over “sloppy administration” play out over the duration of their visit. They saw the Minister face several questions on the issue during Questions Without Notice, which in turn was reported extensively in the following morning’s papers. By the afternoon of the second day the Minister had made a statement to the Parliament in which he tendered his resignation. It was a living example of how effective parliamentary practice (question time) plus media scrutiny can lead to change.

Speaker Zurenuoc was accompanied on this delegation by:
• Mr Simon Ila, Acting Clerk of the PNG Parliament
• Hon Mr Bob Dadae, Member for Kabwum Open
• Hon Mr Joseph Yopyyopy, Member for Wosera-Gaui Open
• Hon Mr Kuman Joe Koim, Member for Angalimp-South Waghi Open
• Hon Mr Westly Nukundj, Member for Dei Open
• Mr Kenneth Thomson, Adviser to the Speaker
• Mr Lalai Vali, Sergeant-at-Arms
• CDI Program Manager Ms Bronwen Harvey

CDI acknowledges and appreciates the excellent cooperation and work of the Speaker of the Queensland Parliament and the Parliamentary Services staff in organizing such an interesting program for the visiting delegation.

Click on this link for more on our website:
PNG Parliamentary Delegation
Observing the 2012 PNG National Elections

PAPUA NEW GUINEA | In June and July 2012, CDI staff and Associates participated in a number of international and domestic observation missions to the 2012 PNG national elections, organised by CDI partner organisations:

CDI Associate Dr Orovu Sepoe conducted a series of case studies examining the performance of selected women candidates during the election. The objectives of Dr Sepoe’s study were to compare the electoral experience of women candidates from patrilineal and matrilineal communities in PNG and to consider the interaction between tradition, culture and voter behaviour. Dr Sepoe’s research focussed on the performance of selected women candidates in the National Capital District provincial seat and in the open electorates of Moresby North West and Kavieng, in New Ireland. She gathered data for her case studies while participating in an election observation mission funded by AusAID and coordinated by our colleagues at the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia Program at the ANU.

CDI’s PNG-based Research Officer John Varey was closely involved in managing and reporting on the domestic observation missions conducted by Transparency International (TI) PNG. Mr Varey’s mission was part of a team of trainers and coordinators for the Highlands region. Mr Varey’s report for TI PNG noted that while high levels of security on polling day helped minimise election related violence, grave doubts remain about the integrity of the electoral process. The concerns he cited included: underage voting; block voting by electoral officials and candidate scrutineers; absence of secret voting; partisan behaviour by some electoral officials; double voting; insufficient or excess ballot papers; flaws in the common roll and flaws in the administration of the common roll; and vote buying by candidates.

CDI Associate Dr Norm Kelly participated in an observation mission coordinated by the East West Center at the University of Hawaii. He observed the conduct in 25 polling stations in New Ireland and Morobe provinces and the counting of votes in Port Moresby for the National Capital District and Central Province. Dr Kelly’s main observations were as follows:

State of the Electoral Roll

Many potential voters were turned away at polling stations, as they were not on the roll, or their names could not be located on the roll. In two instances, 25 to 43 percent of potential voters were turned away. Rejections were higher in town areas, where there was a greater breakdown of localities (names are listed alphabetically under each locality). Officials only had access to hard copy rolls for their own local polling area.

Queuing or Calling

In some polling stations potential voters queued then provided their name to the polling clerk who checked the roll to locate the voter’s name. In locations where there were few clerks this was a slow process leading to lengthy delays. In other polling stations clerks called out the roll (sometimes with the assistance of a village spokesman). This was a quicker but potentially less accurate process.

Illegal Campaigning

A number of instances of potentially illegal campaigning activities were observed in New Ireland, including the provision of food and drink by candidates before and during polling as an inducement to vote. In addition, a party official was observed within the polling station (an area supposedly reserved for polling officials) recording names of people who were not found on the roll.

Candidate Attitudes to Electoral Administration

A number of candidates and their supporters in Lae and Port Moresby were very uneasy about the security of ballot boxes and the transparency of counting processes. There was a degree of suspicion about the capacity of electoral officials to act with probity and to withstand pressure from candidates. The burning of a ballot box in Port Moresby by the Returning Officer was cited as an example of such pressure. The extent of the intimidation that officials can face was shown in Lae, where a Returning Officer was attacked, allegedly by supporters of a particular candidate. He was hospitalised as a result of his injuries.

Informal Votes

A significant cause of informal voting appears to be confusion between Open and Provincial ballot papers. Voters can cast a valid vote by writing either the name or number of their preferred candidates on their ballot papers. Where voters use candidate numbers in excess of the numbers allocated for an open seat but within the range for the corresponding provincial seat, it is easily identified as an informal vote. But where the numbers fall within the range of both open and provincial candidate numbers it is impossible to tell whether there has been any confusion.

Reports from each of these activities will be considered during post-election assessment processes being conducted by the PNG Electoral Commission and other interested parties.

Click on this link for more details on our website including the PNG Election Observation
**IPPPCC Party Training Strategy Workshop**

**ALOTAU** | The PNG Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates Commission (IPPPCC) planning and party-training-strategy-development workshop took place from 4-8 September at Education Milne Bay (EMB) in Alotau. CDI facilitated the workshop, which helped the staff of the IPPCC Registry to:

- identify priority tasks they need to do to meet their mandate;
- develop individual and section work plans that map out how to address these tasks;
- better understand what other staff do and how this contributes to organisational goals;
- identify political party training needs and develop a strategy for putting in place a 5-year learning and development plan for party strengthening.

The IPPCC and Registry are part of a complex organisation going through a period of change. The workshop gave staff the opportunity to work together as a team and to think about the ways in which they depend on others within the team to achieve their individual, divisional and organisational objectives. During the workshop, staff mapped priorities for the short term as well as the next few years. They developed divisional and individual plans linking personal work priorities with organisational priorities. The Registry can use these plans as part of role reviews and performance monitoring and management.

The lead facilitator was CDI Program Manager Bronwen Harvey. She was supported By CDI Associate and political party development specialist Dr Norm Kelly, and CDI Port Moresby-based Program Officer Mr John Varey. Mr Guy Edwards of Education Milne Bay facilitated a half day team building activity on Tuesday 4 September.

Click on this link for more details on our website:

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**IPPPCC Election Debrief Workshop**

**PORT MORESBY** | PNG’s IPPCC Election Debrief Workshop was held on Wednesday 14 November in Port Moresby. Senior officials from 27 parties participated in the workshop which was the first in a series of planned regular engagements between the IPPCC and party representatives. The events are designed to keep each side informed and updated on their respective work priorities, issues and plans. The IPPCC Registrar, Dr Alphonse Gelu, intends to host such information events with PNG’s political parties on a quarterly basis.

CDI Associate Dr Norm Kelly participated in the IPPCC Election Debrief Workshop, where he presented and facilitated 2 sessions. The first was on the need for a stronger party system in PNG, where Dr Kelly stepped through seven focus areas for parties – membership; organisational structure; constitutions; elections; finance; policies; and the parliamentary wing. The presentation also covered the Registry’s progress, with the assistance of CDI, in developing a 5-year plan for Learning and Development activities for parties.

Dr Kelly’s second session focussed in more detail on the IPPCC’s draft 5-year plan for Learning and Development activities for parties. Dr Kelly explained the draft plan on a year-by-year basis and discussed relevant planning and implementation issues, including the identification of potential training providers, both in PNG and international.

Feedback on the draft plan from the parties was positive, but with funding yet to be secured, and only just over half of the registered parties in PNG attending the workshop, the final shape and likely take-up rate of training by the parties is still unclear. However, further work is underway and the IPPCC Registrar is committed to finalising the political party Learning and Development Plan in the first quarter of 2013, with training events to follow soon after.

Click on this link for more on our website:
CDI has continued to work collaboratively with its Indonesian-based partners, the Institute for Peace and Democracy (IPD) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI), to support the second phase of an innovative leadership training program for young, emerging political party leaders from Asian and Pacific countries.

The Asian Political Leadership Program (APLP) is a new model for the delivery of regionally based training for young political leaders. The program consists of two workshops and ongoing mentoring and support for participants with their individual political party development projects.

The first phase of the program took place in Bali in March/April 2012 and involved 15 emerging political party leaders from 10 Asia Pacific countries. CDI sponsored the participation of party officials from PNG, the Solomon Islands and Fiji. We contributed further in design and delivery by engaging Linda Reynolds to facilitate the workshop. Linda is a highly experienced party official from Australia and has contributed extensively to CDI political party and candidates training initiatives in recent years. This 8 day program addressed three themes: leadership; political parties and competition; and political parties and governance. At the end of the first workshop participants were required to develop individual political party development projects, and all participants were assigned a mentor to provide individual feedback on project design and implementation.

The second 4 day follow-up workshop was held in Jakarta from 17 to 21 September 2012. In this session participants shared their experiences in implementing their personal projects; engaged with Indonesian political party leaders and politicians; and participated in both group and one-on-one project mentoring sessions. The participants not only cemented their personal bonds during this session, but also gained valuable insights from the Indonesian experience of democratisation.

CDI again engaged Linda Reynolds as a project mentor and facilitator for the follow-up workshop and sponsored the participation of the Pacific delegates.

One of the most significant outcomes of this program is the depth of friendship, trust and collaboration that has developed between participants and with the facilitators. Participants started the journey wondering what they could possibly have in common with each other, but it is clear they have come to understand and value that what they have in common is far greater than their quite obvious differences. APLP participants have also been very active and collaborative users of Facebook. The formal training-based knowledge transfer, combined with the personal bonds developed, has clearly had a significant impact on the participants and their confidence as political operatives in their own countries.

Click on this link for more on our website:

www.cdi.anu.edu.au
CANBERRA | Religious intolerance appears to be on the rise in Indonesia. This has been manifested in recent incidents of violence against religious minorities such as the Ahmadiyah Islamic sect, Shia Muslims and some Christian groups.

Observers have expressed concern that the police have stood by and watched as violence has occurred and that perpetrators are rarely prosecuted or are treated very lightly if they are ever brought to court.

This is in a country of great religious, cultural and regional diversity which was founded on the premise that the rights of all its communities would be respected and defended. But some political leaders in Indonesia, at both the national and local level, seem afraid of adverse political consequences if they defend minority communities. At worst, others are making political capital out of rising intolerance by pandering to extremist groups. Decisions in favour of minorities by bodies such as the Supreme Court and Ombudsman have been flouted by some elected officials.

This has brought critical international attention. The UN Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, warned that the country’s history of diversity and tolerance was at risk. She called on the Indonesian government to repeal legislation that has been used to discriminate against minority communities and to take decisive measures against hardline extremist Islamic groups that engage in vigilantism and spread hatred towards minorities.

Concerns such as these prompted the Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) to convene a conference addressing these issues from the perspective of good governance and democracy. The result was Australia’s first academic conference on the effects of growing religious intolerance on Indonesian state institutions, held at the Australian National University (ANU) over two days on 26-27 November. Entitled Pluralism vs Intolerance: Implications for Democracy and Governance in Indonesia, the conference was organised and sponsored by CDI in conjunction with the Department of Political and Social Change (PSC) at the ANU and the Asian Law Centre at the University of Melbourne.

The conference discussed historical and current developments in the constitutional and legislative framework touching on issues involved with the protection of religious and cultural diversity in Indonesia and focused on problems with their interpretation and enforcement in the spheres of executive government and the judiciary.

Special attention was given to the actions of mainstream religious organisations such as NU and Muhammadiyah, extremist religious groups such as the Islamic Defenders’ Front (FPI) and the quasi-governmental organisation, the Council of Indonesian Ulamas (MUI). This merged into discussion about how to interpret changing public attitudes towards respect of religious differences and the impact of an apparent rise of intolerance on non-religious civil society and minority groups.

Discussion ranged over issues such as the extent to which legal instruments can and are being used to foster or counteract discrimination and the responsibility of the current Indonesian government for the increase in intolerance. Questions were raised about the ability of extremist Islamist groups to set the political agenda and enforce their sectarian views through a mixture of violence and clever tactical alliances, and the extent to which religious intolerance has become mainstreamed as a reflection of growing Islamic piety.

The two days began with a public forum, an address by the Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court of Indonesia, Mohammad Mahfud MD, a prominent legal scholar and politician known for his engagement with issues such as the protection of minority rights... Click on the link in the table above right for all the details on this public forum including a link to the podcast of the event.

The conference proper consisted of a one and a half day workshop, with speakers from across the region – from Singapore and Indonesia, from Germany, and from the United States – and included prominent academics, civil society activists and experts on religious extremism such as Sidney Jones from the International Crisis Group office in Jakarta. The gathering was also joined by invited ANU academics, post-graduate students, and government officials.

Click on this link for more on our website:
More Effective Parliamentary Committees - CDI working with Pacific Parliaments

SYDNEY | In democratic systems of government, elected representatives are entrusted with important legislative, accountability and representational duties. Most parliaments have found appointing committees to be a powerful way of exercising these responsibilities. However, despite some notable successes, many committees in Pacific parliaments are yet to realise their full potential.

CDI's Effective Parliamentary Committee Inquiries Course (EPCIC) aims to enhance the capacity of officials from Pacific parliaments to support the effective operation of parliamentary committees. Over the last 5 years CDI has developed and delivered this course in partnership with the NSW Parliament. This collaboration continued this year with EPCIC 2012 taking place from 27 to 31 August at NSW Parliament House in Sydney.

During the five-day course 19 participants from eight Pacific parliaments explored the knowledge and skills required to:

- design a parliamentary committee inquiry;
- provide administrative, research and analytical support to a committee inquiry;
- prepare and present a committee report.

They did so through a mixture of expert presentations, case studies, discussions, group exercises and a committee hearing role play – all of which are designed to allow participants to set new material in the context of their existing experience.

The following parliaments were represented at the course:

- House of Representatives for the Autonomous Region of Bougainville
- Parliament of the Cook Islands
- National Parliament of Papua New Guinea
- Parliament of Kiribati
- Parliament of Nauru
- Parliament of Samoa
- National Parliament of Solomon Islands
- Parliament of Tonga
- Parliament of Tuvalu

Trevor Rowe (a CDI consultant with extensive parliamentary and training experience) convened the course and worked with Beverly Duffy, (Clerk Assistant Committees, NSW Legislative Council) and Helen Minnican, (Clerk-Assistant Committees and Administration, NSW Legislative Assembly) to facilitate the event.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive.

100% of participants reported that the course content was extremely relevant (the highest rating received since the course began). Participants also reported that they knew much more about:

- why parliaments appoint committees;
- how to start a committee inquiry;
- how to gather written evidence;
- how to gather evidence at public hearings;
- how to prepare briefing papers;
- how to draft and table committee reports.

All 19 participants expressed a strong desire to continue the learning experience initiated at the course and, in response, CDI is designing an internet-based discussion and learning forum. We are planning to commence a pilot-version of the Forum before the end of 2012. It will allow EPCIC 2012 participants to share their experience in working with committees. CDI mentors will also be involved in the Forum, offering guidance on participant-led projects designed to encourage more effective parliamentary committees.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

EPCIC 2012
NUSA DUA | Recent developments in Fiji have opened up possibilities for political change in that country. In March 2012, the interim Prime Minister currently in power in Suva announced the appointment of a Constitutional Commission, charged with the task of drafting a new Constitution to be submitted to a Constituent Assembly. Elections are to be held in 2014, under a new electoral system based on proportional representation.

These developments provided a chance for political parties and other organisations in Fiji to join public discussion and debate about the proposed constitution and the most appropriate electoral system for their country. CDI therefore took the initiative to organise a workshop on electoral systems for Fiji, in cooperation with the Institute of Peace and Democracy (IPD) in Bali. Both CDI and IPD have established expertise regarding international experience with the design and implementation of the many types of electoral systems and could therefore help equip Fiji’s political organisations to better understand the various systems and their ramifications.

A group of Fiji citizens from a variety of political and civil society backgrounds were invited, with 18 participants attending the activity held from 19 to 22 November 2012 in Nusa Dua, Indonesia. The workshop was not designed to favour or advocate any particular choice of electoral system, but rather aimed to build understanding of the varying systems and experience of different countries throughout the world.

In particular, the agenda emphasised that various electoral systems in use internationally have different political effects and practical implications. These effects can influence the pressures and incentives encountered by political parties and candidates as they campaign to win office. Different countries have adopted a range of systems in order to try to shape political outcomes. These have included attempts to proportionally represent different communities, establish workable majorities for the formation of government and to reconcile competing ethnic, religious or other groupings in society.

The aims of the workshop were to:

- introduce participants to the main types and features of electoral systems;
- provide insights into techniques for analysing different aspects of electoral systems;
- identify some key policy issues surrounding the choice of an electoral system; and
- highlight the political dimensions of electoral policy and electoral system choice, in both the short and long term.

Separate sessions dealt with the choice of an individual to fill a single vacancy; single-member constituency systems; multi-member constituency systems (including majoritarian approaches, list proportional representation and semi-proportional systems); the single transferable vote; mixed systems; political impacts of different systems; and practical challenges with system implementation.

The workshop was held in Indonesia because of that country’s considerable experience over the last 13 years in the use of different electoral systems in support of a transition to and consolidation of democracy. Indonesia has used three different variants of a proportional representation (PR) electoral system since 1999, and since some form of PR is being advocated by the Fiji government, this experience was of immediate relevance to the workshop participants. A CDI-IPD panel discussion on Indonesian electoral systems provided insights into the political implications of the use of PR in its different forms. A highlight of the workshop was a visit to the Denpasar offices of the Indonesian General Elections Commission (KPU), in which the senior provincial leaders of the KPU briefed participants on the practical challenges associated with implementing and administering various models of PR.

The workshop was facilitated by a team with diverse backgrounds in electoral systems analysis, democracy building, Pacific electoral history and the evolution of the electoral system in Indonesia.

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants expressed a strong view that their understanding of the issues had been significantly enhanced. A discussion about the way forward for CDI and IPD programs in Fiji provided a number of very interesting ideas for future activities that could support the process of Fiji’s return to democracy.

Click on this link for more on our website:
CDI Participates in International IDEA's 2012 Democracy Forum

Canberra | In November 2012 CDI Program Manager Luke Hambly attended the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance’s (International IDEA’s) 2012 Democracy Forum in Canberra.

This year’s Democracy Forum was dedicated to the theme Beyond Elites: People Power, Popular Participation and the Integrity of Democratic Institutions. The Forum brought together high level policy practitioners, parliamentarians, researchers, civil society and opinion leaders, as well as media representatives from around the world, including East Timor, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, to discuss the challenges of ensuring citizen’s participation in different environments.

Click on this link for more on our website:

CDI Associates

W. Paul Rowland has more than 25 years experience in leadership roles, both in overseas postings and in his native Canada. He is now a consultant with a practice in the area of democratic governance and a member of the ACE Network of Electoral Practitioners.

For 15 years, Mr Rowland served as Resident Representative of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) with postings in Serbia, Hungary and, most recently, in Indonesia. During his 9 years in Jakarta, he has overseen a broad portfolio of programs in legislative strengthening, political party development, peace-building and citizen participation.

Mr. Rowland’s work with NDI has included observing more than 20 elections and engagement in democratic governance, election integrity and political party programs. He has worked extensively in conflict areas, including as NDI's election monitoring Mission Director to Afghanistan in 2009. Recently he has been involved in supporting the exchange of experience of democratic transitions between Indonesia and Egypt.

Michael Maley psm has spent over 30 years as an election administrator before retiring in November 2012 from the position of Special Adviser (Electoral Reform and International Services) at the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC). An expert on electoral systems, he has done extensive work internationally. He served with UN missions in Namibia, Cambodia, South Africa and East Timor; took part in UN survey missions in Western Sahara and Eastern Slavonia; and also worked at UN Headquarters, for the Commonwealth Secretariat, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems.

Michael holds a Master’s degree in Political Science and a Graduate Diploma in Statistics from the ANU, and has written and lectured extensively on elections and electoral administration. He was awarded the Public Service Medal in 2001 for "outstanding public service in the provision of advice, planning and coordination of electoral programmes in emerging democracies, and in enhancing Australia’s international profile as a leading authority on electoral issues".

New CDI Associates

CDI is proud to announce that Mr W. Paul Rowland and Mr Michael Maley psm have accepted our offers to become CDI Associates.

CDI News | December 2012

2012 BDF

2012 Democracy Forum
Election Observation Mission to Vanuatu

PORT VILA | Voters went to the polls on 30 October 2012 to elect members to the 10th Parliament of the Republic of Vanuatu. CDI was invited by the Australian High Commission to participate in an election observation mission arranged by a number of diplomatic missions with representation in Vanuatu. CDI Associate Dr Norm Kelly participated in the mission on our behalf.

Dr Kelly observed voting and counting in the multi-member Port Vila constituency. In his report he highlights two issues in the conduct of the election: the accuracy of the electoral roll and the use of proxy voting. Dr Kelly observed that:

- inaccuracies in the roll and mismatches between the roll and information contained on electoral identification cards, meant that a number of prospective voters were denied the opportunity to vote; and

- the use of proxy voters (which is allowed under Vanuatu law) increases the risk of vote buying, denies a secret vote to those who nominate others to vote on their behalf, and causes processing delays for electoral officials.

Click on the link below to access Dr Kelly’s full report on our website which includes a number of recommendations in respect to these and related electoral issues. This report has been made available to the Vanuatu Elections Office through the Australian High Commission in Port Vila.

Also available on our website is the Republic of Vanuatu's official declaration of results and candidates elected. Headline figures for the election show that:

- 346 candidates contested the election - 65 of whom were independents, with 32 political parties nominating the balance of 281 candidates between them;
- 17 of the 346 candidates were women;
- The United Moderates Party nominated the most candidates, with 30, followed by the Vanu’aku Party with 28 and the People’s Progressive Party with 27;
- 52 members were elected from 17 constituencies - with each constituency returning between 1 and 7 MPs under a single non-transferrable vote electoral system.

CDI at PNG Events in Canberra

CANBERRA | On Tuesday 27 November CDI’s Grant Harrison and Bronwen Harvey attended the second PNG Independence Day Oration at Parliament House in Canberra. The speaker was Dame Carol Kidu, recently retired from 15 years service as the member for Moresby South, sometime Minister for Community Development in successive Somare governments, and most recently Leader of the Opposition. Dame Carol Kidu shared her perspectives about women’s political representation, as well as some of the other challenges confronting the PNG community. CDI took the opportunity to discuss our work in PNG with Dame Carol and a number of those attending the event including Australia’s Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Islands Affairs Richard Marles, former Speaker of the House of Representatives Harry Jenkins, ACFID President Meredith Burgmann and many others.

On Wednesday 28th November CDI’s Grant Harrison and Bronwen Harvey attended the National Press Club to hear PNG Prime Minister Peter O’Neill speak. This was a great opportunity to hear first-hand from the prime minister about his priorities, including his anti-corruption agenda.