



centre for **democratic** institutions
CDI.News

Newsletter of the Centre for Democratic Institutions

December - January 2007/08



Dear Colleagues,
 Welcome to the last issue of CDI.News in 2007. This issue highlights CDI's parliamentary assistance activities, including our recent Responsible Parliamentary Governance course and workshops for the national parliaments of Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste. More information on these events and other recent CDI activities are detailed in the following pages.

CDI's work combines technical assistance and capacity building programs, networking, and interpersonal and knowledge exchange, including the dissemination of CDI's original research on democracy and its institutions. Our focus countries comprise Indonesia and Timor-Leste in South East Asia and Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in Melanesia.

CDI's central goal is to support these regional focus countries in strengthening their political parties & systems of parliamentary governance.

Accordingly, CDI works to:

- Improve the operation and understanding of parliamentary machinery by members of parliament and parliamentary staff in focus countries
- Strengthen political parties in focus countries through improving the knowledge and skills of members and officials of political parties
- Extend networks in the region between Australian parliamentarians, political party officials, and parliamentary staff and their counterparts from focus countries

CDI's core budget is provided by AusAID, Australia's Agency for International Development.

CDI.News will keep you informed periodically of our activities and events, and you can access this information at any time by visiting our website: www.cdi.anu.edu.au.

Benjamin Reilly | CDI Director

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CDI Recent Activities

CDI's 2007 Responsible Parliamentary Governance Course

The Responsible Parliamentary Governance (RPG) course is one of CDI's major annual activities in the area of legislative strengthening. It is an intensive three-week program that examines the fundamental principles and doctrines underlying the practice of responsible parliamentary governance, and is designed for middle-level officials from CDI target countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

The sixth annual RPG course took place at the Australian National University from 3 to 21 September 2007. Using the Australian Commonwealth Parliament as the principal example, the course covers issues including constitutional foundations, the main activities of parliament, and related structures for accountability and scrutiny of administration.

A new development in 2007 was the involvement of the World Bank Institute which supported the participation of a number of parliamentary officials from countries outside the usual scope of CDI activities, namely Laos, Sri Lanka and Thailand, who joined participants from Timor-Leste, Fiji, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands in RPG this year.

In its six years of existence, the RPG course has now been undertaken by over 100 senior and middle-level parliamentary officials from the Asia-Pacific region. The course serves to strengthen parliamentary governance in the region by improving the skills, knowledge and capacity of parliamentary officials. As one of CDI's flagship products, the RPG program continues to attract keen interest from parliaments in the region, and has become a core element of CDI's training program.

Click on this link to our website for more on RPG 2007:



▲ RPG Class of 2007

◀ Mr Russell Grove, the Clerk of the NSW Legislative Assembly, presents his RPG session on the role and experience of Australian state parliaments on Day 2 of RPG.



▼▼▼ Participants and guests at the RPG opening reception on 3 Sep-



CDI Training Workshop for PNG Parliament

At the request of the Speaker of the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea, Hon Jeffrey Nape MP, CDI organised a training workshop for Members and staff of the National Parliament. The focus of the training was on the role of parliamentary committees with an emphasis on engaging the community through committee work. The workshop was held at Parliament House in Port Moresby from 9-10 November 2007.

This workshop is part of an ongoing program of support that CDI is providing the Papua New Guinea Parliament. It follows the successful induction program in August 2007 that CDI assisted in organising and running for Members of the new national Parliament elected June-July 2007.



◀ *The opening of the Workshop with (l to r) Mr Peter Loney, Ms Metiria Turei MP, Mr Quinton Clements, Mr John Balagetuna, and Hon Jeffrey Nape MP, Speaker of the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea.*

The aim of this workshop was to assist the National Parliament with ensuring that its parliamentary committees can perform their proper roles. The program was designed to give Members and parliamentary staff a greater appreciation of the value of parliamentary committees as a means of 'taking Parliament to the people', thus enabling Members to be better informed about community views; of providing a bridge between Members' constituents' concerns and the broader community interest; of promoting public debate; and of scrutinising the Executive and contributing towards better government through a more informed administration and policy making process.

Mr Peter Loney, former Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria and Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee acted as convener of the workshop. He was assisted by:

- Ms Metiria Turei MP - List Member, Green Party, Parliament of New Zealand;
- Hon Nicki Peniai – Speaker, Autonomous Bougainville Government House of Representatives;
- Mr Floyd Augustine Fatai – Auditor-General & Secretary, Public Accounts Committee, National Parliament of Solomon Islands;
- Mr David Kusilifu – Committee Secretariat, National Parliament of Solomon Islands; and
- Mr Quinton Clements – Deputy Director, CDI.

The workshop was officially opened by the Speaker of Parliament, and attended by 40 Committee Members together with a large number of parliamentary officers. The first day of the workshop was focused on the theory and key principles behind parliamentary committees in the Westminster system, for example, separation of powers, ministerial responsibility and executive scrutiny were outlined.

Presentations were also given on the purpose of committees, what makes an effective committee, obstacles to effective committee work



▲ *Workshop Day 2 - Members and staff formed in committees and working through practical exercises.*

and the process of conducting inquiries. Members and staff heard how committees operate in the New Zealand and Solomon Islands parliaments, as well as the Bougainville experience of developing a committee system. The second day was devoted to practical exercises. Members and staff formed into actual committees and were guided through the process of designing an inquiry terms of reference, scoping an inquiry, conducting the inquiry, and drafting and tabling an inquiry report to Parliament.

As part of the follow-up to the workshop, CDI is preparing a Guide to Parliamentary Committees for the National Parliament of Papua New Guinea.

Click on this link to our website for more detail on this project:

CDI Assists Timor-Leste Parliament with Training

On November 15-16 in Dili, CDI conducted a training workshop for Committee A of the National Parliament of Timor-Leste, which is charged with oversight of the nation's Constitutional Affairs, Justice, Public Administration, Local Government and Government Legislation. This workshop focused on collecting evidence through public hearing, and is the first specialised training of this type to be provided to Timorese parliamentarians.

CDI Deputy Director, Mr Quinton Clements, convened the workshop and was assisted by Mr Warren Cahill, Project

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Manager, Parliamentary Strengthening Project, National Parliament of Solomon Islands, and Mr Jude Devesi, Committee Secretariat, National Parliament of Solomon Islands.

The aim of the workshop was to assist Committee A in undertaking its program of election law review and revision. The 12 Members of Committee A gained a greater appreciation of the value of parliamentary committees as a means of 'taking Parliament to the people', thus enabling Members to be better informed about community views;



▲ *Members of Committee A (l to r) Jose Manuel Carrascalão MP, Fernando Dias Gusmão MP, Fernanda Borges MP (Committee President), & Carmelita Moniz MP (Committee Secretary) participating in the Dili workshop.*

of providing a bridge between Members' constituents' concerns and the broader community interest; of promoting public debate; and of scrutinising the Executive and contributing towards better government through a more informed administration and policy making process.

The workshop sessions were designed to be interactive. The program provided the Members and staff with background on parliamentary committees and the process of conducting committee inquiries. The benefits of inquiries, such as involving the public/constituents in the work of Parliament, were highlighted. Mr Devesi's presentation on the role and work of committees in the National Parliament of Solomon Islands was of particular interest to participants. They were also introduced to good practice in holding public hearings by examining issues to do with effective committee membership, the role of the secretariat and procedure.

Immediately following the workshop, CDI supported Committee A's first public hearing on Saturday 17 November 2007. This hearing, into the draft Private Lawyers Bill referred to Committee A by the Plenary, was again a first for the Timor-Leste Parliament. Drawing on the lessons of the workshop, Committee A was able to conduct a structured and focused public hearing. Witnesses were encouraged to provide written submissions prior to the hearing and to give short opening statements. Members

were then able to ask targeted questions and address the key issues of the Bill.

CDI conducted this workshop in conjunction with the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), which is currently assisting Committee A in its work. The Committee Office, Department of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia, through the Parliamentary Relations Office, also assisted CDI by providing a range of training aids and materials, including video footage of Australian parliamentary committees at work.

Click on this link to our website for more detail on this project and further CDI work with Timor-Leste:

The Pacific Island States: Peace, Security and Development in a Difficult Environment

CDI Director Ben Reilly spoke at a roundtable comparison of Australian and European policies regarding the South Pacific in October 2007 hosted jointly by the National Europe Centre and the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy of the ANU. The Roundtable involved leading experts, scholars, practitioners and public servants from Australia, New Zealand, the Asia-Pacific region and the EU. Other speakers at the event included Mr David Ritchie, Deputy Secretary, DFAT; Dr Stephen Hoes, AusAID; Prof. William Maley, ANU College of Diplomacy; PNG High Commissioner HE Charles Lepani; Solomon Islands High Commissioner HE Victor Ngele; New Zealand High Commissioner HE Mr John Larkindale; Dr Susan Boyd, former Australian High Commissioner to Fiji; and Dr Roberto Ridolfi, European Union Delegation for the Pacific.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

CDI Director Promoted to Professor

CDI Director Benjamin Reilly has been promoted by the Australian National University to the rank of Professor in this year's University promotions round. Prof Reilly will hold this title concurrently with his position as Director of the CDI, as part of the Crawford School of Economics and Government at the ANU.

CDI Links with Oxford University

CDI Director Ben Reilly has recently returned from a visiting fellowship at Nuffield College, Oxford during the current Michelmas Term.

Prof Reilly was in residence at Nuffield in October to work on his ARC-sponsored research project



on democratization and political reform in the Asia-Pacific region. While there, he also completed editing of the forthcoming CDI-IDEA-UNU publication on 'Political Parties in Conflict-Prone Societies: Regulation, Engineering and Democratic

Development', which will be published by the United Nations University Press in 2008.

Prof Reilly's fellowship was sponsored by Laurence Whitehead, series editor of the Oxford University Press 'Oxford Studies in Democratization' series in which Prof Reilly's recent book, *Democracy and Diversity*, was published.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

CDI & Wilton Park

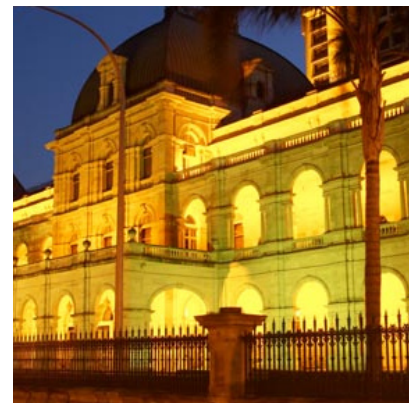
While in the UK, Prof Reilly was one of the speakers at a three-day policy conference at Wilton Park, England, on the subject of Democracy, Politics and Development. An academically independent agency of the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Wilton Park events bring together decision-makers and opinion-formers from around the world to address the most pressing global issues. This event, co-sponsored by CDI partners the World Bank Institute, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and DFID, looked at the inter-relationship between democracy promotion and poverty alleviation.



Click on this link for more detail on our website:

CDI to Collaborate with Queensland Parliament

CDI Deputy Director Mr Quinton Clements met with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, Hon Mike Reynolds AM MP, and the Clerk of the Queensland Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, at Parliament House in Brisbane on 12 October 2007. The



discussion centred on future collaboration between CDI and the Queensland Parliament, especially in relation to supporting the National Parliaments of Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. It was proposed that CDI and the Queensland Parliament host a roundtable on parliamentary assistance for Papua New Guinea involving interested parties in 2008.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

CDI Forthcoming

CDI Sponsors 3rd Residential Summer School for Parliamentary Public Accounts Committees

The Public Sector Governance and Accountability Research Centre at La Trobe University in Melbourne is holding its third annual Summer School for Parliamentary Public Accounts Committees (PACs) in early 2008. The course is sponsored by the World Bank Institute (WBI), the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and CDI, and will run from 3 - 13 February 2008.

The Program will focus on building effective PACs as the Parliament's primary means of financial scrutiny of the Executive. It will combine both the theoretical and the practical, with a six-day training course at La Trobe University's Beechworth Campus, along with visits to a number of Australian Parliaments.

The Summer School is aimed at Chairs and Members of PACs, Auditors-General and Audit Office staff, and PACs staff. Participants from Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Autonomous Region of

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Bougainville, Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Liberia, Ethiopia and Bangladesh are being invited to participate.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

New CDI Training Course on Effective Parliamentary Committee Inquiries

In February 2008 CDI will inaugurate a new residential training course. This new course, developed by CDI and aimed specifically at parliamentary committee staff, will focus on the practical aspects of parliamentary committee work. Topics covered in the program will include inquiry terms of reference, planning and budgeting for an inquiry,

collecting written and oral evidence, conducting public hearings, writing a report and tabling the final report in Parliament.

The course will be convened by Mrs Margaret Swieringa, former Committee Secretary in the Australian Parliament's House of Representatives. It will be conducted, in conjunction with the World Bank Institute and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at the Australian National University in Canberra from Tuesday 12th to Friday 15th February 2008. Staff from parliamentary committees in CDI's target countries of Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, Autonomous Region of Bougainville and Solomon Islands together with staff from Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Liberia, Ethiopia and Bangladesh are being invited to participate.

Click on this link for more detail on our website:

CDI Feature Articles, Publications, Events & Links

Is there an 'Asian Model' of Democracy?

In the latest issue of the leading international politics journal *Comparative Political Studies*, CDI Director Ben Reilly writes about the emerging 'Asian model' of democracy. His article traces the recent processes of democratization and political reform across the Asia-Pacific region which, he argues, is leading to the development of a distinctive Asian model of democratic development.

Click on this link to access this article on the web:

democracy in the rest of the world. One opinion poll conducted by the German Marshall Fund in 2005 suggested that Europeans are even more supportive of democracy promotion than Americans. As long as they are included as partners in the project, democracy promotion can even be ground on which the transatlantic alliance can be rebuilt in the decades ahead.

Click on this link to access this article on the web:

The Transatlantic Divide over Democracy Promotion

By Jeffrey Kopstein, University of Toronto.

Democracy promotion need not become a new source of transatlantic tension if both sides are willing to draw on the other's strengths and experiences. It is true that Europeans may not share the U.S zeal for democracy promotion as a project and will only reluctantly adopt policies designed to introduce democracy where it does not already exist. Moreover, there are certainly issues over which the transatlantic partners will continue to disagree, including the U.S use of regime change in cases of especially intractable foes such as Saddam. Yet, although public opinion polls indicate that Europeans are generally wary of the U.S role in the world and remain especially distrustful of the current administration, they are keen to promote



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