

The International Forum for Democratic Studies

The International Forum for Democratic Studies was established as a division within the Endowment in April 1994. Since then, the Forum has emerged as a leading center for analyzing and discussing the theory and practice of democratic development and a clearinghouse for information on groups and institutions working to achieve and maintain democracy around the world. Through its publications, conferences, and academic networking, the Forum also supports and enhances the Endowment's grants program and the World Movement for Democracy.

The Forum's activities, many of which are funded by private contributions, involve and benefit scholars, policy makers, and activists representing diverse experiences and views. The Forum has initiated four interrelated programs:

- **A Research and Conferences Program** that, through a combination of international conferences, smaller meetings, and occasional publications, analyzes the practical and theoretical aspects of democracy and democratization;
- **A Democracy Resource Center**, consisting of a library and archives on democracy, a Web site, and several online databases;
- **The publication of the *Journal of Democracy***, a quarterly journal published for the Endowment by the Johns Hopkins University Press, along with a series of Journal of Democracy books; and
- **A Fellowships Program**, which includes the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program and a small Visiting Fellows Program that enables democracy activists, scholars, and journalists from around the world to spend time in residence at the Forum.

The International Forum for Democratic Studies is directed by Marc F. Plattner and Larry Diamond, who also co-edit the *Journal of Democracy*. The Forum's programs benefit from the advice and involvement of a Research Council consisting of scholars and other specialists on democracy from around the world.

Research and Conferences Program

Forum research focuses on issues of democratic transition and consolidation as well as on the common challenges facing both new and established democracies. Each year the Forum convenes meetings ranging from international conferences to smaller seminars, lectures, and colloquia in Washington, D.C.

Network of Democracy Research Institutes

As part of the Research and Conferences Program, the Forum administers a Network of Democracy Research Institutes (NDRI), an international association of research centers that study democracy, democratization, and related topics in comparative politics and international affairs. At the end of 2005, the NDRI consisted of 62 members, including independent institutions, university-based study centers, and research programs affiliated with other organizations. The Forum publishes *Democracy Research News*, an electronic newsletter that highlights new publications and conferences that are sponsored by Network members, and regularly distributes articles



In September, the Forum sponsored its second Washington Workshop for Think-Tank Managers. Twelve senior managers of NDRI institutes spent a week in Washington visiting many of its most important policy research centers to learn about think tank management, budgeting, fundraising, communications and outreach, government and public relations, and website design.

and reports on democracy to members through its *Worth Reading* program.

In September 2005, the Forum convened its second annual Washington Workshop for Think-Tank Managers, a week-long program in which senior administrators from NDRI members visit leading policy research centers for discussions of fundraising, outreach, publishing, communications, advocacy, government and media relations, and website design. Profiles of member institutions, links to their web-

sites, issues of *Democracy Research News*, and other information on the Network of Democracy Research Institutes are available at www.wmd.org/ndri/ndri.html.

The Forum also serves as the secretariat for the Comparative Democratization section of the American Political Science Association, for which it publishes an electronic newsletter, maintains a website, and helps to promote collaboration among U.S.-based and foreign democracy scholars.

The International Forum for Democratic Studies colloquium series included the following speakers and topics in the past year:

"From Bosnia to Turkey: The EU and State Building" Gerald Knaus, European Stability Initiative

"Turkey's Internal Reforms and EU Accession Prospects" Soli Özel, Istanbul Bilgi University; İltur Turan, Istanbul Bilgi University; and Laith Kubba, National Endowment for Democracy

"Promoting Elections in Africa: Hollow Promises or Crafting Democracy?" Staffan Lindberg, Kent State University

"The Rise of 'Muslim Democracy'" Vali Nasr, U.S. Naval Postgraduate School

"Azerbaijan's Impending Elections: Last Chance for Democracy?" Leila Alieva, Center for National and International Studies, Baku, Azerbaijan

"Auditing Israeli Democracy 2005: A Decade after the Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin" Asher Arian and Shlomit Barnea, Israel Democracy Institute

"Egypt's 2005 Elections" Maye Kassem, American University in Cairo

"Democratization in the Black Sea Area: A Roundtable on the Use and Abuse of Historical Constructs" Alina Mungiu-Pippidi, Doğu Ergil, and Andrei Piontkovsky, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows; Charles King, Georgetown University; and Michael McFaul, Hoover Institution and Stanford University

Discussion: Building Democracy after Conflict

In January, the Forum organized a panel discussion on “Building Democracy after Conflict,” featuring presentations by Larry Diamond, Francis Fukuyama, Larry Goodson, Gerald Knaus, and Marc Plattner. The event, held at George Washington University, included an evening reception celebrating the fifteenth anniversary of the *Journal of Democracy*.

Discussion: Religion and Democracy

In March, the Forum and the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) cosponsored a roundtable discussion on “Religion and Democracy: Rethinking the Relationship.” Abdou Filali-Ansary, Hillel Fradkin, Francis Fukuyama, Timothy S. Shah, Larry Diamond, and Marc Plattner discussed the implications of the resurgence of religion in much of the developing and postcommunist world, and examined aspects of different religious traditions that are most favorable to a democratic political culture.

The event coincided with the publication of *World Religions and Democracy*, edited by Larry Diamond, Marc F. Plattner, and Philip J. Costopoulos, a volume in the *Journal of Democracy* book series published by the Johns Hopkins University Press.

Workshop: Paths to Democracy

In July, the Forum, the Centre for Liberal Strategies (Bulgaria), and the Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law (Stanford University) cosponsored a workshop in Sofia, Bulgaria, on “Paths to Democracy: Learning from the Reform Experiences of European, Post-Soviet, and Arab Countries.” The workshop included panel sessions on the conditions necessary for successful transitions to democracy, how domestic and foreign agents contribute to democratic change, the prospects for democracy in the Arab world and in Eastern Europe, and how think tanks can serve as catalysts for reform. Scholars from 19 NDRI member institutes, plus other U.S., European, and Arab experts on democratization, participated in the two-day event.



Saad Eddin Ibrahim of the Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies in Egypt discusses “Paths to Democracy: Learning from the Reform Experiences of European, Post-Soviet, and Arab Countries” at a conference that the Forum’s Network of Democracy Research Institutes co-sponsored with the Centre for Liberal Strategies (Bulgaria) and the Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law (Stanford University).



Michael McFaul of the Hoover Institution and Stanford University discusses “Democratization in the Black Sea Area: A Roundtable on the Use and Abuse of Historical Constructs” at a Forum roundtable. Also pictured are Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Doğu Ergil (right) and Andrei Piontkovsky (left).



Maye Kassem (center) of the American University in Cairo, discusses Egypt’s 2005 elections at a Forum colloquium. Also pictured is NED President Carl Gershman and co-director of the International Forum, Marc

Discussion: From Islamism to Muslim Democracy

In September, the Forum and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars cosponsored a panel discussion titled, “From Islamism to Muslim Democracy: The Challenges of Political Inclusion in Muslim Countries.” Featured speakers included Anwar Ibrahim, former deputy prime minister of Malaysia; Saad Eddin Ibrahim, professor of political sociology, American University in Cairo and chairman of the board, Ibn Khaldun Center for Development Studies; Larry Diamond, codirector, International Forum for Democratic Studies and senior fellow, Hoover Institution; and Vali Nasr, professor of national security affairs, U.S. Naval Postgraduate School.

Democracy Resource Center

The **Democracy Resource Center (DRC)** collects, organizes, and disseminates information and analysis produced by and about the wide range of groups and organizations working to strengthen democracy abroad. The DRC seeks to facilitate a genuinely multidirectional flow of information and ideas among developed and developing democracies, grant providers and recipients, and scholars and practitioners.

The DRC has two main components. The first is a library and an archive that holds approximately 16,000 works collected over the past sixteen years from NED grantees and other sources that can be searched via an online catalog. The second component is the NED website. The DRC also supports the Secretariat of the World Movement for Democracy, which is housed at NED, through the maintenance of the World Movement's website (www.wmd.org).

Library and Archives.

The library and archives house a collection of more than 12,000 books, plus numerous journals, grantee reports, audio and video cassettes, and other publications on democracy; a unique collection of materials produced by prodemocracy groups worldwide; documentation on the history of the Endowment and programs it has funded; and information on the activities of other democracy building groups

and organizations. These resources have been entered into an online catalog that is accessible through the Internet.

The NED Web Site. The Endowment's website (www.ned.org) provides access to a wealth of resources, such as detailed information on the Endowment's programs and activities; full-text access to newsletters, speeches, and conference



reports; research guides and links to other resources on democracy; guides to funding and fellowship programs that focus on democratic development; and information on the Forum's Fellowship Programs.

Internet resources created and maintained by the DRC are:

- **Democracy Projects Database.**

This online database contains information on some 7,000 projects supported by the National Endowment for Democracy since 1990, in addition to the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (Great Britain), Rights & Democracy (Canada), Fondation Jean Jaurès (France), International Liberal Centre (Sweden), and Alfred Mozer Foundation (the Netherlands).

- **Sources of Funding in International Democratic Development Database.**

This database contains information on more than 100 philanthropic organizations that provide funding for groups working in the area of international democratic development. In addition, the database has been expanded to include awards and

fellowship opportunities.

- **Democracy Research Guide.** This guide is broken down into three important research components: Textual Resources; Organizations, Institutions, and Networks that create these resources; and a Research Tutorial for developing a strong research methodology.