WORLD MOVEMENT *for* DEMOCRACY
Confronting the Challenges to Democracy in the 21st Century
WWW.WMD.ORG

Initiated by NED in 1999, the World Movement for Democracy is a global network of activists, practitioners, scholars, donors, and others engaged in advancing democracy around the world. Through networking regionally and around areas of democracy work, global assemblies, and special projects, the World Movement facilitates sharing of information and strategies to help enhance the work of its participants and leverage the support provided by democracy assistance organizations like NED.

The year 2012 was an active one for the World Movement. The Defending Civil Society project, which addresses the global trend of increasingly restrictive environments for civil society, launched a toolkit on legal reform to provide practical knowledge for activists to meet the challenge. The new Hurford Youth Fellowship Program helped young activists become global civil society leaders. Through the Seventh Assembly, the World Movement re-energized democracy movements around the world by focusing on the importance of political, social, and economic inclusion. In addition, a new Civic Space Initiative will enhance the public space for citizens to engage in political processes.

The Seventh Assembly

The World Movement held its Seventh Assembly in Lima, Peru, on October 14-17, 2012, under the theme of "Democracy for All: Ensuring Political, Social, and Economic Inclusion." More than 435 participants from around the world attended panel discussions, workshops, technology training sessions, and networking and information sharing activities. The Assembly also focused on youth engagement and empowerment, defending civil society, building democracy movements, and making democracy sustainable. Participants also met to discuss challenges within their respective regions and the benefits of cross-border solidarity and activism.

The Assembly opened with welcoming remarks from the Rt. Hon. Kim Campbell, former prime minister of Canada and chair of the World Movement Steering Committee, and concluded with the World Movement's Democracy Courage Tributes. These were presented at the John B. Hurford Memorial Dinner to the Human Rights Defenders in Bahrain, the Advocates for the Rights of Sexual Minorities Worldwide, and the Pro-Democracy Movement in Cuba. These movements were recognized for their courageous work in particularly difficult circumstances and often outside the spotlight of world attention.

A final report on the Assembly has been published on the World Movement's website (www.wmd.org/assemblies/seventh-assembly). It is also available in hard copy upon request; write to world@ned.org.

Defending Civil Society Project

The World Movement's Defending Civil Society project, begun in 2007, responds to efforts by governments to restrict the space in which democracy and human rights organizations carry out their work. In partnership with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), the World Movement published the second edition of its *Defending Civil Society* report in 2012, in addition to an online interactive Toolkit for engaging in NGO law reform, both of which are at www.defendingcivilsociety.org.

The Civic Space Initiative

In 2012, the World Movement began a new project, the Civic Space Initiative, which seeks to protect and expand civic space by fostering an enabling legal environment for civil
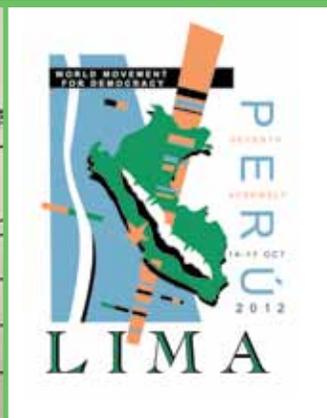
society organizations. In addition to facilitating civil society consultations with the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of association and assembly, the World Movement will produce short and full-length videos profiling civil society activists from selected countries. The video project is designed to help inform broader publics about the work of civil society organizations in their countries, and the important roles they play in building democracy and protecting human rights.

World Movement Networking
In 2012, the World Movement Secretariat staff continued to work with participants on the development of the following regional and functional networks affiliated with the World Movement:

- African Democracy Forum – *www.africandemocracyforum.org*
- Latin America and Caribbean Network for Democracy – *www.redlad.org*
- International Women's Democracy Network – *www.learningpartnership.org/iwdn*
- Network of Democracy Research Institutes – *www.ndri.ned.org*
- World Youth Movement for Democracy – *www.wymdonline.org*

Networking Highlights: In 2012, the **World Youth Movement for Democracy** (WYMD) established the **Hurford Youth Fellowship Program** to provide three young activists (18-30 years) with opportunities each year to conduct research on youth-related topics, develop online resources, and take part in planning and implementing other activities of the Youth Movement during their three-month residencies in NED's offices. The fellowship program, carried out in cooperation with

NED's Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program, is generously supported by the Hurford Foundation. The first Fellows were Desta Hailu (Ethiopia), S. Aaron Weah-Weah (Liberia), and Saba Ismail (Pakistan).

In 2012, the **Latin America and Caribbean Network for Democracy** (Redlad) worked diligently to strengthen the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) by participating in a special working group organized by the Organization of American States (OAS) and liaising with international human rights experts and government representatives to the OAS to gain their support for the IACHR. The Network also issued a statement backing the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which garnered support and signatures from notable world leaders, including former Presidents Alejandro Toledo of Peru, Vicente Fox of Mexico, Oswaldo Hurtado of Ecuador, and Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil.

The **International Women's Democracy Network** (IWDN) worked to expand its outreach and online presence. It launched a re-designed website on International Women's Day and enhanced its communications with network members in 2012 through Facebook and Twitter.

Information on these and other networking initiatives can be found on the World Movement website: www.wmd.org.

To subscribe to the World Movement's bi-weekly electronic newsletter, DemocracyNews, visit www.wmd.org/news. Find the World Movement on Facebook at www.facebook.com/worldmovementfordemocracy, and on Twitter at @DemocracyTweetz.

Below, l-r: winners of the WYMD photo competition - first image "Democracy in Action," by Ankit Agrawal (India); second image "Building a Movement," by Stevie Harison (Indonesia); and third, "Igniting Change," by Majda Lovrenovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina); the Seventh Assembly logo; World Movement participants shared their work at the Democracy Fair; WMD Steering Committee members Antoine Bernard (left), Carlos Ponce (back), and NED president Carl Gershman (right) with Courage Tribute Recipients (l-r) Veronica Ferrari (Peru), Maryam Al-Khawaja (Bahrain), and Regis Iglesias (Cuba); panel session participants at the Seventh Assembly.