

# 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 website, 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

- **Fellowship Programs**, including 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 to deepen their understanding of democracy and enhance their ability to promote democratic change.

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.

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.

## Research and Conferences Program

### 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 close of 2006, the NDRI consisted of 66

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 sponsored by Network members, and regularly distributes articles and reports on democracy to members through its *Worth Reading* program.

Forum staff visit member institutes when they travel abroad and also arrange meetings for Network members visiting Washington. In September 2006, the Forum convened its third 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 Web-site design. Profiles of member institutions, links to their websites, issues of *Democracy Research News*, and other information on NDRI are available at [www.wmd.org/ndri/ndri.html](http://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.

### Roundtable: Democracy and Terrorism

In February, the Forum and the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies cosponsored a two-day meeting on "Democracy and Terrorism: What We Know and What to Do."



In September, the Forum sponsored its third Washington Workshop for Think-Tank Managers. Eleven 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.

Participants included Zainah Anwar, Sisters in Islam (Malaysia); Paul Berman, New York University; Rola Dashti, Kuwait Economic Society; Paula Dobriansky, U.S. Undersecretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs; Carl Gershman, NED; Pierre Hassner, Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques (France); Saad Eddin Ibrahim, Ibn Khaldun Center (Egypt); Steven Krasner, U.S. Department of State; Ivan Krastev, Centre for Liberal Strategies (Bulgaria); William Kristol, *The Weekly Standard*; Kanan Makiya, Iraq Memory Foundation; Moisés Naím, *Foreign Policy*; Gideon Rose, *Foreign Affairs*; and Michael Young, *Daily Star* (Lebanon).

### Workshops at the World Movement for Democracy's Fourth Global Assembly

In April, the Forum organized two workshops at the Fourth Assembly of the World Movement for Democracy in Istanbul, Turkey: "Measuring Democracy," a topical workshop that featured presentations by Christopher Walker, director of studies, Freedom House; Hauke Hartmann,

project manager, Bertelsmann Foundation; Asher Arian, senior fellow, Israel Democracy Institute; and Ghia Nodia, chairman, Caucasian Institute for Peace, Democracy, and Development; and "Translating Democracy," a functional workshop that included presentations by Abdu Filali-Ansary, co-founder, *Prologues*; Adel Abdellatif, regional coordinator, United Nations Development Programme; Ol'ga Gyárfášová, senior research fellow, Institute for Public Affairs; and Gerald Knaus, director, European Stability Initiative.

### Discussion: The New Assault on Democracy Assistance

In April, the Forum and Johns Hopkins University's School for Advanced International Studies cosponsored a discussion based on the April 2006 *Journal of Democracy* article "The Assault on Democracy Assistance" by Carl Gershman and Michael Allen. Featured speakers included Carl Gershman, president, National Endowment for Democracy; Barry Lowenkron, Assistant Secretary of

State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor; and Michael McFaul, associate professor of political science, Stanford University. Marc F. Plattner served as moderator and introductory remarks were offered by Francis Fukuyama, Bernard L. Schwartz Professor of International Political Economy, Johns Hopkins University.

### Discussion: Electoral Systems and Democracy

In October, the Forum sponsored a panel discussion entitled “Electoral Systems and Democracy: What Have We Learned” to celebrate the publication of the *Journal of Democracy’s* latest book, *Electoral Systems and Democracy*. Featured speakers

included Donald Horowitz, James B. Duke Professor of Law and Political Science, Duke University; Andrew Reynolds, associate professor of political science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Richard Soudriette, president, International Foundation for Election Systems; Larry Diamond; and Marc F. Plattner.

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

**“Inclusion and Democracy in Ecuador: The Way Forward”** Raúl Gangotena, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Ambassador Terence Todman and Christopher Sabatini, Council of the Americas

**“Political Parties in Asian Democracies: The Weakest Link?”** Roland Rich, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow

**“Anticorruption as a Democratic Tool”** Alina Mungiu-Pippidi, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow

**“‘Revolution’ Reconsidered: The Alternative to ‘Democratic Transition’”** Charles Fairbanks, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow

**“South Africa’s Second Democratic Decade: The Critical Challenges Ahead”** Ann Bernstein, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow

**“The Secular State and Citizenship in Muslim Countries: Bringing Africa into the Debate”** Penda Mbow, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Ambassador George Moose and Sulayman Nyang, Howard University

**“Defending Human Rights in the ‘Age of Terror’: An Uzbek Lawyer Speaks Out”** Nozima Kamalova, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow

**“A la Recherche de la Grandeur Perdue: From ‘Managed’ to ‘Sovereign’ Democracy in Russia”** Andrei Piontkovsky, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Michael McFaul, Stanford University

**“Turkey’s ‘Troubled’ Southeast: Democracy in the Eye of the Storm”** Dogu Ergil, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow

**“Toward a Democratic Transition in Togo”** Dany Komla Ayida, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Mohamed Dansoko, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, and Christopher Wyrod, National Endowment for Democracy

**“The Agonies of Political Transition in Iran”** Hossein Bashiriyeh, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow

**“Participation in Vain: The Betrayal of Women’s Rights in Uganda”** Miria Matembe, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Anne Mugisha, Women’s Learning Partnership

**“Strengthening Civil Society in Burma”** Judy Tin-May Thein, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Brian Joseph, National Endowment for Democracy.

**“Strengthening Democracy in Pakistan: The Role of Research Institutes”** Aasiya Riaz, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Michael McFaul, Stanford University

**“Fallen Icon: The Worker in Postcommunist Russia”** Elena Gerasimova, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Michael Allen, National Endowment for Democracy

**“Emerging Legislatures in Emerging African Democracies”** Joel D. Barkan, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Larry Diamond.

**“Democratic and Economic Transition in Serbia: Capturing Lessons Learned”** Boris Begović, Center for Liberal-Democratic Studies

**“Bridging the North and South Anticorruption Agendas”** Guillermo Jorge, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow

**“Democracy in India: More Competition, Less Choice?”** Vandita Mishra, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow

**“Assessing Slovakia’s 2006 Parliamentary Elections: Domestic and Regional Implications”** Grigorij Mesežnikov, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Kevin Deegan-Krause, Wayne State University

**“Latin America’s Year of Elections”** Arturo Valenzuela, Georgetown University and Hector E. Schamis, American University

**“Kyrgyzstan Since the Tulip Revolution”** Maria Lisitsyna, McGill University, with comments by Kevin Jones, University of Maryland

# 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 20,000 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 ([www.ned.org](http://www.ned.org)). 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](http://www.wmd.org)).

**Library and Archives.** The library and archives house a collection of more than 16,000 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 Website.** The Endowment's website ([www.ned.org](http://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 8,000 projects supported by the National Endowment for Democracy since 1990, in addition to projects supported by 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.