

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

- **Fellowship Programs**, including the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Pro-

gram and a small Visiting Fellows Program, that enable 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 coedit 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

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 close of 2007 the NDRI consisted of 70

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.



In September the Forum convened its fourth 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.

Forum staff visit member institutes when they travel abroad and also arrange meetings for Network members visiting Washington. In September the Forum convened its fourth 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 websites, 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 Web site, and helps to promote collaboration among U.S.-based and foreign democracy scholars.

Discussion: "How Democracies Emerge: The 'Sequencing' Fallacy"

In January the Forum and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace sponsored a panel discussion on "How Democracies Emerge: The 'Sequencing' Fallacy," featuring a presentation by Thomas Carothers, vice president for international politics and governance, Carnegie Endowment, along with responses by Jack Snyder, professor of political science, Columbia University, and Francis Fukuyama, Bernard L. Schwartz Professor of International Political Economy, Johns Hopkins

University. Marc F. Plattner moderated the discussion. The discussion was based on Thomas Carothers's January 2007 *Journal of Democracy* article of the same title.

Discussion: The Spirit of Democracy

In October the Forum, Georgetown University, and the Forum for the Study of Democracy and Autocracy co-sponsored a discussion on "The Spirit of Democracy: The Struggle to Build Free Societies throughout the World," featuring Forum co-director Larry J. Diamond. Georgetown University professors John Bailey, Harley Balzer, and Marc Howard served as discussants. Forum co-director Marc F. Plattner and Dan Brumberg, associate professor of government, Georgetown University, moderated the discussion.

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

“Perspectives on Press Freedom in the Arab World” Hafez Al-Bukari, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Amr Hamzawy, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and Joanne Levine, Al-Jazeera International

“Embracing Euro-Atlantic Values: NATO Membership and the Future of Ukraine” Ilko Kucheriv, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Elehie Skoczylas, QEV Analytics, and Taras Kuzio, George Washington University

“Women and Power: The Case of Moldova” Olga Nicolenco, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow

“Poland’s ‘Fourth Republic’: A New Beginning or an Endangered Democracy?” Krzysztof Jasiewicz, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow

“What Is ‘Free & Fair’? International Law as a Norm for Assessing Elections” Michael Boda, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by David Carroll, Carter Center, and Patrick Merloe, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs

“The Challenge of Democratization in Iran” Ali Afshari, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Mohsen Sazegara, Harvard University, and Mehrdad Mashayekhi, Georgetown University

“North of the DMZ: A Human Rights Perspective” Andrei Lankov, Kookmin University, with comments by Tom Malinowski, Human Rights Watch

“The Congressional Elections in the Philippines: An Initial Assessment” Jose Luis Gascon, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Telibert Laoc, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs

“NGOs and War: The Case of Tajikistan” Nigina Bakhrieva, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Miriam Lansky, National Endowment for Democracy

“Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Dilemmas of Democracy in Paraguay” Diego Abente, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Cynthia McClintock, George Washington University

“Identity Politics in Zanzibar and the Challenges of Democratic Consolidation in Tanzania” Bernadeta Killian, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Shari Bryan, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs

“Redesigning the ‘Social Contract’: Toward Political Empowerment of Women in the Arab Gulf” Rahma Hugaira, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Dalal Hasan, National Endowment for Democracy

“Education and Democracy in Burma: Decentralization and Classroom-Level Educational Reform” Thein Lwin, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Sein Win, National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, and Brian Joseph, National Endowment for Democracy

“Democratic Recession in the Philippines: What Went Wrong?” Jose Luis Gascon, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Robin Broad, American University

“Rule of Law and Democracy in Central America: The 2007 Central American Report on Legal and Institutional Governance” Jaime Ordóñez, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Olav Kjørven, United Nations Development Programme, and Adrian Torrealba, Latin American Association of Tax Law

“Iran’s Resilient Civil Society” Ladan Boroumand, Abdorrahman Boroumand Foundation

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 25,000 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 20,000 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 web site (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 include:

Democracy Projects Database.

This online database contains information on some 11,000 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.

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