

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 the analysis and discussion of the theory and practice of democratic development as well as 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 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 a diverse range of experiences and views. The Forum carries out 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;

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, democrati-

zation, and related topics in comparative politics and international affairs. At the close of 2009 the NDRI consisted of 79 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. Profiles of member institutions, links to their web sites, issues of *Democracy Research News*, and other information on

- **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 an annual edition of the *Journal of Democracy en Español*; and
- **A Fellowship Program**, comprising 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, with Larry Diamond serving as a senior advisor. They 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.

the Network of Democracy Research Institutes are available at www.ndri.ned.org.

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 promotes collaboration among U.S.-based and foreign democracy scholars.

Conference: "Poverty, Inequality, and Democracy"

In April the Forum, Slovakia's Institute for Public Affairs, and Stanford University's Center on Democracy, Development, and

the Rule of Law sponsored a two-day conference on “Poverty, Inequality, and Democracy” in Bratislava, Slovakia. With financial support from the United Nations Democracy Fund, this Network of Democracy Research Institutes conference featured papers on alternative strategies to combat poverty and inequality in Central and Eastern Europe and in Latin America, as well as regional roundtables on Africa, Turkey, and South and East Asia. A theoretical paper on “What Inequality Is and Is Not” and a general paper on “Reforming the Welfare State in New Democracies” were also presented. Versions of the four papers were published in the October 2009 issue of the *Journal of Democracy*, and a report on the conference was widely distributed. Scholars from nineteen NDRI member institutes participated in the conference.

Journal Launch: *Journal of Democracy en Español*

In July, at the 21st World Congress of the International Political Science Association in Santiago, Chile, the International Forum and the Instituto de Ciencia Política de la Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile launched the first annual edition of the *Journal of Democracy en Español*. Published jointly by the International Forum and the Instituto de Ciencia Política and funded by a United Nations Democracy Fund grant, each edition includes translations of nine to ten recent articles and one classic essay from the *Journal of Democracy*, along with several original articles in Spanish.

Discussion: “Can Cuba Change?”

In January, the Forum sponsored a panel discussion entitled “Can Cuba Change?” featuring presentations by Orlando Gutierrez, cofounder and national secretary of the Cuban Democratic Directorate; Eusebio Mujal-León, associate professor



In late 2009, Boris Begovic of the Center for Liberal-Democratic Studies (Serbia) lectured on the impact of the economic crisis on Central and Eastern Europe.

of government at Georgetown University; and NED President Carl Gershman. Marc F. Plattner moderated the proceedings. The symposium was based on a cluster of articles that appeared under the same title in the January 2009 *Journal of Democracy*.

Discussion: “Universal Values, Cultural Differences, and the Future of Democracy”

In March, the Forum and NED sponsored a celebration of the life and thought of Samuel P. Huntington with a panel discussion on “Universal Values, Cultural Differences, and the Future of Democracy.” Featured speakers included Francis Fukuyama, Bernard L. Schwartz Professor of International Political Economy, the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of Johns Hopkins University; Donald L. Horowitz, James B. Duke Professor of Law and Political Science, Duke University, and Larry Diamond. Marc F. Plattner moderated the session.

Workshop: NDRI Washington Workshop for Think Tank Managers

In September the Forum hosted the fifth NDRI Washington Workshop for Think Tank Managers in Washington, D.C. Twelve

participants, selected through a competitive application process, spent a full week visiting many of the most important policy-research centers in Washington, including the Brookings Institution, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Heritage Foundation, the American Enterprise Institute, and others. They met with top administrators responsible for communications and outreach, website development, electronic publishing, and networking. Participants in this year’s workshop included May Al-Taher (Al-Urdun Al-Jadid Research Center, Jordan), Virginia Arhex (Center for the Opening and Development of Latin America, Argentina), Orazio J. Bellettini (Grupo FARO, Ecuador), Ines Castro (Center for the Implementation of Public Policies Promoting Equity and Growth, Argentina), Rita Chammas (Lebanese Center for Policy Studies), Theodore Dzeble (Ghana Center for Democracy and Development), Valeska Hesse (FUNDAR, Mexico), Angelo Izama (Fanaka Kwa Wote, Uganda), Avtandil Jokhadze (Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development, Georgia), Engjellushe Morina (Kosovar Stability Initiative), Kaushiki Sanyal (Centre for Policy Research, India), and Stella Tshona (Centre for Policy Studies, South Africa).

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

“Uruguay’s Presidential Race: A Post-Election Assessment” (*cosponsored with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars*) Jorge Lanzaro, Universidad de la República, Montevideo, and Woodrow Wilson Center Public Policy Scholar; and Arturo Porzecanski, American University (December 4)

“The Impact of the Economic Crisis on Central and Eastern Europe” (*cosponsored with the Center for International Private Enterprise*) Boris Begovic, Center for Liberal-Democratic Studies (Serbia), with comments by Mitchell Orenstein, Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies (October 28)

“Legislative Power in Emerging African Democracies” (*cosponsored with the Center for Strategic and International Studies*) Joel D. Barkan, Center for Strategic and International Studies, with comments by Peter M. Lewis, Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies, and Stephen N. Ndegwa, World Bank (October 15)

“Building Democracy in Resource-Rich Countries: The Case of Chad’s Oil Exploitation” Gilbert Maoundonodji, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Joseph Siegle, National Defense University (July 13)

“Combating a Hidden Evil: The Fight Against Human Trafficking in Russia” Ekaterina Osipova, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Tatyana Volchetskaya, Immanuel Kant State University of Russia (July 1)

“Losing Trust: Understanding Popular Disaffection with India’s Politicians” Ronojoy Sen, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow (June 30)

“Grappling with the Rise of Political Islam: Threats or Opportunities for Indonesian Women?” Siti Nurjanah, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Gadis Arivia, University of Indonesia (June 25)

“How to Bring a Dictator to Justice: The Successful Extradition of Alberto Fujimori” Antonio Maldonado, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Cynthia McClintock, George Washington University, and Jo-Marie Burt, George Mason University (June 18)

“The Next Founders: Voices of Democracy in the Middle East” Joshua Muravchik, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, with comments by Ziad Asali, American Task Force on Palestine, Laith Kubba, NED, and Tamara Cofman Wittes, Brookings Institution (June 15)

“Where Does Europe End?” Alina Mungiu-Pippidi, Hertie School of Governance, with comments by Charles Gati, Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies, and Rodger Potocki, NED (June 11)

“Mediated Politics: Reassessing Democratic Representation in Latin America” Enrique Peruzzotti, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow (June 9)

“Democracy under Fire in the Niger Delta” Anyakwee Nsirimovu, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Peter Lewis, Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (June 8)

“The Crisis of Federalism and Prospects for Provincial Autonomy in Pakistan” Jami Chandio, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Selig Harrison, Center for International Policy (April 30)

“Securing Dalit Rights: The Case for Affirmative Action in the ‘New Nepal’” Suvash Darnal, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Brian Joseph, NED (February 12)

“Guinea after the Coup: New Opportunities for Judicial Reform” Frederic Loua, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Maria Koulouris, Global Rights (February 5)

“The Day After: Democratizing Elections in Postcommunist Europe and Eurasia” Sharon Wolchik, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow (February 4)

“The Future of Independent Media in Ukraine” Ihor Lylo, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow, with comments by Myroslava Gongadze, Voice of America (January 29)

“Democracy and its Discontents: Dilemmas of Diversity in Northeast India” Rajesh Dev, Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellow (January 22)

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 around the world. 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 28,000 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 comprised of online resources and databases on 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 databases and online resources www.wmd.org.

Library and Archives. The library and archives house a collection of more than 28,000 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.

Resources on 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 12,000 projects supported by the National Endowment for Democracy since 1990,

as well as 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.
- **NDRI Digital Library Database –** With a grant from the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), the DRC has begun creating a digital library database that will feature full-text publications of the Network of Democracy Research Institutes (NDRI) www.wmd.org/ndri. The database will be launched in early 2010 and will provide scholars, activists, and others interested in democracy promotion and related issues with access to an online repository of materials produced by think tanks in developing and transitional countries.

