

World Movement for Democracy

IN FEBRUARY 2009, THE WORLD MOVEMENT met in India to celebrate its Tenth Anniversary. Indian officials, past and present, welcomed democrats gathered from around the world to New Delhi, host city of the Movement's founding assembly, for a special conference on the prospects of advancing democracy. Hosted by the Institute of Social Sciences (ISS), the conference included a special focus on democracy at work in South Asia.

Since the adoption of the Founding Statement at the inaugural Assembly in 1999, the number of participants has grown through the development of both regional and functional networks. These networks have strengthened ties among activists, practitioners, academics, policy makers, and funders who have come together to cooperate in the promotion of democracy. The World



The WMD web site provides information and networking opportunities to democracy activists around the world.

Movement, for which NED serves as the Secretariat, is led by an international Steering Committee chaired by former Canadian Prime Minister the Rt. Honorable Kim Campbell.

With guidance from the Steering Committee, the Secretariat staff at NED organizes biennial global assemblies and facilitates communica-

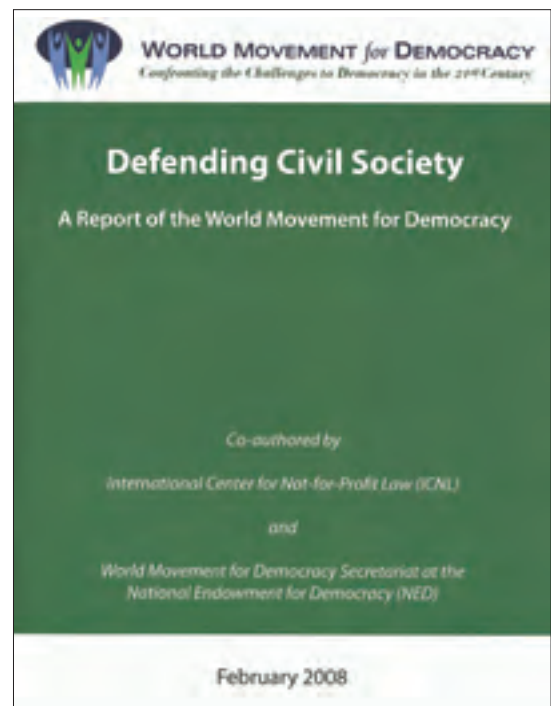
tion and networking among participants. In 2009, the World Movement staff began preparations for the Sixth Assembly, which was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on April 11–14, 2010. The World Movement also introduced a “social networking” database of participants into its newly redesigned web site. The new database, *DemocracyLink*, will facilitate individual networking, opportunities to blog from personal profiles, and other ways to exchange knowledge, information, and experiences more efficiently.

Through two major projects, the World Movement also continues to address current challenges to democracy promotion activities. The Defending Civil Society project, which was launched in partnership with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) following the Fourth Assembly in Istanbul, has focused a spotlight on new “NGO laws” and other measures that have increasingly constricted civil society space. The

second project, which was initiated as a result of discussions at the Fifth Assembly in Kyiv, Ukraine, in April 2008, examines democracy assistance from the perspective of recipients and other experts at the grassroots.

Defending Civil Society Project

Following the *Backlash Against Democracy Assistance* report, the World Movement launched the Defending Civil Society project in early 2007 to develop a unified response to the global challenges of restrictive legal environments for civil society. The project resulted in the February 2008 publication of a report of the same



The World Movement report, *Defending Civil Society*, is the work of the Defending Civil Society Project, an ongoing effort to develop strategies and build solidarity among activists and groups pushing back against laws repressing nongovernmental organizations.

title co-authored by the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) and the World Movement Secretariat at NED. The *Defending Civil Society* report is available in English, Ara-



The Central Africa Sub-Regional Workshop on Defending Civil Society was held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo - July 23–24, 2009.

bic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish, at <http://www.wmd.org/projects/defending-civil-society>.

In 2009, the following internation-

ally distinguished individuals endorsed the *Defending Civil Society* report:

- His Holiness the Dalai Lama – Tibet
- Vaclav Havel – Czech Republic



The Africa Regional Workshop on Defending Civil Society was held in Nairobi, Kenya, 25–26 June 2009.



The Latin America and Caribbean Network Newsletter from May 2009.

- Desmond Tutu – South Africa
- Kim Campbell – Canada
- Fernando Henrique Cardoso – Brazil
- Anwar Ibrahim – Malaysia
- Saad Eddin Ibrahim – Egypt

The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights also endorsed the Report’s findings and principles.

By producing the *Defending Civil Society* report, the World Movement has made significant progress in providing democracy and human rights groups and practitioners around the world with a new tool for securing space for citizen activity to address political and social issues.

As a result of multilateral efforts by civil society groups and the international community, some restrictive initiatives have been loosened or postponed in countries as diverse as Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, and Nicaragua.

Assessing Democracy Assistance Project

As a result of discussions at the Fifth Assembly in Kyiv, Ukraine, in

April 2008, the World Movement, in partnership with Madrid-based think tank FRIDE, has undertaken a project to assess what has been accomplished in the field of democracy assistance over the past two decades and how the work can be made more effective. When completed, the *Assessing Democracy Assistance* project will consist of 16 county case studies and an online survey of over a thousand recipients of democracy assistance.

Youth Initiative

A small group of youth and student movement leaders from several authoritarian and semi-authoritarian countries met in Istanbul, Turkey, on December 15–17, 2008, and in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on May 20–23, 2009, to share knowledge and strategies to enhance their leadership capabilities.

The meetings sought to generate innovative strategies to strengthen the movements through the use of alternative communication tools and popular culture.



The World Youth Movement for Democracy links young democracy activists around the world.



Daria Taradaï of Ukraine was one of two World Youth Movement for Democracy Essay Contest winners with her essay, "My" Democracy.



Ismail Alexandrani of Egypt was the other Contest winner, with his essay, *Private Democracy before Public Democracy*.



Central Africa's regional democracy activists met in Kinsasha to discuss the Defending Civil Society project.

World Movement Networks

During the past year, the World Movement Secretariat staff at NED continued to assist the develop-

ment of the following regional and functional networks affiliated with the World Movement:

- **The African Democracy Forum (ADF) – www.africandemocracyforum.org**



The World Movement Secretariat and the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) have facilitated dialogues and workshops with civil society organizations and other stakeholders around the world. Pictured: the Central Africa Sub-Regional Workshop in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, held July 23-24, 2009.

World Movement Funders

- Arab Democracy Foundation
- Canada Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung – Indonesia
- Friedrich Naumann Stiftung – Indonesia
- Green Radio – Indonesia
- The Hurford Foundation
- Jakarta Capital City Government
- The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation
- Microsoft Partners in Learning – Indonesia
- SERASI Program/Indonesia – United States Agency for International Development
- The Smith Richardson Foundation
- Taiwan Foundation for Democracy
- United Nations Development Programme

- **The World Forum for Democratization in Asia (WFDA) – www.wfda.net**
- **The Global Network on Local Governance (GNLG) – www.gnig.org**
- **The International Women’s Democracy Network (IWDN)**

World Movement Steering Committee

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| Mariclaire Acosta , Mexico | Jana Hybásková , Czech Republic |
| Mahnaz Afkhami , Iran | Melinda Quintos de Jesus , Philippines |
| Igor Blažević , Bosnia | Hisham Kassem , Egypt |
| Francesca Bomboko , Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) | Asma Khader , Jordan |
| Kim Campbell (Chair), Canada | Maina Kiai , Kenya |
| Kavi Chongkittavorn , Thailand | Reginald Matchaba-Hove , Zimbabwe |
| Michael Danby , Australia | George Mathew , India |
| Alicja Derkowska , Poland | Roel von Meijenfeldt , Netherlands |
| Ivan Doherty , Ireland | Nafiz Can Paker (Treasurer), Turkey |
| Han Dongfang (Vice-Chair), China | Inna Pidluska , Ukraine |
| Yuri Dzhibladze , Russia | Jacqueline Pitanguy , Brazil |
| Hannah Forster , Gambia | Carlos Ponce , Venezuela |
| David French , United Kingdom | Elisabeth Ungar (Secretary), Columbia |
| Carl Gershman , USA | Yevgeniy Zhovtis , Kazakhstan |
| Paul Graham , South Africa | |
| Bambang Harymurti , Indonesia | |

- www.learningpartnership.org/iwdn
- **The Network of Democracy Research Institutes (NDRI) – www.ndri.ned.org**
- **The World Youth Movement for Democracy (WYMD) – www.wymdonline.org**

Highlights from Networks

The World Youth Movement for Democracy holds an annual essay contest to encourage young people around the world to reflect on the state of democ-

cracy in their communities and to think creatively about what they can do to bolster democratic change. In 2009, three winning essays from each of five global regions were chosen from nearly 500 submissions. Authors of those winning essay contests were invited to participate in the Sixth Assembly in Jakarta to share their stories with other Assembly participants. At the Assembly, two Global winners, Ismail Alexandrani of Egypt and Daria Taradai of Ukraine, were announced. To read these winning essays, please visit www.wymdonline.org.