

Reports

Update on Association Activities

ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN ELECTION AUTHORITIES



In October 2000, the AAEA Secretariat worked on finalizing the French version of the AAEA Newsletter (no. 2). In November 2000, the French newsletter was sent out to French-speaking members and associate members of the Association, as well as to the embassies of Francophone, non-member countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, and the Comoros. Forty-three organizations and individuals – AAEA members, associate members, embassies, international organizations, donor agencies, and interested individuals – received copies of the English version of this newsletter.

The wealth and diversity of articles represented in the second AAEA newsletter indicates a solidification of the AAEA's role as a primary vehicle for the exchange of election-related information across Africa. The AAEA Executive Secretariat is currently soliciting articles for the first edition of the year 2001 newsletter, to be published in the first half of 2001.

AAEA Secretariat has started receiving member-profile questionnaires from its members. The questionnaires will be evaluated and the data will be compiled into a database.

Planning is also underway for the AAEA Advisory Board meeting, tentatively scheduled for July 2001.

www.ifes.org/afrassoc

ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN ELECTION AUTHORITIES

The interim secretariat of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) is working on updating the Asian Election Law Compendium launched last summer. The Compendium is a unique resource providing election officials, NGOs, scholars, and analysts a collection of current election laws in an accessible medium. The secretariat also plans to produce the Compendium on CD-ROM for ease of use and distribution throughout Asia. A limited number of hardcopies will be distributed upon request. The Law Compendium, available on the AAEA website at <http://www.ifes.org/AsiaAssocSite/index.htm>, is part of the Association's efforts to exchange information in support of good governance and democracy.

The AAEA's next Executive Board meeting is planned to convene for later this year. The interim secretariat is coordinating details with Mr. B. P. Shah, Chairman of the AAEA, and members of the executive board. Among the issues on the agenda are ways to expand membership, conduct professional exchanges, establish a permanent secretariat, and plan for development.

www.ifes.org/AsiaAssocSite

ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN ELECTION OFFICIALS

The heads of election management bodies from Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, and the Ukraine, met with representatives of the Hungarian-based ACEEEO Secretariat and IFES, in Brijuni, Croatia, at the ACEEEO's Annual Executive Board meeting. The Secretariat reported that ACEEEO has been recommended for consultative status with the Council of Europe. Should it be accepted by a vote of the Parliamentary Assembly, this will represent an important step in the development of the Association. Several issues of regional importance were addressed at the meeting.

The participants discussed how best to address sensitive issues of campaign finance in the region. They concluded that the ten-year Jubilee Conference, "Transparent Election Campaign Financing in the 21st Century," would be held in October 2001 in Croatia. In keeping with the ACEEEO's special focus on Southeastern Europe, the conference will also examine recent elections in that part of the world. The ACEEEO has been involved in election-supervising and observation missions in the region, together with the OSCE and Council of Europe, for some time now. It is also developing a sub-grouping of ACEEEO members from Southeastern Europe.

The Secretariat, which is actively developing its program capacity and increasing the information resources available to the members of the ACEEEO, presented its new initiatives to the Executive Board. In order to expand its ability to conduct program initiatives and work more closely with other organizations, the Association is building a database of election experts from member countries.

The Secretariat is also giving its Documentation Center a new home at the library of the Institute for Political Sciences of the Hungarian Academy for Sciences. This will allow better organization and maintenance, and provide better accessibility for those interested in election-related information from the region. In order to provide more comparative information on elections, the ACEEEO is putting out a CD and expanding its collection of materials from its History of Elections Exhibition. Finally, the ACEEEO is revising its website to make it more user-friendly and informative.

For more information on these activities, please contact the ACEEEO Secretariat at aceeeo@konyv.kozig.b-m.hu.

www.aceeeo.com



ASSOCIATION OF ELECTORAL ADMINISTRATORS



The AEA's Annual Seminar was held in Blackpool, U.K. from February 25-28. There was a record attendance of nearly 400 delegates with very well-attended sessions, particularly those dealing with the introduction of the new provisions for voter registration and the work of the new U.K. Electoral Commission.

There is likely to be a General Election within the next few months, and the introduction of postal voting on demand will greatly increase the number of postal voters and the work of election administrators.

The AEA recently completed a national training program on the changes to voter registration and postal voting. This program, which included 11 regional seminars, was attended by more than 900 election officials and proved very successful.

The AEA is working with other organizations to try to introduce a National Electoral Hub, so that details of all U.K. electors will be accessible through a single point of inquiry. Other current projects include training programs for the next General Election, consultations with Government Departments about fees for election staff, and focus groups on how elections can be held in areas where recent outbreaks of Foot-and-Mouth disease severely restrict movement for residents on affected farms.

www.aea-elections.co.uk



ASSOCIATION OF ELECTION OFFICIALS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (AEOBiH)

Although 2001 is not an election year in Bosnia and Herzegovina, members of the AEOBiH have continue to work to further the professional development of Bosnian election officials and improve cooperation with election officials in other countries.

On behalf of the IFES/AEOBiH Secretariat, Ms. Beverly Hagerdon Thakur and Mr. Emin Novalic participated in the IFES conference, "Election Process in Kosovo: Further Steps," held from February 8-10, in Pristina. Approximately 150 electoral administrators, political party representatives and non-governmental organizations from around Kosovo attended the conference. Ms. Hagerdon Thakur spoke about the nationalization of the election administration in BiH, while Mr. Novalic presented

different perspectives on the work of electoral administrators in BiH. The conference was an important first-step for AEOBiH toward becoming an important advisory body for other electoral administrators in the region.

AEOBiH has also recently established the Legal Council, composed of twelve experienced election officials. The Legal Council will be developed into a legal advisory body that will engage in electoral issues and activities, such as analyzing the Draft Election Law and making recommendations for sub-regulations to the law, educating voters, political parties, state institutions and non-governmental organizations. The Legal Council has established a direct relationship with the BiH Parliament and will continue to work closely with central institutions as the nationalization of the election process continues.

AEOBiH has also launched the "Elections Course." This unique program encompasses topics such as the evolution of international standards, characteristics of various election systems, and election administration issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The course also provides participants with the opportunity to develop basic skills, such as writing, research, public-speaking, project planning, and computer literacy.

www.oscebih.org/languages.as

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS, RECORDERS, ELECTION OFFICIALS AND TREASURERS

The International Association of Clerks, Records, Election Officials and Treasurers (IACREOT), in response to the national interest in election reform in light of the events of the 2000 Presidential Election, passed five Resolutions at its Board of Directors Meeting in Billings, Montana, on January 20, 2001. The Resolutions, available in their entirety on the IACREOT website, relate to the following subjects: Military and Overseas Voters, Disabled Voters, Postal Rates for Voting Material, the Federal Election Commission's Office of Election Administration, and Absentee Voting. The Resolutions were passed unanimously by the Board of Directors and have been sent to every member of the United States Congress.

The IACREOT Resource and Review Commission was formed to address matters of election reform on a federal and state level. The Commission, formed by President Gerald Gibson of Danville, Virginia, and chaired by 1st Vice President Lance Gough of Chicago, Illinois, consists of the IACREOT Executive Committee and a member from each of the delegation states in the organization. Members of the Commission have already participated in several task forces across the nation, including the Constitution Project, the Johnson Foundation, and IFES' CERUS Project.

The 30th Annual Conference and Trade Show of IACREOT will be held in Billings, Montana from June 16-20, 2001. Attendance is expected to be high as the trade show, the largest of its kind in the nation, will feature the latest technological advances in election administration. Programs will be offered on topics ranging from "Florida – The Real Story" to "Problems and Solutions for Punch Card, Optical Scan and Direct Recording Electronic Systems." IACREOT welcomes election officials from all nations. For information on becoming a member and attending the summer conference, please call IACREOT at 1-800-890-7368.

www.iacreot.com