

IFES

CONFERENCE ON ADJUDICATION OF ELECTION GRIEVANCES IN EASTERN EUROPE

IFES hosted a two-day conference titled "Election Dispute Resolution: Judicial Authority and Independence" in Sofia, Bulgaria, on April 26 and 27, 2002. Law experts



from around the world focused on the role of the judiciary in enforcing election standards and adjudicating electoral disputes. Supreme and constitutional court judges from the CEE and NIS nations had an opportunity to exchange ideas and learn about internationally recognized standards,

best practices and tools used to evaluate the performance of the judiciary in resolving election disputes.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE IN HONDURAS

IFES, USAID and the Supreme Court of Justice of the Republic of Honduras held a regional conference on "The Promotion of Judicial Independence and Impartiality" on April 10 and 11 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Panelists discussed key issues related to the improvement of judicial independence and impartiality in Central America. Attendees emphasized the importance of judicial independence for the creation of the rule of law, the achievement of a stable political environment, and the promotion of economic and social development. Panelists also stressed the need for civil society to defend its right to an independent and impartial judiciary.

NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF WOMEN IN ARMENIA

In an effort to celebrate the valuable contribution women make to Armenian society, IFES collaborated with the Women's Republican Council (WRC) to organize "Women in Armenia: Recognizing the Present, Planning for the Future," a month-long series of events throughout the country that drew some 26,000 participants and the collaboration of more than 100 organizations. An eclectic array of nearly 300 events was held between March 8 and April 7, 2002, with the goal of increasing awareness of issues facing Armenian women, recognizing women's contributions to Armenian society, and fostering greater participation by women in public life at the local, regional and national levels. For more information on IFES' efforts in Armenia, please visit the IFES-Armenia website, www.ifes.am.

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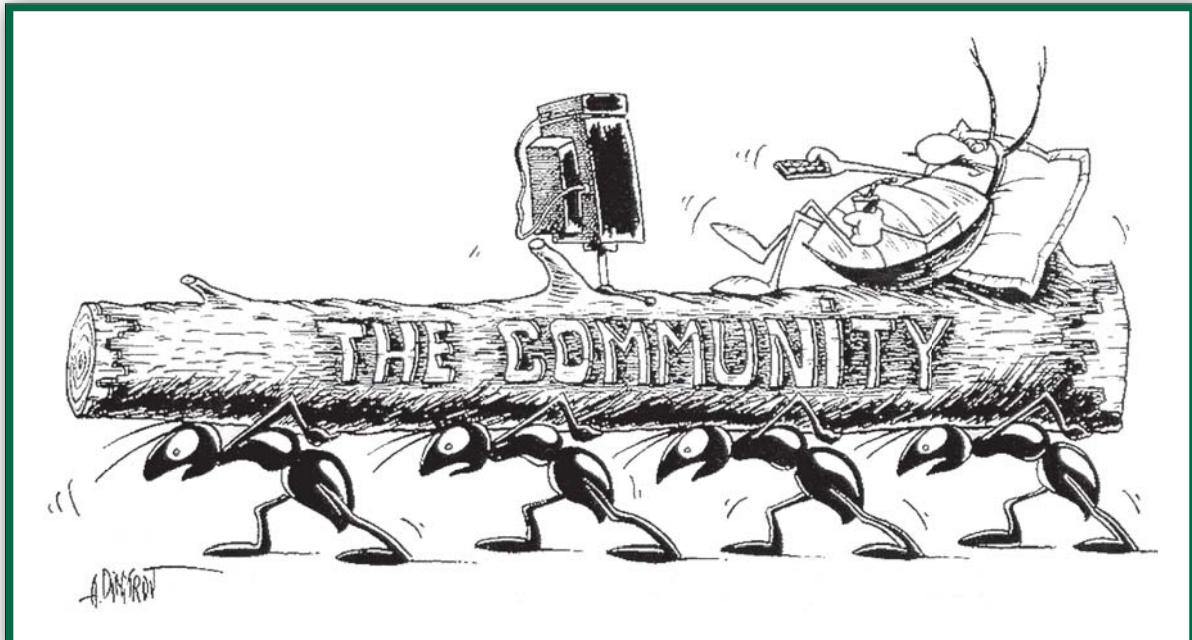
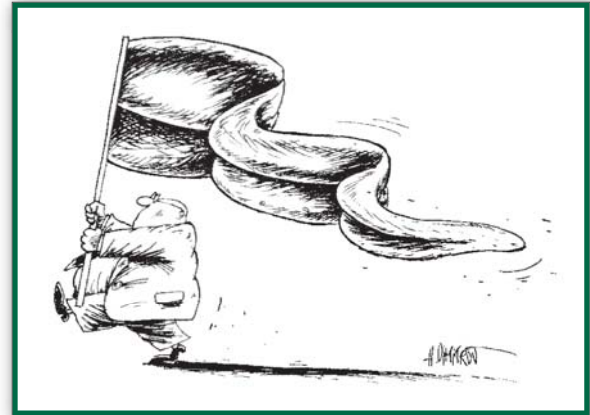
The International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers (I.A.C.R.E.O.T.) will hold its 31st Annual Conference and Trade Show in Kansas City, Missouri, from June 18 to 23, 2002, with the theme "Our Government—Accessible To All." This year's President is Lance Gough, Executive Director of the Chicago Board of Elections.

I.A.C.R.E.O.T. has more than 1500 members in the United States and abroad, and its annual conference draws more than 1000 delegates, guests, sponsors and vendors. The conference will feature seminars on "New Federal Legislation – What's In It For You?" "New Federal Voting System Standards," "Voting System Implementation – Issues and Options," "International Elections Update," "Poll Worker Recruitment, Training and Retention," "The Voting Rights Act and Voter Accessibility," and "When Disaster Strikes—The New York Perspective." More than 75 vendors will display the latest election equipment at the I.A.C.R.E.O.T. Trade Show. Also, members will have the opportunity to continue or begin their pursuit of the Chancellor's Certificate in Public Administration from the University of Missouri.

Membership in I.A.C.R.E.O.T. continues to grow on the international scene, with members now present in Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia and Japan. I.A.C.R.E.O.T. offers its members the opportunity to exchange ideas and interface with other officials at its annual conference and at regional seminars, provides a quarterly newsletter, and offers access to a vast network of election officials available by phone, fax or email. Membership information is available on our website at www.iacreat.com or by calling toll-free at 1-800-890-7368.

RIDENDO CASTIGAT MORES*

by Alex Dimitrov



*Chastise Manners with a Smile

CIVIL SOCIETY AT INTER-CONGOLESE DIALOGUE

After months of preparation, civil society organizations from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) presented a National Civil Society Common Agenda at the Inter-Congolese Dialogue (ICD) held in Sun City, South Africa, from February 25 to April 19, 2002. The IFES DRC office provided financial support and materials to help civil society organizations (CSOs) from the 11 Congolese provinces to harmonize their agendas and reach a national civil society consensus on issues related to the political reconciliation and reconstruction of the country. IFES organized two workshops and a national conference held in January 2002, where civil society delegates developed a united national platform for the ICD.

IFES SERIES ON BUILDING DEMOCRACY

An occasional series of roundtables bringing together international experts to discuss timely issues affecting democracy today. For more details visit the News & Information section of www.ifes.org.

IS MOLDOVA'S DEMOCRACY DOOMED?



On April 9, 2002, IFES hosted a roundtable discussion examining the Moldovan Communist Party's anti-democratic policy initiatives and their consequences for the country. Panelists spoke about growing public distrust and disillusionment, censorship and economic stagnation in Moldova.

The speakers were Ambassador Ceslav Ciobanu; Ambassador John Todd Stewart, Deputy Director of the Institute for International Economics; Igor Boțan, Executive Director of ADEPT, Moldova; Charles King, assistant professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service; and Vladimir Solonari, Reagan-Fascell Fellow with the National Endowment for Democracy.

KAZAKH YOUTHS MENTORED IN PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

On April 18, 2002, IFES hosted "The Modern Silk Road of Civic Education," a briefing on IFES' youth civic education programs in Kazakhstan. IFES Civil Society Senior Advisor Dr. Juliana Pilon and former IFES-Kazakhstan Project Director Bradley Austin spoke about several IFES initiatives to give young people in Kazakhstan hands-on experience in participatory democracy. The projects include a Civic Education textbook currently being tested in more than 300 schools; Student Local Government Days that enable students to observe the daily activities of their local governments; and Student Action Committees that work on local community concerns. Ms. Kadisha Dairova, the Kazakh Embassy's Councilor on Education, thanked IFES for its work with youth in Kazakhstan and mentioned that the Embassy is aware of many outstanding Kazakh students studying in the United States who are graduates of the IFES civic education programs.

Elections Canada

Elections Canada has published two new publications: the 2001 Compendium of Election Administration in Canada and the Comparative Overview.

The Compendium of Election Administration in Canada provides a comprehensive summary of the varying electoral frameworks used in Canadian jurisdictions at the federal, provincial and territorial levels to conduct elections for members of the Legislative Assembly, or House of Commons. Primarily based on the legislation in force, as of September 2001, the Compendium covers a range of issues, including the redistribution of electoral boundaries, the administration of elections, the registration of electors, the voting process, the nomination and registration of political entities, election financing and advertising, enforcement of the legislation, referendums and plebiscites. It also presents legislative recalls and initiatives and selected election statistics for each jurisdiction.

The Comparative Overview is an abridged, user-friendly overview of similarities and differences captured in the Compendium. Each chapter begins with a brief summary of an electoral topic, followed by summary tables. The Comparative Overview has been designed to be used in conjunction with the Compendium, which provides a more complete and exhaustive picture of the different electoral legislative frameworks.

Updated on a yearly basis, the Compendium and the Comparative Overview are useful tools to support research on the administration of elections in Canada. They both can be found on Elections Canada's website, www.elections.ca, under Electoral Law and Policy.