

REPORTS

UPDATE ON ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS, RECORDERS, ELECTION OFFICIALS AND TREASURERS (IACREOT)

IACREOT held its 30th Annual Conference and Trade Show on June 16-20, 2001, in Billings, Montana. In attendance were over 800 delegates, guests, and vendors. IACREOT President Gerald Gibson presided over this year's conference, which featured outstanding seminars on the latest developments in elections and election technology.

Election officials were offered the following topics for debate and discussion:

- Innovations in Election Equipment and Services in which more than 25 vendors presented their latest products.
- Internet Voting - The eCompany Perspective.
- Florida - The Real Story composed of three segments: Jane Carroll, Retired Supervisor of Elections from Broward County on the Florida recount; representatives from Voter News Service on early reporting of Presidential results; and Judge Patricia Lykos from Houston, Texas, with a discussion on working to regain the public trust in the election process.

Upon completion of the breakout seminars, delegates visited a trade show featuring the very latest in election equipment. IACREOT was proud to partner with IFES once again in the formal introduction of the 2001 Buyer's Guide for Election Services, Supplies and Equipment. A formal banquet brought the conference to a close with the swearing in of the officers for the year 2001-2002.

Next year's 31st Annual Conference is scheduled for Kansas City, Missouri from June 18-22, 2002. For information on membership and other IACREOT functions, call toll free at 1-800-890-7368 or visit our Web site at www.iacreot.com.

*ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN ELECTION AUTHORITIES (AAEA)*

Flora Nkurukenda, Deputy Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Uganda and Chair of the Association of African Election Authorities (AAEA) General Assembly, recently represented the Association at the *Consultative Meeting for a Proposed Forum for Appointed and Elected Parliamentarians and Corporate Officials on their Role in Development*. The Forum is an initiative by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and will serve as an advisory committee to the ECA in its efforts to enhance efficiency in assisting parliament to manage political and socio-economic transitions. Participants of the Forum include parliamentarians, senior officials from governments and government bodies, as well as regional and international organizations and non-governmental organizations. Ms. Nkurukenda was elected to the steering committee of the planned Forum.

Between April and June, the Secretariat received several articles for publication in a new edition of the AAEA newsletter. Submissions so far include articles from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone.

ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN ELECTION AUTHORITIES (AAEA)

As the interim Secretariat of the AAEA, IFES is finalizing preparations for the distribution of the Asian Law Compendium. After corresponding with various members of the AAEA, it was felt that the Law Compendium would be most effectively distributed via CD-ROM, given its longevity and ability to store large amounts of data.

IFES is continuing to communicate with Chairman Bishnu Shah, also Election Commissioner of Nepal, regarding a convenient date and location for the AAEA Executive Board Meeting. Due to the recent murders of the Royal Family in Nepal, communications and plans for the board meeting were temporarily halted. The agenda currently includes Cambodia's membership to the AAEA, the location of the permanent secretariat, membership dues, the establishment of an active on-line community, and development of funding capacities to support AAEA's sustainability.

A prototype of the Asian Law Compendium will be on display at the board meeting and plans will be made for future distribution. Based upon the decisions made at the board meeting, the interim secretariat will establish a permanent secretariat and train personnel.

www.ifes.org/AsiaAssocSite

ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN ELECTION OFFICIALS (ACEEEO)



The 10th Anniversary Conference of the ACEEEO, *Transparent Election Campaign Financing in the 21st Century* will be held October 14 - 16, 2001 on the historic island of Brijuni in Croatia. The conference will focus on campaign financing and election fraud. Experiences gained from elections throughout

Southeastern Europe will also be discussed. The event is co-hosted by IFES, ACEEEO, and the State Election Commission of Croatia and will draw over 100 election officials, experts, and equipment and services providers from Europe and around the world. A draft agenda of the conference can be found at <http://www.aceeeo.com/newslet/brijuni.htm>.

Presentations, workshops, and materials will provide participating countries with valuable resources on campaign finance. IFES has commissioned a comparative study on campaign finance with funding from USAID and will report on it. The results of the study will be published on CD-ROM and distributed to practitioners, politicians, and scholars.

The event will also allow election officials to learn about new election technologies. As in the past, companies supplying election equipment to countries around the world will display products at the Election Equipment and Services Exhibition. To learn how to participate in the conference, visit www.aceeeo.com/newslet/announcement2.jpg.



ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN ELECTORAL ORGANIZATIONS (ACEO)

The Second General Assembly of the ACEO held in Kingston, Jamaica, July 30-31, 2001, brought together distinguished election administrators from around the region and the world. Flora Nkurukenda, Deputy Chairman of the Election Commission in Uganda, and Lance Gough, Chairman of the Chicago Board of Elections in the United States, spoke on the benefits of the

national and regional election administration associations they represent. They also discussed the activities of their associations in areas such as technical assistance to fellow members, election observation missions, and professional development training.

During the professional development sessions, voter registration experts showcased new voter registration technology and their appropriate application for the region. Unique features of the region include the Automated Fingerprinting Identification System (AFIS) of Jamaica's voter registration system and the security features of the new voter identification card in the Dominican Republic.

Javier Cabreja, Executive Director of Citizen Participation, a civil society organization based in the Dominican Republic; Bishop Robert Rivas, President of the Christian Council of St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and Jeffrey Mordecai, Board Member of Citizen Action for Free and Fair Elections (CAFFE) of Jamaica shared their experiences in drawing attention to citizen concerns and election monitoring. www.ifes.org/caribbean/index.htm

ASSOCIATION OF ELECTORAL ADMINISTRATORS (AEA)



The June 7 elections in the United Kingdom, originally scheduled for May 3 but postponed due to the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease, dominated events this summer.

The Parliamentary Election attracted the lowest turnout in modern times-59%. Reasons for this are the subject of much debate. A survey showed that 21% could not get to the polling station; 16% were away on Election Day; 15% were not registered; 11% did not receive a poll card; and 10% were not interested in voting. Turnout was down nearly 20% in the last two elections and, with postal voting available on demand, there were arguably even fewer reasons for people not to vote.

Late changes in the Electoral Law and information on fees put election administrators under huge pressure. Many AEA members felt that the system was close to a breakdown. Tight deadlines, limited staff resources, a 300% increase in the number of postal votes, and a heated debate about the increased risk of fraud further aggravated the situation.

www.aea-elections.co.uk

ASSOCIATION OF ELECTION OFFICIALS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (AEOBiH)

During June and July, AEOBiH took measures to resolve the problem of rejected ballots in the last General Elections. Of nearly 80,000 voters who cast tendered ballots, approximately one half was approved, while the remaining ballots were rejected and therefore not counted. Financial assistance was granted to 26 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to conduct various registration activities such as formation of mobile Voter Registration Centers; broadcasts via local radio and television; printing and distribution of announcements, posters, and leaflets; and organization of meetings with political parties, secretaries of local communities and the local media.

The first round of the Elections Course for AEOBiH members was held in Tuzla during May, June, and July 2001. Recently certified AEOBiH instructors conducted the course and helped 20 other members of the AEOBiH acquire comprehensive knowledge on international election standards, election systems, and the (draft) election law and election administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Beginning in September, identical courses will be offered for AEOBiH members from the Banja Luka, Sarajevo, and Mostar regions.

AEOBiH members also participated in four election observation programs in Italy, England, Bulgaria, and Albania. These observation missions constitute a part of a comprehensive professional development program that IFES/AEOBiH is conducting for election officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina. www.aeobih.com.ba