

AFRICA & NEAR EAST

DEMOCRACY RESOURCE CENTERS



In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), IFES has opened two new Resource Centers, in Kikwit (Bandundu Province) and Lubumbashi (Katanga Province). These centers are equipped with books and computers to enhance

the local populace's understanding of local and world democracy issues. The centers provide hard copies of magazines, newspapers, publications and books as well as an interactive computer room where visitors are trained to



use the Internet. Once trained, users are invited to do research in the field of elections, governance, rule of law and civil society strengthening. The centers are visited by students, academics, journalists and civil society leaders who use the facilities not only to access up-to-date information, but also to meet and strategize about the most appropriate activities to organize in the current political and transitional context in the DRC. For example seminars have been held on truth and reconciliation and on the creation of a National Electoral Commission in light of the outcomes of the Inter Congolese Dialogue. The recent opening of Resource Centers in Kikwit and Lubumbashi complements the work of the Kinshasa Resource Center, which has been operational since 1998. IFES plans to open additional Resource Centers in Matadi (Bas-Congo Province) and Kananga (Kasai Occidental).

AMERICAS

JUDICIAL REFORM EXCHANGE



IFES, in conjunction with its field office in Haiti, hosted a week-long series of discussions on justice reform with counterparts in the Dominican Republic from August 26 to 30, 2002 at the Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE) in Santo Domingo.

The IFES program in Haiti, entitled *Constituency Building for Judicial Reform*, has organized working groups in the legal, human rights, education, business and media sectors to advocate for judicial reform. Advisors from each working group traveled to the Dominican Republic to meet with counterparts in each sector to discuss successful coalition-building efforts, specific activities undertaken to enhance judicial independence and programs to enhance the capacity of judicial civil society organizations in the Dominican Republic.

"This exchange provided advocates of democracy and judicial independence in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic with the opportunity to share experiences and information and build solidarity between them in their quest for free democratic societies," said Almami Cyllah, IFES Haiti Project Director.

September: Taliban Muslim fundamentalists capture Afghan capital.



October: Ethnic violence breaks out in Zairian refugee camps; thousands of refugees from Rwanda and Burundi abandon camps.



December: Thousands march in Belgrade in continuing protest against president's annulment of election



1996

IFES commissions a public survey on constitutional reform in Ukraine and holds forums to educate the public about the new constitution.



IFES receives international appointments from the OSCE to supervise the first post-conflict election in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

IFES helps arrange for domestic polling observers in Romania's November election.

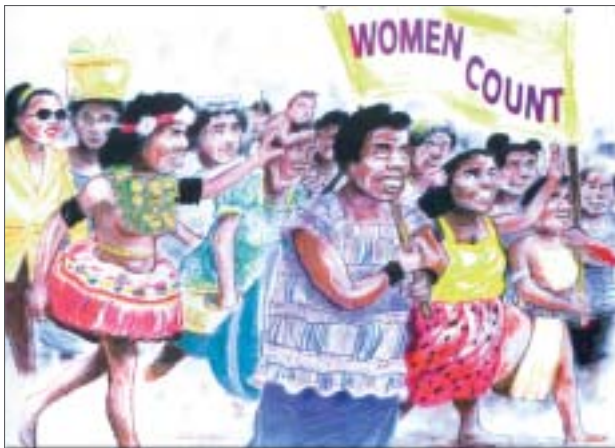
IFES begins partnership with CNN International to provide material for the *Election Watch* broadcast and website.

electionguide.org CNN.com

ASIA
INFORMATION & TRANSPARENCY

IFES initiatives to promote information and transparency in Asia have spanned the region, from the South Pacific to South Asia. Two examples:

In 1999, IFES assisted the Election Commission of Nepal in instituting a system to collect and verify election returns as soon as possible. The goal was to release election results to the media and post them on the Internet in order to inform Nepal's citizens and the world of the results in an accurate, timely and transparent way. The project was a success and the Election Commission plans to reinstate the system for the next parliamentary elections.



This year in Papua New Guinea, marginalized rural women received entertaining cartoon-style booklets with the message, "Women Count." The booklet was part of an IFES initiative with an alliance of women's groups to inform women and men that women are important to the community—and so is their participation in elections.

The information campaign in Papua New Guinea was simple; the Internet-oriented information campaign in Nepal was sophisticated. One was produced by civil society groups, the other by an election commission. Both have an underlying message that is instructive for all of us: informed citizens, together with transparent governments, are the key to democratization.

EUROPE & EURASIA
MONEY & POLITICS

Disclosure of financial accounts is a key component of an effective political finance regime. Tracking the money allows voters to make better-informed decisions, thereby strengthening the election system as a whole. To be effective, information about political finance must be made available to political and oversight groups, the media and ultimately, the electorate.



IFES MAP Model Database allows users to examine political finance information from many different angles.

To meet this need, IFES has launched the Money and Politics (MAP) Program, a Web-based model database that allows countries around the world to disseminate and decipher information about political finance that is commonly buried inside official bulletins and publications. The MAP database utilizes Microsoft Access and the .net platform and can be customized for use in any country. The implementing partner, usually an election commission or oversight NGO, is provided with the materials and support to develop a database that conforms to each country's particular laws and technical requirements. Training and public information materials are also provided to educate political parties, NGOs and the media on how to use the database, the kind of information available and how to analyze it.

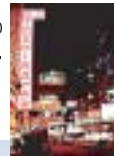
During the pilot phase, IFES has worked with the Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials (ACEEEO) to adapt the database for use in Hungary and Lithuania, working in each case with election management bodies and selected NGOs. Drawing on its experience in these two countries, IFES is targeting and expanding the MAP Program to other countries with support from the United States Agency for International Development.

January: Israelis and Palestinians sign Hebron Agreement

March: State of anarchy in Albania when third of population loses savings because of pyramid schemes.



June: Hong Kong returns to Chinese rule.



July: Khmer Rouge holds trial of longtime leader Pol Pot.



1997

IFES plays critical role in making possible elections in war-torn Liberia.



IFES organizes the first conference of the Association of Asian Election Officials (AAEO), in the Philippines.

IFES organizes the first conference of the Association of Caribbean Electoral Organizations (ACEO). The San Juan Declaration is adopted at the conference, the first IFES disability effort.

