Reports

Regional and Association News

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS, RECORDERS, ELECTION OFFICIALS AND TREASURERS

IACREOT will hold its 33rd Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas from July 17-21, 2004. IACREOT expects more than 800 delegates, guests and vendors to attend the conference, which will contain over 15 hours of classroom education and special seminars and will be held at three venues: the Hyatt Regency on the Riverwalk, the Hilton Palacio del Rio and the San Antonio Convention Center. This year's conference has been organized by IACREOT President Robert Parten (Fort Worth, TX) and Melinda Nickless (Austin, TX).

The IACREOT Trade Show, one of the largest exhibits of election technology in the world, will once again display the latest in election utilities, focusing this year on technology related to the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The conference's Election Officials Division will also focus on the parameters and requirements of HAVA and will include a panel of the four newly appointed U.S. Election Assistance Commissioners, who will discuss the current status of HAVA implementation.

The Election Officials Division will also include a presentation by Doug Chapin of electionline.org about changes introduced by HAVA, a talk by Dr. Susan Zevin of the National Institute of Standards and Technology about NIST's responsibilities for voting systems under HAVA and a special seminar on voting by provisional ballot. The session for Election Officials will open with an International Seminar, facilitated by IFES Director for Programs Scott Lansell. Invited guests include Dr. Carlos Ugalde and Manuel Carillo of Mexico's IFE.

To attend the IACREOT Conference, please contact Tony Sirvello at 1.800.890.7368, through tjsthree@msn.com, or at 2400 Augusta Drive, Suite 250, Houston, TX 77057.

ASSOCIATION OF ELECTION OFFICIALS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Thanks to funding from the American Development Foundation, the AEOBiH has begun to implement the project entitled "Strengthening of the Role of Local Communities in Local Politics" between October 1, 2003 and May 31, 2004.

This project increases citizen involvement in local decision-making processes and thereby encourages citizens to become more interested in the electoral process. This goal is achieved through the innovative practice of acquainting citizens with their municipal governments and the services they provide, thus informing citizens and fostering citizen-municipality partnerships. By providing information about elections, the project increases the likelihood that citizens will participate in them, preventing low voter turnout. Information centers for citizens are established in partner municipalities so that municipal administrations can more efficiently serve citizens.

For more information visit www.aeobih.com.ba.

PACIFIC ISLANDS, AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND ELECTORAL ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION

The PIANZEA Secretariat has established an interim PIANZEA BRIDGE Advisory Group to help facilitate the implementation of the Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections Project (BRIDGE), as well as the implementation of the Generic Voter Registration System (GVRS). The group is composed of senior electoral administrators who represent the sub-regions of Polynesia, Melanesia, Micronesia and Australasia, as well as a representative from International IDEA and representatives from the University of the South Pacific's Pacific Institute of Advanced Studies in Development and Governance, the PIANZEA Secretariat and the BRIDGE Office.

The group spent three days together in March 2004 in Canberra, Australia developing a detailed draft plan and an outline of the curriculum content for the implementation of the BRIDGE project and the GVRS throughout the Pacific region. The group also joined members of the Australian Election Commission to participate in a two-day BRIDGE module on electoral systems.

The implementation of these projects throughout the Pacific is estimated to begin in the second half of 2004.