

## Reports

# Update on Association Activities

## ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN ELECTION AUTHORITIES

The second edition of the Association of African Election Authorities (AAEA) Newsletter was published at the end of September and sent out to the Association's full and associate members, foreign governments, international, nongovernmental and intergovernmental organizations.

Articles in the most recent newsletter include: *"Ghana Prepares for Election 2000,"* by David Kanga, Deputy Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Ghana; *"New National Electoral Commission for Sierra Leone,"* by Sue Palmer, Senior Program Officer, International Foundation for Election Systems; *"Electoral Reforms in Burkina Faso,"* by Sié Jean de la Croix Pooda, Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission of Burkina Faso; *"Nigeria's INEC Goes Public,"* by Joe Baxter, IFES Senior Advisor for Election Administration and Project Manager in Nigeria; *"The Problem of Voter Education in Kenya,"* by Samuel Kivuitu, Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Kenya; *"The Ugandan Referendum in Retrospect,"* by Flora Nkurunkenda, Deputy Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Uganda; *"Personal Perspectives on the Zimbabwean Elections,"* by Dr. Baffour Ageyman-Duah, Associate Executive Director of Ghana's Center for Democracy and Development; and *"Personal Perspectives on the Zimbabwean Elections,"* by Dr. Afari-Gyan, Chairman of the Electoral Commission of Ghana. 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- and democracy-related information throughout the African continent.

At the end of September, Dr. Afari-Gyan finalized a questionnaire on the institutional capacities of the Association's member election authorities. The questionnaire asks AAEA members to provide information on the responsibilities and composition of their electoral body, tenure of key members, organizational structure, staff strength, in-house training programs, and the size of their annual budget. The information provided in the questionnaire will form the core of an AAEA database on the institutional capacities of African election bodies.



[www.ifes.org/afrassoc](http://www.ifes.org/afrassoc)

## ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN ELECTION AUTHORITIES

The Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) in cooperation with its interim secretariat, IFES, recently launched the *Asian Election Law Compendium*, an electronic collection of election laws from across Asia, available for review at [www.ifes.org/AsiaAssocSite/compendium.htm](http://www.ifes.org/AsiaAssocSite/compendium.htm).

The Compendium is a collection of the most current national election laws in the region. It offers a range of election law

information and allows easy access for election officials, lawmakers, NGOs, analysts, and voters across Asia and around the world. Visitors to the site can research and compare laws, track new procedures, and understand common practices in Asia. Countries included in the compendium are Australia, Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam. The website, arranged in a user-friendly style by year and topic, enables the AAEA to provide a free and accessible tool for accurate research and clear communication. The AAEA secretariat will continue collecting and updating laws to maintain the accuracy and effectiveness of the Compendium, and will produce a print version in the coming months.

The AAEA website also contains a summary of AAEA activities since the Association's establishment in 1997. The site includes background information on the AAEA, its charter, project and activity reports, and press releases. With the exchange of information and ideas facilitated by the website, the Association looks forward to promoting transparent and fair elections and democratic development worldwide.

[www.ifes.org/AsiaAssocSite](http://www.ifes.org/AsiaAssocSite)

## ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN ELECTION OFFICIALS

As part of a continued commitment to Southeastern Europe, the Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials (ACEEEO) has joined the Council of Europe to observe the important upcoming local elections in Kosovo.

This formal agreement marks an important step for the Association towards achieving its goal of formalizing agreements with other intergovernmental organizations and NGOs in the region. ACEEEO also took part in supervising the most recent round of elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These activities complement ACEEEO's efforts to develop a network of election officials from across Southeastern Europe.

The Association is also developing its EUROVOTES training center. The Secretariat is currently seeking funds for *"Media and Elections,"* a training program targeted toward election officials and representatives from the mass media. The goal of the project is to ensure that credible media sources offer accurate election-related information to the voting public, in a transparent and balanced manner. Over the period of a full week, 60 participants will gather in Győr, Hungary with a cadre of international media experts to discuss relevant issues.



Since its inception, part-time individuals working pro bono have staffed the Secretariat. However, as the Association's activities continue to increase, so must its Secretariat. As a part of this capacity-building effort, the ACEEEO has used funding from the C.S. Mott Foundation to hire a full-time staff member, Mate Radics. He has an extensive background in economics and will focus his efforts on developing new initiatives for the Association. As part of his training, Mr. Radics is spending three weeks at IFES in Washington, D.C. While at there, he will work closely with staff and attend courses to develop his fund-raising and project management skills.

For more information on these activities, please contact the ACEEEO Secretariat at [aceeeo@konyv.kozig.b-m.hu](mailto:aceeeo@konyv.kozig.b-m.hu).

[www.aceeeo.com](http://www.aceeeo.com)

## ASSOCIATION OF CARIBBEAN ELECTORAL ORGANIZATIONS

Several distinguished regional election administrators closely involved in the Caribbean's efforts to establish an election association, will speak at the *Second Association of Caribbean Electoral Organizations (ACEO) General Assembly*, expected to take place in early 2001. Attending election administrators will report on past attempts by the electoral authorities of the Caribbean to organize a regional association and promote meaningful activities. The ACEO Executive Board members will also share their experiences in developing the ACEO work plan. With historical and current perspectives in mind, the ACEO members will discuss the direction of ACEO's future activities.



The Chairman of the Executive Board has offered Jamaica as the site of the Second General Assembly. The Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ) and the Electoral Advisory Committee (EAC) will soon confirm a date in early 2001 for the conference. The electoral authorities, the ACEO Co-Secretariats, IFES and the Organization of American States (OAS) are discussing methods of sharing conference costs.

Another subject to be discussed at the General Assembly is the relocation of the Secretariat. Prior to the conference, the ACEO member countries will be invited to submit proposals for the relocation site. The members will discuss and vote on new Executive Board members, activities to be included in the 2001 ACEO Work Plan, payment of ACEO membership fees and consideration of new ACEO members.

Professional development sessions on regional voter registration systems are planned. ACEO members selected voter registration as the topic of most interest for future professional development sessions during the 1998 Founding General Assembly. Presentations on select countries' experiences and demonstrations on various technical applications will help countries in the region contemplating upgrades or changes to their current systems.

[www.ifes.org/caribbean/index.htm](http://www.ifes.org/caribbean/index.htm)

## ASSOCIATION OF ELECTORAL ADMINISTRATORS

The Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA) continues to press for the implementation of major changes in British Electoral Law. Progress is steady but slow. With the possibility of a Parliamentary Election in May 2001 combined with County Council Elections, the Association is embarking on an ambitious training program to ensure that all electoral staff members are familiar with the new procedures.



Plans are well advanced for the Association's Annual Seminar in Blackpool from February 25-28, 2001. In light of so many changes taking place, record attendance at the seminar is anticipated.

During the past month, there have been many requests for members to monitor elections – mainly in Eastern Europe, but also in Tanzania.

The Association contributed to a recent conference organized by the Swedish International Development Agency that focused on the need to achieve common European Standards for the training, briefing and debriefing of election observers. The Association will be pressing the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office to implement the suggestions discussed at the conference.

On September 30, John Turner retired as AEA Chairman. Turner contributed tremendously to the AEA, particularly in terms of improving the Association's educational and training programs. He also significantly raised the Association's profile within the UK. George Smith has stepped in as Turner's successor.

[www.aea-elections.co.uk](http://www.aea-elections.co.uk)

## ASSOCIATION OF ELECTION OFFICIALS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The Association of Election Officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina (AEOBiH) is fully engaged in activities related to the preparation and administration of General Elections, which will take place on Saturday, November 11, 2000.

**Polling Station Committee Training:** 32 AEOBiH members are currently training Polling Station Committees in cooperation with the OSCE Elections Training Branch. As of mid-October, AEOBiH trained more than 19,000 PSC members.

*Trainer Aleksandra Jovanovic using the training video in the Sarajevo region.*



IFES Photo



*Polling station committee trainers from the Banja Luka region.*

**Voter Information and Education:** In order to ensure the most successful implementation of the General Elections, the AEOBiH, with assistance from IFES Sarajevo, is providing resources to municipal election commissions to enable them to conduct voter information and education activities at the local level. These activities will include: visits to local communities; distribution of printed lists of polling station locations; education of elderly and disabled voters; round-table discussions with political parties, NGOs, and citizens; and setting up telephone hotlines to provide assistance during the week leading up to and on election day.

**Consultations with Municipal Election Commissions:** Sixteen members of the AEOBiH carried out consultations with 96 members of Municipal Election Commissions (MECs) across Bosnia and Herzegovina during the months of September and October. The purpose of this exercise was to identify, analyze, and resolve potential difficulties that the MECs may experience in their work prior to the General Elections. Important topics covered during consultations included voter information, polling station committees, budget and resources for elections, and voter registers.

The AEOBiH will be holding their Second Annual Conference and Assembly Meeting on December 8-10 in Tesli, where further analyses of the implementation of the General Elections will be conducted. For more information, please visit the newly-launched AEOBiH web site at [www.aeobih.com.ba](http://www.aeobih.com.ba).

[www.oscebih.org/languages.asp](http://www.oscebih.org/languages.asp)



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

The International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Elections Officials and Treasurers (IACREOT), in association with the University of Missouri, is introducing a Certified Public Administrator Program. Twelve modules, each lasting approximately three hours, are being developed. (A list of modules will be available in the next edition of *Elections Today*.) IACREOT

anticipates that this program will provide its members with an additional benefit in offering its members advanced educational opportunities in the field of election administration.

IACREOT members can qualify for a Certificate as a Certified Public Administrator after completing at least eight of the twelve modules, a total of approximately twenty-four hours of study. There will be a one-time enrollment fee (to be determined) and a separate charge for each module.

These modules will be offered for the first time at the IACREOT Mid-Winter Meeting in Billings, Montana on January 17-20, 2001. Modules to be offered include "American National Government" (with a tie-in to the Presidential Election) and "Dynamics of Public Policy."

Interested public officials must be a member of IACREOT and must register for the certification program when signing up for an individual module. (Certified Public Administrator Program modules are available only to those persons enrolled in the program.)

For more information on the program, contact Connie Kaplan, IACREOT Education Chair, at [ckaplan@earthlink.net](mailto:ckaplan@earthlink.net). For information on membership and details about future IACREOT activities and meetings, please consult our website [www.iacreot.com](http://www.iacreot.com) or call President Gerald Gibson toll-free at 1-800-890-7368.

[www.iacreot.com](http://www.iacreot.com)

## PACIFIC ISLANDS, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND ELECTORAL ADMINISTRATORS' NETWORK

Subsequent to the Pacific Islands, Australia and New Zealand Electoral Administrators' Network (PIANZEA) workshop held in Brisbane, Australia in February 2000, the network is in the process of developing a series of activity plans covering the following areas: election planning checklists, electoral staff training, benchmarks for costs of elections, information technology, election material and equipment suppliers, and campaign funding.

Mrs. Taua Eritai has been appointed the Chief Electoral Officer for Kiribati replacing Alexander Teabo.

The Papua New Guinea Electoral Commission (PNGEC) has begun an extensive program of administrative and staff capacity building. Stage one of the plan calls for an extensive registration program already started in May 2000 and extending through July 2001. The registration process has been changed to institute a continuous computerized register allowing the PNGEC to maintain a more accurate Common Roll. New equipment, such as bar code scanners and optical fiber, has been employed alongside simple manual techniques. The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), with funding from the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), is assisting the PNGEC.

The AEC's Director of New Initiatives and Special Projects, Rod Medew, is currently working with the Office of the Electoral Commission Pohnpei (Federated States of Micronesia) in undertaking an assessment for the development of a computerized general state register.

[www.aec.gov.au/pianzea/pianzea.htm](http://www.aec.gov.au/pianzea/pianzea.htm)

*The reports printed on pages 21-24 were provided by the organizations / associations featured above.*