

Europe and Asia Report



May 1999

IFES Assists Indonesia's KPU Prepare for Elections

During the month of May, IFES on-site technical assistance to the General Election Commission (KPU) entered into a critical pre-election phase as the 7 June elections approached. KPU's activities were mainly focused on finalizing the registration process, securing voting materials, implementing pollworker training sessions, and undertaking voter education programs. Thus, IFES assistance continued to support the electoral process in Indonesia. IFES' specific programmatic activities included the following: (1) technical assistance for revision of the election laws; (2) analysis and advice on election administration issues, including regulations and election materials design; (3) continued implementation of a voter education media campaign and development of a joint operations media center for the KPU; (4) production of pollworker training materials and planning for a poll worker evaluation effort during election day; and (5) development of management manuals for all levels of the national election committees.

(Indonesia continued on Page 18)



An Indonesian voter checks in to receive his ballot papers to vote in Parliamentary elections held on

Europe	
Albania	p. 2
Belarus	p. 2
Bosnia and Herzegovina.	p. 2
Moldova	p. 5
Russian Federation	p. 6
Slovakia	p. 8
Ukraine	p. 9
Caucasus/Central Asia	
Armenia	p. 10
Azerbaijan	p. 11
Georgia	p. 13
Kazakhstan.	p. 14
Kyrgyzstan	p. 15
Tajikistan	p. 16
Uzbekistan	p. 17
Asia	
Association of Asian Election Authorities	p. 18
Indonesia	p. 18
Nepal	p. 19
Philippines.....	p. 21

Armenia Holds Parliamentary Elections

June 7, 1999.

On 30 May Armenia held its second democratic elections to the National Assembly, the country's Parliament. The election was the first to be held under the Universal Electoral Code (UEC) which was signed into law by President Kocharian earlier this year and established a 131 member Parliament. Twenty-one parties and/or blocs competed for the 56 seats allocated proportionally, while 808 majoritarian candidates vied for the remaining 75 seats which will represent 75 districts around the country.

(Armenia continued on page 10)

EUROPE

ALBANIA

New IFES/Albania Project Manager Arrives in Tirana

IFES is pleased to announce the arrival of Mr. Dickson Bailey at its Tirana office after a week-long training session at the IFES/Washington office. Mr. Bailey will serve as the IFES Project Manager for the legal reform and Central Election Commission (CEC) development project for the next year. Prior to his assignment in Albania, Mr. Bailey served as the Provincial Coordinator in the Local Government Election Office and as the Executive Director of Provincial Initiatives in the Department of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs for the Government of Saskatchewan, Canada.

Cooperation with the Ministry of Legislative Reform and Relations with the Parliament

During the month of May, IFES Election Assessment Advisor Charlotte Souibes met with Valentina Zace, the head of the sub-task force in charge of electoral code reform. Both Ms. Zace and the Minister of Legislative Reform and Relations with the Parliament, Mr. Arben Imami, welcomed IFES assistance in the procedural development of the permanent CEC. Specifically, IFES has been asked for technical assistance on the following issues: the Law on Parliamentary Elections, the Law on Local Elections, the Law on Presidential Elections, CEC regulations, campaign financing regulations and laws regulating the electronic media coverage of elections.

A preliminary agreement has been reached outlining cooperation in these areas. Under the terms of this proposed cooperation, IFES and the MLR will establish a working group – the Advisory Panel of Experts (APE) - to advise and present a new electoral code draft. IFES will assist both the MLR and the APE in the process of legal drafting, as well as assessing election resources.

IFES Provides Resource Materials to the MLR

IFES has provided a collection of materials from the IFES Resource Center to the MLR to serve as comparative resources for the election law drafting effort. Materials included: election laws from around Europe, the US, and Canada; legislation on CEC from around the world; instructive materials written by election experts from the Administration and Cost of Elections (ACE) Project, a joint education effort by IFES, the UN, and IDEA; and other documents related to elections and governance.

Status of the Permanent CEC

According to the Albanian constitution, a single, permanent CEC is to be established. It will comprise two members proposed by the Parliament, three by the High Council of Justice, and two by the President of the Republic. Currently, members are still being proposed by the various offices and bodies. Once in place, IFES will work with the new Commission to establish procedures and develop the body as an independent and permanent institution.

Impact Summary

Despite the Albanian government's preoccupation with the refugee crisis and the increasingly large demands being made on services and infrastructure by the larger international community, it recognizes the need to proceed with the drafting of a new electoral code and the creation of a new CEC. With the arrival of Mr. Bailey and the anticipated cooperation with the MLR, IFES/Albania will be able to pursue its work even more rigorously in the area of electoral reform. The month of May was spent re-establishing relationships with relevant actors in the area of legislative reform and laying the foundation for cooperation. It is anticipated that cooperation with the MLR will be finalized in June and the APE selected so that the drafting process can begin.

BELARUS

Survey Report in Final Stages

Beginning early in May, IFES initiated a sociological survey of the population in Belarus under funding from USAID. At this point, the survey report, based on data collected throughout Belarus during the month, is near completion. IFES survey specialist expert Dr. Larissa Titarenko is finalizing her report in coordination with Mr. Thomas Carson. The survey examines the Belarusian public's attitudes towards the economic and political state of affairs in Belarus, as well as its views on private land ownership, reform programs, and international organizations. IFES will use the survey to identify the needs of Belarus in making the transition to democracy should an opportunity arise in the future for IFES to begin work in the country. Once completed, IFES will share the survey report with USAID/Minsk and USAID/Washington in addition to numerous interested participants in the field of international development and assistance.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BiH)

NATO Bombing Creates Problems for the Republika Srpska

While tensions lessened in Republika Srpska (RS) this month as NATO continued its bombing of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the RS was still very much effected by the conflict. The RS's already poor economy has been hard hit by the loss of approximately \$380 million in trade with Yugoslavia and about 50,000 jobs. The RS is also facing an influx of approximately 30,000 refugees from Serbia; 20,000 of these are Bosnia Serbs who had fled during the war in Bosnia, another 9,500 are Croatian Serbs who fled from Croatia in 1995. The UNHCR estimates that 17,590 Serbs and Montenegrins have arrived in BiH, 18,500 ethnic Albanian refugees, and 20,550 Yugoslav Moslems from Yugoslavia's southern Sanjak region.

BiH to Receive \$1.05 billion in Aid for 1999

At the 20-21 May Donor's Conference, High Representative Carlos Westendorp told representatives of the Western governments and institutions sponsoring the peace process that Bosnia "was on the right track but called on Bosnian leaders to

speed it up.” (*Reuters*, 5/20/99). He stated that progress had been made in the last year but more could have been achieved if all political parties behaved more responsibly. He also stated that improvement is still needed in the areas of the judiciary and media. He praised, however, the calm reaction of Bosnia's Serbs to the Kosovo conflict. The donors pledged \$1.05 million in aid for 1999 bringing the total of aid to \$5.2 million in the period from 1996 to 1999. The World Bank reports that an additional \$2.6 billion will be needed from 2000 to 2004 to complete post-war reconstruction, peace implementation activities, and economic reform.

IFES Co-Sponsors Second Congress of Election Officials

From 14-16 May, local election commission members, OSCE election officers, and representatives of NGOs from across BiH came together for the second time to participate in a nationwide congress of election officials sponsored by the OSCE and IFES. At this forum, election professionals had the chance to meet each other, exchange their points of view, as well as gain new information from international experts. At IFES' invitation, Mr. Keith Hathaway, IFES' advisor to the Task Force on the Formation of an Association and member of the UK's Association of Electoral Authorities (AEA), Mr. Istvan Zsuffa of the Association of Central and Eastern European Election Officials (ACEEEO), and Mr. Robert Parten of the International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers (IACREOT) discussed their experience with professional associations and offered their support for such an association in BiH. Mr. Hathaway, Mr. Alexei Avtonomov of Foundation for the Development of Parliamentarianism in Russia, and Mr. Arnis Ciminars, Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Latvia, addressed the topic of comparative electoral systems. Mr. Avtonomov also offered his experience with NGO law development.

The second day of the conference was devoted to discussion of civic education and the role of election officials in such activities. Mr. Ciminars discussed his experience with civic education in a multi-ethnic society and the initiatives of the Latvian Central Election Commission to encourage all members of society to participate. Velko Miloev and Ninoslav Badrov of the IFES Civic Education Initiative discussed their current work encouraging civic action in BiH and their results. IFES Program Assistant Denise Wales developed a training session for participants in which they could further discuss civic education and generate ideas as to how election officials can work together to ensure public participation in the electoral process.

A key topic of the conference was the ongoing work being done to register the Association of Election Officials of BiH. With advice from Mr. Hathaway the Task Force, elected at the first congress, developed an alternative strategy for registering the association due to the fact that there is no law on associations and foundations at the state level. There was a general consensus that the association would be registered in each of the two entities. However, the registration documents would include the same name of the association, same statutes, founding members, and executive board members. While the original goal was to

establish the association as a single organization covering the entire territory of BiH, there remains a constitutional question as to the competence of the BiH legislative body to enact legislation regarding registration of such an association. The question centers on whether passage of such a law is only within the competence of the Entities under the Constitution. Since the debate over this issue could take time to resolve, the alternative strategy is being pursued so the association can gain status as a legal entity and begin its operations.

Voter Registration Underway

As part of on-going efforts to nationalize election administration of the OSCE Elections Department, headed by IFES Election Administration Specialist Linda Edgeworth, 1999 voter registration is being conducted largely by local election commissions (LECs). All Voter Registration Center staff were trained and given manuals and registration materials nationwide. IFES Technician Fitzgerald Jean developed software to enable the municipalities to have limited remote access to the 1998 voter register and 1991 Census data. OSCE field offices will have a CD-ROM with the census and voter registry, also prepared by Jean, so that the international registration compliance officers can personally verify and spot-check the forms completed at the Voter Registration Centers. LECs were also partly responsible for voter information and employed a variety of means to distribute public announcements regarding the start of registration in their respective areas, including posters, radio, and TV announcements.

Most registration centers opened on 10 May. Only five municipalities with special circumstances, including the Brcko district, did not open by the end of May. Due to the pending final decision on the Brcko Arbitration Award Annex, no new voter registration applications or additions of persons to the registers for the two Brcko municipalities will be processed. However, centers are open in the district area to enable individuals who have already registered to view their voter registration records and make corrections as necessary. The centers are also authorized to refine the assignment of existing voters to their corrected settlements. A voter registration information campaign has been initiated in the District to help voters understand its unique registration circumstances.

Out of Country Voting Proceeds

As of 31 May, BiH voters in the Republic of Croatia are able to register for out of country voting through the Office of Displaced Persons and Refugees. They can do so on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed last week with the Croatian government. The Out-of-Country By-Mail Support Center in Zagreb has completed training for Office of Displaced Persons and Refugees personnel on out of country registration procedures in nine of their 26 offices located throughout Croatia. The advertising campaign in Croatia has been curtailed so that it can be revised. The campaign will begin again next week with new advertisements, which will include more information about the Office of Displaced Persons and Refugees and will also appear on OSCE's web page.

The out of country registration process in the rest of the world continues successfully. As of this writing, OSCE received approximately 40,000 registration forms, of which more than 50% are already processed. IFES Technician Fitzgerald Jean was responsible for creating the software which will allow the OSCE to process these registration forms. He has also modified the scanner software and database to ensure that voters registering for the Brcko District are reviewed separately.

Permanent Election Law Public Information Campaign

The Election Information and Civic Education Branch, headed by IFES Public Information Specialist Elise Shoux, in conjunction with local polling agency PRISM, has been further analyzing the data collected in the March poll. Together they will conduct focus groups for the Permanent Election Law Information Campaign in the larger towns of BiH on 5 June. The questions will concern potential voters' motivation to register and to vote, as well as group members' opinions on different election systems and on problems connected with the multi-ethnic nature of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The results of this project will assist with more intensive study of the attitudes of citizens on issues of elections and electoral reform.

The campaign efforts will also involve roundtable discussions in the smaller towns and villages throughout BiH. This effort is being coordinated by IFES Legislative Awareness Specialist Jean Lavoie. Several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) throughout BiH are interested in participating in these roundtables and initiating other ways to foster discussion on the permanent election law. An NGO network is being established by the Center for Civic Initiatives (CCI), and OSCE Political Party Resource Centers will provide directions to NGOs on how to conduct meetings, educate the public, and summarize the information. The OSCE has asked the trainers from the IFES Civic Education Initiative to conduct a training for its 45 community facilitators in order to ensure that NGOs know how to explain the educational material, raise questions, animate the discussions, and draw conclusions. As part of the overall effort, the IFES civic education trainers will conduct 150 roundtables themselves in the more remote villages in the Livno, Doboje and Zenica municipalities.

Civic Activist Groups Continue Their Success

After the eighth month of the IFES Civic Education Initiative activity, under the leadership of Ed Morgan, IFES civic education trainers have worked with over 200 civic action initiatives (GAINs). This month the Livno office, managed by Igor Beros, had several successes. The Ljubuncic village GAIN saw work begin on its local outpatient clinic. Also, several GAINs in this area have received commitment from the Belgian government to fund their various projects. Other successes from Livno include the beginning of the rebuilding of the low voltage supply network in the Drvar opstina village of Bastasi, and the cantonal retired persons association getting support in both Drvar and Glamoc. Another youth GAIN also opened in.

Despite restrictions on travel to and within the Republika Srpska for international personnel on US-funded projects, the Doboje

team, under the direction of Velko Milojevic from Zenica, was able to function normally and also saw several successes this month. In the municipality of Stanari, parents started signing a petition declaring their readiness to contribute their labor for the reconstruction of the local school. In Srbac, the municipal authorities proved their commitment to meet the GAIN request by preparing the technical documentation and a cost estimate for the power supply network for the local communities of Prijebljezi, Nozicko, and Stari Martinac. In Vukosavlje, officials provided a written endorsement to the GAIN's request for repairs to the Josava school as a high municipal priority, providing technical documentation, and making a commitment to contact possible sponsors. Under the tutelage of IFES trainers, Dragan Pavlic and Ljubinko Djuric, the local community of Vukosavlje, Novo Naselje was able to get an additional 110 people approved by the International Red Cross to receive food through the public kitchen.

Members of the Seoci local community GAIN take a



break from working on the road which will connect three villages. IFES civic education trainers Hika Seleskovic (far left) and Miro Stjepanovich (far right) helped this GAIN to approach their municipal government for assistance.

Impact Summary

The process of nationalization of election administration in BiH continues through the training of BiH election officials in voter registration, comparative election systems and civic education. Through grass roots level efforts, the BiH public is increasing its knowledge of electoral systems and governance and their role as citizens in these areas.

MOLDOVA

Citizens of Moldova go to the Polls; Referendum Fails to Achieve Voter Threshold

The citizens of Moldova took to the polls 23 May to select local government officials and vote yes or no on a consultative referendum proposed by President Lucinschi to grant broader powers to the presidency in the forming of a cabinet. The 23

May balloting is the first since the boundaries of Moldova=s local governments were redrawn to provide more realistic jurisdictions and improve the efficiency of local governments. Prior to the implementation of the administrative-territorial reform package in November of 1998, the Republic of Moldova (roughly half the size of Florida, with a population of approximately 4.3 million) was divided into 40 districts. This districting was a reflection of the Soviet era=s intense centralization. Because the districts were so small, even the most modest of public works projects crossed jurisdictional boundaries and required the cooperation of the central government.

The 1998 reform package redistricted Moldova into 12 districts, in the hope that these larger districts would be able to better serve the needs of their constituents. The plan was not without opposition, however, as economic and political elites of the old districts feared losing their status with the implementation of the new plan and some ethnic groups within Moldova argued that by incorporating their communities into larger districts, their political leverage would be diluted and leave them open to persecution. In the largely ethnic Bulgarian community of Taraclia government officials boycotted the elections and polling stations were set up outside the Taraclia jurisdiction for those members of the Taraclia community who wished to participate.

The referendum initiated by President Petru Lucinschi asked voters to decide whether the president should be granted the power to form a cabinet and appoint a prime minister without first consulting Parliament. President Lucinschi introduced the referendum to the ballot after a crisis in March of this year when Moldova=s government was brought to a standstill because Parliament would not ratify the cabinet put forward by the President. The proposed referendum failed to achieve the threshold for referenda established by the Constitution that requires approval of referenda by 60% of all registered voters. As voter turnout was only from 55-60% of all registered voters, the referendum did not meet this standard. About 70% of those voters who did participate in the 23 May elections, however, did vote yes on the referendum. Regardless, of whether or not the referendum had passed, Parliament would still have to approve the measure, which would require altering the Constitution by a 2/3rds vote, an outcome that many observers see as unlikely.

The Central Electoral Commission (CEC) announced the election results amidst charges by some People=s Deputies of voter fraud and other election irregularities. Suspicions surrounding the CEC=s delay in reporting the election results were fueled by CEC members= contradictory statements to the media. MP Victor Cecan is chairing a committee to investigate these allegations, as well as the allegations by some People=s Deputies of delays by the CEC in releasing candidates= campaign finance reports and potential media bias by the CEC during the campaign. Reports from election observers, however, were largely favorable. Much of the criticism of the electoral process seems to stem from the administrative and logistical difficulties in tabulating such a large number of ballots by hand. The

tabulation process has caused delays in releasing official results which in the past, has undermined the public=s confidence in the electoral process. In local elections, Chisinau mayor Serafim Urechean was reelected with 51.05 percent of the vote, defeating former president Mircea Snegur. A winner was declared in 209 localities, of which 42 are members of the Bloc of the Communists, Agrarian Democrats, and Socialists (BCADS). BCADS candidates also prevailed in the Chisinau Municipal Council and county council elections, garnering 118 of the 312 open seats. A second round of elections will be held in 413 localities.

IFES Plays Critical Role in Assisting the CEC with Election Observation

Prior to the 23 May elections, IFES-Moldova staff members participated in a series of meetings with the Central Electoral Commission to consider the procedure for accrediting international election observers. At the request of the CEC, IFES prepared a series of documents for 14 Council of Europe election observers, including excerpts from the Electoral Code, the Law on Local Public Administration, and the Resolutions of the CEC. IFES also attended CEC sessions; at issue in the sessions were: air time for candidates, accreditation of domestic observers, candidate registration, and media coverage of the 23 May elections.

IFES expert Paul DeGregorio met with CEC Chairman Dumitru Nidelcu on 11 May to prepare for the local elections as well as the referendum. Mr. Nidelcu requested IFES=s assistance in providing materials for international observers and thanked IFES for training domestic observers.

IFES Trains 300 Local Observers and Assists in Training International Observers

IFES in cooperation with the League for Human Rights of Moldova (LADOM) trained over 300 domestic election observers in preparation for the 23 May local and referendum elections. The first training session was held in Cahul county and focused on the importance of free and fair elections in new democracies. More than twenty leaders of regional Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) attended the training which prepared them to in turn train their respective staffs. The second training session, held in Balti county, was moderated by IFES expert Paul DeGregorio and was hosted by Mostenitorii, a local NGO. IFES-Moldova issued several publications to the election monitors, including the Observer Form, the Poll Worker Guide, and the Domestic Observer Guide. Over two hundred domestic election workers accredited by the CEC attended the final two sessions held in Chisinau. The sessions were conducted by IFES in cooperation with the League of Human Rights of Moldova.

Following the training, IFES, LADOM, and CEC member Mihai Plamadeala held a press conference to discuss the observers= training, accreditation, selection, and the role they would play in the upcoming elections. Mr. Plamadeala stressed the importance of IFES=s *Electoral Guide* and *Observer Guide*. The press conference was covered by National TV, National Radio, BASA,

INFOTAG, and Flux.

IFES also assisted with OSCE's training of international election observers. IFES provided the international observers with electoral documents including the Electoral Code, the Law on Local Public Administration, the Resolutions of the CEC, and the Statute of the International Observer.

IFES Works with the NGO Public Service Certification Commission

IFES continues to cooperate closely with the NGO Public Certification Commission, which issued public service certificates to 15 domestic non-governmental organizations this month. It is notable that AMihai Eminescu was not issued a certificate, as the organization's representative failed to attend the certification session.

Civic Voice Emphasizes the Importance of 23 May Elections

In a collaborative effort with LADOM, IFES continued to produce the Civic Voice--The Voters= Electoral Guide radio program, which was broadcast by ANTENNA C-Chisinau. The programs emphasized the importance of the local and referendum elections, stressing the impact the elections may have on public administration reform and the future of Moldova. Other May programs discussed the role of local and international election observers, the overall importance of monitoring elections, and Electoral Code procedures that regulate voting.

IFES expert Paul DeGregorio and Senior Program Coordinator Igor Botan were interviewed in the May 17 program. DeGregorio and Botan discussed past international examples of free and fair elections, an observer's role in an election, as well as common types of election fraud in newly established democracies.

Impact Summary

IFES' work in training domestic poll watchers not only helped insure the integrity of the electoral process, but also encouraged public participation in the electoral process. By working with the CEC to provide community activists, members of political parties, and NGO workers with the tools to serve as effective poll watchers, IFES and the CEC support the development of an active political culture in Moldova.

The *Civic Voice* radio programs and newsletters provided the Moldovan public with reliable information on the local elections. The territorial restructuring, introduction of a referendum to the ballot, and the boycott of the elections by certain regions, created a confusing political environment. IFES identified this problem early on and worked with Parliament, the CEC and the presidency to keep the public informed on the issues and stress the importance of the May elections.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Primakov Sacked as Yeltsin Impeachment Fails by 17 Votes

Citing a lack of improvement in Russia's economy or the

development of a coherent economic recovery plan, on 12 May President Boris Yeltsin fired Prime Minister Yevgeniy Primakov from the post he had held since August 1998. Primakov's departure was quickly followed by Yeltsin's appointment of Sergei Stepashin as acting Prime Minister. A short-lived constitutional crisis resulted: the president is constitutionally empowered to dissolve the Duma should it fail to approve a nominee for Prime Minister after three votes, but would be barred from doing so if the Duma voted in favor of impeachment. The Russian constitution offers no clear indication of which branch of government prevails in such a situation.

Three days later, a 15 May vote by the Russian State Duma on five articles of impeachment against President Boris Yeltsin was unsuccessful, with the Communists and Yabloko unable to garner enough votes from other parties. The strongest charge, relating to Yeltsin's instigation of the 1994-1996 war with Chechnya, came just 17 votes shy of the 300 needed to pass. Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov denounced the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) and Our Home is Russia (NDR), both of which voted overwhelmingly against impeachment, as "Yeltsin's accomplices in bringing down the country," and claimed that Yabloko "[lost] their nerve" for failing to vote as a bloc in support of the charges.

In what was regarded as yet another victory for Yeltsin, the Duma easily approved of Stepashin's nomination on 19 May (298 votes for; 55 votes against; and 14 abstentions). The greatest support came from NDR, the LDPR, the Agrarian Party, and the Russia's Regions movement. Yabloko split its vote with two-thirds in favor of Stepashin.

Duma Elections Proceeds with Draft Legislation

The State Duma's impeachment proceedings against President Boris Yeltsin further delayed consideration of new Duma elections legislation. Nevertheless, the draft legislation successfully passed the second hearing on 21 May 1999. A full version of the draft law, in English and Russian, is available from IFES.

IFES/Russia domestic legal expert, Dr. Alexander Postnikov, reports that the new draft law on elections to the State Duma is in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1995 and its 1999 Amendments. The new draft more effectively addresses important issues pertaining to elections to the State Duma. Should the law be passed, it would promote a more refined and flexible legal base for free and fair elections to the State Duma.

The new draft addresses practically most electoral procedures paying much greater attention to detail. In the majority of cases such attention is justified given the more accurate and definitive approach to regulating various aspects of the electoral process, thereby reducing the possibility of liberal interpretations of certain provisions. However, in Dr. Postnikov's opinion, the authors of the new draft have overly indulged in details and crossed the line beyond which legal provisions assume the form of administrative instructions regulating particular steps and

stages of the election process. Therefore, the draft law has significantly grown in volume and the language used in it makes it difficult to understand it even for specialists. Among other drawbacks identified by Dr. Postnikov, there are excessive complexity of provisions, some formal contradictions in the text, and a number of redundancies.

It is anticipated that IFES will continue its program on transparency and elections by holding a series of such seminars across the Russian Federation later this year. The seminars will focus on both the technical side of journalistic coverage of elections and the legal framework that regulates the media during the election campaign.

IESD Develops First Proposal and Materials

The process of official registration of the Institute for Election Systems Development is taking longer than was expected. According to Alex Yurin, IESD Executive Director, registration will be finalized within the first half of June.

Meanwhile, IESD developed a grant proposal and submitted it to IFES/Washington on 19 May. Currently, the proposal is being adjusted to take into account recommendations made by IFES.

The official logo of the organization has been developed. At the mass media and elections round table on 20 May IESD disseminated a paper by Russian legal expert Alexander Postnikov on regulation of mass media under Russia's new electoral laws.

In May Valentin Mikhailov, a former State Duma deputy from Kazan, joined the IESD Board of Directors. Currently the IESD Board of Directors includes the following individuals: Richard W. Soudriette, Victor Sheinis, Alexey Avtonomov, Alexander Yurin, and Valentin Mikhailov. Sergey Grigoriant, Chairman of the Glasnost Foundation, has recently expressed his interest in joining the IESD Board of Directors, and will be advising

IESD of his decision in June.

Visiting Russian Officials Discuss U.S. Local Government and Elections

On 26 May, IFES/Washington hosted a roundtable on "The Roles of Parties and Election Commissions in American Local Politics" for a group of USIA-sponsored Russian officials visiting the U.S. as part of a study tour arranged by Meridian International. The twelve Russians - all mayors, deputy-mayors, and other local officials from St. Petersburg and Leningrad

Oblast - were most interested in American campaign finance practices and party-candidate coordination during campaigning.

On the speakers' panel were Kevin Dunn, the former Fairfax City (Va.) Registrar of Voters; Michael Lane, a member of the Arlington County (Va.) Board; and Richard Soudriette, IFES President.

Election expert Kevin Dunn, IFES President Richard Soudriette and Arlington County Board Member Michael Lane take questions at the May 26, 1999 IFES roundtable on local politics in the U.S.

IFES/Moscow and CEC RF Hold Seminar on Media and Elections

On 20 May 1999 a roundtable discussion on media and elections was held in the Arbat hotel in Moscow. The event was jointly organized by IFES/Moscow and Russia's Central Election Commission (CEC), and 100 individuals representing the CEC, SECs, mass media, and campaign managers participated. Participants were briefed on the new regulations related to media coverage of the December parliamentary elections. The presentations and discussion focussed on what rights and obligations media have in an election environment, what they can and cannot say and do, and how to cover election campaigns in the most effective way while preserving objectivity and integrity. Presentations were made both by CEC members and IFES' domestic and international legal experts and election practitioners, including CEC Commissioner Sergey Bolshakov, State Duma Deputy Victor Sheinis, and "TV Center" Legal Director Igor Ivanov.

Large Numbers of Public Organizations Facing Extinction?

In an interview with "Nezavisimaya gazeta" on 21 May, Justice Minister Krasheninnikov warned that up to 75,000 public organizations will be dissolved on 1 July if they have not re-registered with the Justice Ministry. According to Krasheninnikov, only 25 % of Russia's more than 100,000 organizations have so far bothered to re-register. After 1 July, those organizations without valid registration will no longer be able to participate in elections or own property or bank accounts.

On 20 May, "The Moscow Times" reported that the city of Moscow's justice department turned down re-registration requests by the Glasnost Foundation, Moscow's Research Center for Human Rights, and the Ecology and Human Rights group. Moscow justice department officials say that Glasnost Foundation made mistakes in preparing its registration documents and needs to only resubmit them. Foundation officials, meanwhile, accused the Justice Ministry of seeking to remove human rights organizations working in Russia. While IESD has not yet faced any impediments to registration, it is unknown at this time whether this issue will impact the Institute.

SLOVAKIA



Presidential Election Results Signal a Positive Step Toward EU and NATO Membership

On 29 May, the Slovak Republic took a positive step toward membership in the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO), when Slovakia's electorate voted in Rudolf Schuster as the next president. This was the country's first direct election of the president and the positive turnout in both rounds demonstrated a strong interest in the democratic future of the country. In the first round of this double ballot election, on 15 May, 73.8 % of the electorate turned out to cast their vote for one of nine presidential candidates. The results showed popular support for Rudolf Schuster, the Mayor of Kosice, the Chairman of the Party of Civic Understanding (SOP Party), and favored candidate of the majority party, the Slovak Democratic Coalition (SDK). He received 47.38 % of the vote, winning in 39 regions. Former Prime Minister, Vladimir Meciar of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS) came in second place with 37.24 % of the vote, winning in 40 regions. Due to the fact that neither Schuster nor Meciar received more than 50 % of the total number of registered voters, as required by the 1999 law on presidential elections, a second round was held on 29 May.

While polls during the two weeks to the run-off election suggested that Schuster was still the favored candidate, it appeared that it would be a close race. There was little campaigning during the two-week interim and it was feared that there would be significant voter fatigue. However, the Slovak electorate turned out at a slightly higher rate at 75.45 % with 57.18 % casting their ballots for Schuster and 42.81 % for Meciar.

The Central Election Commission (CEC), which is responsible for the implementation of the election process, stated that the elections were lawfully executed. In its preliminary statement on the presidential election, the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission found that the "...second round . . . was held in accordance with the Slovak electoral provisions." Regarding the first round, ODIHR stated that the "Slovak authorities administered the election process efficiently and that the voting and counting procedures . . . were carried out in accordance with OSCE commitments."

IFES Assists with Law Reform Efforts

The National Council of the Slovak Republic (NR SR) has identified parliamentary election law reform as a priority issue for the year 2000 in Slovakia. In May 1998, several months before the parliamentary election in September, the NR SR passed amendments to the parliamentary election law that received criticism from the international community and the NGO community within Slovakia. Certain areas of the law were at issue and remain in contention, including those concerning the forming of coalitions and the submission of candidate lists, seat appointments, the campaign period, the role and responsibilities of private and state-run media, domestic observers, political party registration, and the number of districts. With this agenda in mind, the Constitutional and Law Affairs Committee (CLAC), a standing committee within the NR SR, created an Ad Hoc

Constitutional Commission (AHCC) to focus on constitutional and election law reform in the coming year.

On 8 May 1999, IFES Election Law Specialist, Carol Conragan, arrived in Bratislava to begin working with the Ad Hoc Commission and Election Department on parliamentary election law reform. This project also includes meeting with various members of the NGO community in Slovakia to assess their interest in election law reform issues and their possible participation in the process.

In the past three weeks, IFES has met with many of the prominent participants in the law reform process within the AHCC and Elections Department of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) to begin to identify areas of reform and resources for these efforts. The Chairman of the CLAC, Mr. Ladislav Orosz, Mr. Peter Kresak, member of the CLAC and renowned legal scholar, as well as the head of the MoI's Elections Department, Ms. Livia Skulteyova, all welcomed IFES' assistance. They agreed that the most effective assistance is to provide them with the tools they would need once they are ready to address law reform. Ms. Conragan has begun a comparative review of election law from developed democracies and will make recommendations as to how to address the weaknesses identified in the 1998 amendments to the parliamentary election law.

Ms. Conragan has also met with several representatives from NGOs to discuss how they might participate in the law reform efforts. In particular they have identified their ability to serve as a channel to the media and the public, keeping them informed of the process.

Impact Summary

In meeting with various government officials, members of parliament, and NGO representatives in the past three weeks, IFES has been able to effectively determine their concerns, needs, and schedules regarding the law reform process. This, in turn, has made it possible for IFES to effectively tailor a program that will meet officials' needs as IFES assistance comes to an end. By assuring officials that IFES is here to assist them in the process in the way they see most effective, IFES has already established a very positive and productive working relationship with election officials and members of parliament. In addition, by demonstrating that IFES is there to facilitate, not dominate, the process, they seemed very pleased to put their ideas and requests forward.

In addition, early discussions with the NGO community will help to formulate their role in the reform process and should facilitate their participation in the process once the Parliament and the Election Department engage in the arduous and time-consuming work that lies ahead. NGO participation will allow for greater public involvement in the process and ultimately greater ownership of it.

UKRAINE

IFES Participates in NGO Press Conference

As a part of a panel that included representatives from the British and American embassies, the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the International Renaissance Foundation, IFES participated in a press conference 20 May in Kyiv. The press conference was attended by over 50 members of the Ukrainian media in addition to members of the international media. The purpose of the media event was to inform the press of the international community's activities in support of the October presidential elections. IFES was invited to participate by the American Ambassador to Ukraine, Mr. Steven Pifer.

Both print and television media, and news stories relating to the conference appeared in Ukrainian papers throughout the week covered the press conference. Interest in the presidential election is increasing daily as the 31 October election day nears.

1999 Survey Currently Being Field Tested

As part of its ongoing effort to gauge the progress of economic and political reforms in Ukraine, IFES is currently conducting a public opinion survey throughout Ukraine. The survey is the sixth in a series of national surveys of the electorate. IFES, USAID and the international community to identify previously unaddressed needs of the Ukrainian electorate will use the results of the survey.

In addition to evaluating the Ukrainian public's attitudes towards the upcoming presidential election, the survey will also examine the public's overall attitudes towards both economic and political reforms in Ukraine. The survey series helps track trends in Ukrainian public opinion and gauge the success of democracy development programs.

IFES' Survey of Public Opinion in Ukraine - 1999 is currently being field tested to evaluate public opinion on the perceptions and expectations of the upcoming presidential elections. The survey has been developed with the assistance of USAID/Ukraine, the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, and SOCIS Gallup. As with the earlier surveys, an analysis will be presented to lawmakers, the CEC, academicians and the general public once the survey is completed.

IFES Works with CEC in Preparation for October Elections

IFES is currently participating in the Scientific-Consultative Council, along with the CEC, Parliament, and leading specialists from scientific institutions. The council was established to provide scientific and methodological assistance to both local and national election commissions. Throughout the former Soviet Union, improving the methodology and administrative systems of election administration has been one of the greatest challenges in improving the electoral process.

In addition, IFES is planning an administrative training seminar to address recent legal and administrative changes that will impact the conduct of the presidential elections. Beginning in August, IFES in cooperation with the CEC will hold training sessions for constituency election officials. The training sessions

will prepare officials to return to their districts and train their own staffs. The seminar will also give election officials a greater understanding of their roles and responsibilities in the presidential election process. IFES will build on its earlier success in training election officials, as well as its excellent relationship with the CEC to implement the training program. In addition to fulfilling the short-term goal of providing Ukraine with well-trained pollworkers for the October elections, the training program is also intended to help create a group of conscientious well-trained election officials with the institutional knowledge and professional skills to serve as an administrative infrastructure for future elections.

Registration Underway

The CEC has also been occupied with the registration of nominees to be candidates for the presidency of Ukraine. Within five days of receipt of a nomination, the CEC must issue a registration certificate and forms for collecting voters' signatures in support of a nominee's candidacy. While many candidates announced in May their intention to run for president, many observers expect the field of candidates to narrow as the election nears because of the large number of petition-signatures required to register as a candidate (one million) and the prospect of some parties forming an alliance with a larger party and ultimately backing the larger party's candidates.

IFES Works with IREX Pro-Media and Parliament in Preparation for Media Conference

In recent weeks, IFES staff has met with IREX ProMedia in preparation for the upcoming Mass Media Conference. IREX has provided IFES with relevant conference materials and media contacts, and has also been organizing international presenters to participate in the conference. The conference will include members of the press, parliamentarians, and election administrators. In addition to examining the role of the media in the electoral process, the conference will also provide a unique opportunity for government officials and reporters to meet and exchange ideas. In planning the conference, IFES and IREX made a concerted effort to invite reporters from smaller, regional news outlets, who might not otherwise have an opportunity to take part in such an event.

IFES staff members have also been working continuously with various heads of parliamentary committees, including the Committee of Freedom of Speech and Information, as well as the Cabinet of Ministers in preparing for the event. The committees' representatives have shown a great deal of enthusiasm in cooperating with IFES in this endeavor, and are committed to ensuring that the Ukrainian mass media is well informed of the media's role and responsibility in the upcoming presidential election.

Impact Summary

The 1999 pre-election survey will help IFES, USAID, and the international community better understand the Ukrainian public's understanding and support of Ukraine's political and economic transition. The survey also allows for the assessment of current

development programs in Ukraine and identifies the potential for future projects.

The mass media conference will create a dialogue in which legislators, administrators, and journalists can explore the role of the media in elections. The purpose of the conference is to improve the participants' understanding of their respective roles and responsibilities in supplying the public with information during elections. By improving the standard of reporting, the public is better able to make an informed choice at the polling station.

IFES' continued work with the CEC in training election officials will help eliminate systematic errors that can influence the outcome of an election and undermine the voters' confidence in the political process. IFES' cooperation with the CEC in producing and airing public service announcements will help decrease the frequency of invalid ballots by informing the public of the correct voting procedures, as well as stress the importance of participating in the political process.

CAUCASUS/CENTRAL ASIA

ARMENIA

Armenia Holds Parliamentary Elections (Continued from Page 1)

The election took place in a relatively calm atmosphere compared to that of past elections in 1995, 1996, 1998. International observers from OSCE/ODHIR, the Council of Europe, and NDI were on hand to observe the polling process. IFES observed the results of its extensive training of local election commission members and the usage of IFES voter information materials. In addition, for the first time domestic observers were accredited by the Central Election Commission (CEC) to monitor the election. A dozen domestic NGOs were reported to have placed election observers in polling stations on election day.

According to the CEC, preliminary voter turnout statistics indicated that almost 55% of Armenia's 2.2 million registered voters took part in the elections. Final results were expected on 4 June.

IFES Conducts Technical Election Observation

In an effort to assess the preparedness of election officials and the technical efficiency of the voting process on election day, IFES/Armenia deployed 4 technical observation teams to four regions of the country on 30 May. In the course of the day, these teams visited over 30 polling stations, noting the availability and usage of IFES produced materials to support the administration of the election and inform voters of election procedures. IFES teams visited polling location in the regions of Yerevan, Kotaik, Aragotzotn, and Ararat.

The consensus among those participating in the IFES technical observation effort was that the 30 May election was conducted

in an orderly and peaceful manner, with some notable exceptions. The vast majority of poll workers observed by IFES observers seemed genuine in their efforts to conduct the election in accordance with the new electoral code and their work was characterized by both a seriousness and dedication to serve the voters of Armenia equitably. In addition, IFES-produced materials were observed in use in the overwhelming majority of sites visited.

IFES observers did note considerable organizational and procedural shortcomings in the conduct of the election. These observations will be instrumental in focusing IFES technical assistance to the CEC as it continues its assistance to the Commission under a Memorandum of Understanding.

Armenian voters in Abovian, near the capital city of Yerevan, cast ballots in the 30 May Parliamentary elections.

IFES Assists Regional Officials with Training of Precinct Commission Members

In preparation for the election, IFES/Armenia IFES assisted 10 of the 11 Regional Election Commissions (RECs) to train polling station officials from 22 May to 27 May. Utilizing three training teams that included both international and Armenian trainers, IFES assisted RECs to prepare over 1200 Precinct Election Commission (PEC) members over an intensive 5-day series of cascading training sessions.

IFES Training Specialist, Judith Davis oversaw the production of training materials that were used in the delivery of training. These materials - a PEC Procedures Guidebook, and a "How to Complete the Protocols" reference guide - provided PEC members with a clear explanation of the differences between past electoral laws and the newly adopted electoral code, contained guidelines for polling preparation and management, and outlined appropriate election day procedures. The "How to Complete the Protocols" reference guide provided participants with a step-by-step approach to completing the 16 different protocols used to tally election results at the precinct level.

In addition to the dissemination of IFES-produced training materials, the PEC training session also allowed IFES to deliver copies of the UEC, sample protocols, and copies of pertinent CEC decisions effecting election day procedures. These materials contained valuable information that PEC officials needed to conduct the election according to Armenian law.

IFES Voter Education/Information Campaign Informs Voters



In the month of May, IFES concluded a successful Voter Education/Information campaign to increase Armenian voters' knowledge of election procedures. The campaign utilized both print and electronic media and included the production of brochures and posters. In this effort to increase the availability of voter information, IFES sought close cooperation with leading mass media outlets throughout the country, Internews/Armenia, local NGOs, political parties and blocs running in proportional elections.

IFES Voter Education Consultant Leanne McDonald worked in cooperation with the CEC to produce voter education television and radio public service announcements that explained new provisions in the UEC. Eight TV spots (ranging in length from 40 to 120 seconds) were produced that covered the following topic areas: checking the voters lists (2), secrecy of the ballot, being a well-informed voter, marking the ballot, majoritarian and proportional electoral systems, Parliamentarians' rights and responsibilities, and proper voting procedures.

In addition to these television spots, IFES also produced 4 radio spots in Armenian and 2 in Russian on similar topics. National and regional television and radio companies broadcast these public service announcements from 21 April to 30 May. From 7-28 May, IFES ran voter information advertisements in Armenia's most popular newspapers. These television spots and newspaper advertisements are estimated to have reached 75% of the Armenian population.

IFES printed and distributed 200,000 copies of the brochure "How to Vote", 3,000 copies of the poster with the same contents, 1650 copies of each of poster explaining how to mark the proportional and majoritarian ballots. The brochures were distributed to the general public through political parties and blocs registered to run in proportional elections, and local NGOs. Some 1,700 copies of the "How to Vote" poster were distributed to all the 1604 PECS throughout the country by the RECs.

Impact Summary

IFES assistance to the 1999 Armenian Parliamentary elections made significant impact in the areas of voter information/education and election administration training.

Working in cooperation with the CEC, IFES produced informational materials that resulted in better-informed voters who were aware of new election procedures and their rights under the new electoral code. In addition, IFES assistance to REC officials in the delivery of training to polling station officials resulted in precinct commission members administering the election in more equitable and transparent manner, in accordance with the new code.

AZERBAIJAN

CEC Assisted with Drafting of Local Government Election Legislation

In the period since the introduction of the government's new draft of the local government election law to Parliament on 4 May, there were significant revisions to some of the key concepts in this draft. Most significant of these was the amendment of the proposed single mandate majoritarian system of election to a multi-mandate majoritarian (or block vote) system, whereby all elected representatives to a council (up to 21 in large municipalities) would be elected from the whole local government area forming a single majoritarian constituency. Another significant revisions to the draft allowed the nomination of candidates for local government councils by political parties and blocks of political parties.

IFES Project Manager Alan Wall and Project Assistant Farida Babayeva met regularly with the members of the CEC responsible for the drafting of the legislation – Deputy Chair Nazimi Zafarov and CEC member Sayyed Kerimov - during May to discuss concerns about the content of the draft legislation. Information on the oft-unsatisfactory operation of block vote election systems in the few countries that have used such systems was provided to and discussed in detail with these CEC members. In addition, and to date more successfully, other critical areas of election operations covered by the law, such as transparency of count processes, ballot paper design and controls, and regulations election campaigns, were also been discussed in detail.

CEC Deputy Chair Zafarov reiterated during these meetings that the CEC was depending very much on the assistance of IFES and other international organizations in the training of polling officials and development of voter education campaign materials for the local elections. Deputy Chair Zafarov was assured of IFES' support for the CEC's programs in these respects.

Assistance to Permanent Parliamentary Commission on Local Government

Alan Wall and Farida Babayeva had continuing discussions during May with staff of the Parliamentary Commission on Local Government responsible for advising the government on the drafting of the local government status law. While much of the overall concept of the status law is well-grounded, details of the important issues of municipal finance, taxation, administration, and property are not defined in this law.

Several matters of major disagreement between IFES/Azerbaijan and the Committee continued to be discussed at length. Four issues were covered: 1) the block vote election system that has now been proposed; 2) the support given in the legislation to the formation of economically unsustainable local governments based on very small populations; 3) the provision that elections for local councils in local government areas with a population of less than 500 to be by open ballot at village meetings (which has been claimed to have been proposed in order to economize on election funding); and 4) the lack of clarity in the definition of the powers of elected local government councils *is vis a vis* the existing appointed executive committees at regional and local levels.

Passage of Local Government Legislation

The governments draft laws on local government status and local government elections passed their first reading in parliament on 4 May. Following the first reading, significant amendments to the election law in particular were made (see details above). Both the CEC and the Parliamentary Committee on Local Government were unwilling to provide the exact amended text of these laws to IFES until they had been reintroduced to parliament for their second reading. As of the end of May, this had not yet occurred.

Alan Wall was invited by the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Local Government to attend and address the session of parliament on 25 May, at which the second readings of draft laws on local government status and local government elections were to commence. The invitation was declined when no satisfactory conditions for IFES attendance could be negotiated in the short notice provided. However, due to pressure of other business, these draft laws were not considered by parliament on this scheduled date, and will now be presented for second reading on 1 June. The Project Manager has again been invited to attend this parliamentary sitting, and satisfactory arrangements for IFES' attendance to listen to the proceedings have been agreed.

Extension of Parliamentary Sitings

Sittings of the Milli Majlis (Parliament) of Azerbaijan, which were schedule to conclude at the end of May for a three month break, were, on 31 May, extended indefinitely following requests by a majority of deputies. It is expected that sittings will continue until draft legislation currently before the parliament is passed.

Amongst this legislation are the draft laws on local government status and local government elections, which, at the end of May, had not yet passed the second of their three readings. If these laws were not passed before parliament rises for its summer break, the election timetables currently envisaged in the draft legislation would make it difficult for local government elections to be held this calendar year.

Members of the Democratic Bloc Continue to Boycott Parliament

The 17 members of the Democratic Block of opposition parties continued their absence from parliamentary sittings during May. This boycott is in protest at practices instituted in parliament that they believe prevent them from adequately speaking on issues

before the parliament or presenting for the parliament's consideration the opposition's alternative drafts of legislation. DemBloc members have questioned the legitimacy of legislation passed in their absence. They have been reported as stating that their parties would be unlikely to participate in any local government elections whose governing legislation was passed in their absence and without any parliamentary consideration of their alternative proposals. On 31 May discussions between the government leaders in the Milli Majlis and DemBloc representatives reached verbal agreements that could pave the way for the return of DemBloc members to parliamentary sittings. It was not yet clear when and if this would occur.

Coordination with International NGOs

Alan Wall and Farida Babayeva continued coordination meetings during May with other NGOs working in Azerbaijan on governance issues. Focus in this month was on responses to the government's draft laws on local government, and providing other organizations such as NDI and IRI with technical explanations of how the government's proposed local government election system – the block vote system – operates in practice, and international experiences of its use.

Attendance at Roundtables

In the absence of major opposition groups from Parliament, roundtables organized in late May by local NGOs Democratic Development Foundation on draft local government election laws and the Euro Atlantic Centre on Parliamentary Procedures provided some opportunity for discussion between pro government and pro opposition deputies. Alan Wall and Farida Babayeva attended and contributed to these roundtables.

Meetings with Opposition Leaders

IFES continued its round of meetings with senior opposition figures during May. The focus of these meetings was on responses of opposition parties to the proposals contained on the government's draft laws on local government status and local government elections. In meetings with Arif Hajiev, deputy chairperson of Musavat, Ilgar Mamedov, senior adviser to the chairperson of ANIP, Etibar Mamedov, and Assim Mollazade, deputy chair of the Popular Front, these opposition figures reiterated their parties' opposition to sole use of a majoritarian system for local elections, the lack of reform of the Central Election Commission (CEC), and the initially proposed barring of parties from nominating candidates for these elections. All made clear that their parties would have to seriously consider advising their supporters not to participate in these elections unless all these issues were resolved satisfactorily.

IFES advised that these concerns were being considered in IFES' discussions with the CEC and the Parliamentary Committee on Local Government. Potential improvements to the opposition parties' alternative drafts of local government election laws were also discussed. IFES provided to each of these parties, as it had to the CEC and the Parliamentary Committee on Local Government, materials in both Russian and English on election systems and legislation design.

GEORGIA

Elections and the Shifting Political Ground

This year is a very important time in the election cycle of Georgia. The parliamentary election scheduled for late October 1999 poses the possibility that significant changes will be made in the representative body that for four years has guided major change in the legal structures of the Georgian government and economy. In the parliamentary election, voters will cast votes directly for district representatives as well as vote for proportionally mandated representatives from national party lists.

The parliamentary election will be followed six months later by a presidential election that will be a referendum on the stewardship of Eduard Shevardnadze, who for 5 years has presided over his country's movement from a Soviet controlled system toward more democratic structures and free-market economy. At present, 5 months before the parliamentary election, 104 registered political parties are busy jockeying into various political alignments to enhance their chances of success.

Three major contending coalitions seem to be taking shape: Shevardnadze's ruling party, Citizens Union of Georgia (CUG), aligned with several smaller partners; the Batumi Coalition, uniting Adjara President Aslan Abashidze's Revival Party, the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, and others across a broad spectrum in strong opposition to the CUG; and Irina Sarishvili-Chanturia's "Third Alternative," which includes both the National Democratic Party and the Republican Party, along with others joined in modest opposition to the CUG.

Voter Registration

IFES was engaged with voter registration experts, as well as the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Georgia in assessing the most realistic and effective way to create more accurate voter registers for Georgian elections, both in the short-term for the upcoming elections and the long-term for the election system. Organizationally, the registration system in Georgia is decentralized down to the local precinct level, a system that is theoretically sound but in practice permits wide latitude of performance depending on the dedication, accuracy and goodwill of precinct election commissioners in every area. IFES voter registration experts and the CEC are considering a range of options, from creation of a new centralized database to enhancement of the current system.

The CEC in the meantime embarked on a pilot project to create a model voter register database for a single election district. The Tbilisi municipal district of Krtsanisi was chosen as the locus of the pilot project because it is urban and contains IDPs (internally displaced persons), a military barracks, hospital, and a prison. The pilot project involves the collection and pooling of data about all citizens and special populations from all state ministries and offices, including the Ministries of Defense, Internal Affairs, Justice, Foreign Affairs, and Displaced Persons, as well as the Bureau of Passport/Visa Registration. The CEC anticipates that

the pilot project, if successful, will generate a model for using all available state resources to compile voter registers in the seventy-five districts under its jurisdiction.

Parliament Prepares to Amend Parliamentary Election Law

As the Legal Affairs Committee of Parliament worked toward shaping amendments to the election law in preparation for the upcoming parliamentary elections, IFES continued to provide comments and advice to the drafting process. IFES Election Consultant Antonia Dolar studied and prepared legal comments on draft versions of the law as proposed by staff of the Legal Affairs Committee, and those comments were presented to the Legal Affairs Committee and circulated among the committee staff and members for consideration in the ongoing drafting process. In addition to concern for perfecting the technical legal structure for the election, the Committee and Parliamentary leadership were still searching for viable solutions to major and vexing political issues that must be addressed in the law: the composition of the election commissions; the threshold percentage of votes that must be received by a political party in order to be eligible for proportional seats; and the manner in which IDP voters will vote for representatives. There is considerable pressure to find political solutions to these issues and to pass a final version of the amended law before the current session of Parliament concludes its work at the end of June.

Impact Summary

IFES actively worked with the CEC to evaluate how best to improve the voter registration system in Georgia, considering options that range from creation of a new centralized database to enhancement of the current system of voter registers created at the precinct level. IFES continued to provide support to the process of amending the Georgian election law by offering legal comments on draft versions of amendments prepared by the Legal Affairs Committee thus demonstrating the continued concern of the US and international communities for development of more transparent and democratic election laws.

KAZAKHSTAN

Curriculum Development Project

Dr. Juliana Pilon, IFES Director of Programs for Europe and Asia, visited Kazakhstan as the next step in the development of the civic education curriculum project. Dr. Pilon participated in a number of meetings with governmental officials from the Presidential Apparatus, Department of Education, Ministry of Justice, local school teachers, and international organizations working in the civic education sector in Kazakhstan.

Key meetings were held with the Chairperson of the Committee of Secondary Education Mrs. Rysty Zhumabekova and with the Head of the Department of General and Secondary Education Mr. Amirbek Rakhimzhanov. Zhumabekova expressed her interest in the IFES curriculum project and pledged to work as expeditiously as possible to complete and approve an election-oriented section of the student educational material. IFES hopes that this will be ready for dissemination as early as the beginning

of the new school year on September 1, and in advance of parliamentary elections scheduled for October 5 and 9. Zhumabekova underscored the existing lack of a good civic education textbook for high-school-level students and indicated the importance and use value of the IFES project. Rakhimzhanov and the IFES team discussed and worked out the process of review and revision of the submitted draft IFES text as well as a timeline of key due dates in the review process.

While in Astana, the IFES team met with Minister of Justice Mukhamedzhanov, and Mr. Kotlov, Head of the International Law Committee of the MOJ. Juliana Pilon outlined IFES' work in the voter/civic education sector. Muchamedjanov expressed his willingness to collaborate with IFES on a number of initiatives prior to the upcoming parliamentary elections, including revision of NGO and mass media laws, continued election law development, voter motivation projects, and development of a voter education booklet and civic education textbook for Kazakhstan.

Marat Tazhin, the Secretary of the Security Council under the Presidential Apparatus, assured IFES of his support to help with publishing the voter education booklet at the state-printing house, and indicated his support with the translation of materials into the Kazakh language.

Dr. Pilon met Central Election Commission Chairwoman (CEC) Zagipa Balieva and Secretary Elena Kuleshova in Almaty. The meeting helped solidify plans for joint efforts on creation of the IFES election booklet and a mock-election project for students in the 10th and 11th classes, for whom the curriculum is intended. Chairwomen Balieva underscored the need to conduct mock-election projects not only in secondary schools but also at the kindergarten level, colleges, institutes and the universities. The CEC indicated its commitment to work with IFES and help encourage the development of civic education projects. The exposure to elections of young and future voters was seen as a priority of the CEC, and Balieva indicated that President Nazarbaev, with whom she has discussed the details of the IFES curriculum development project, and is aware of IFES initiatives in Kazakhstan, praised IFES' support in democracy building.

While in Almaty Pilon met with several local teachers of civic education discussing topics for possible inclusion in the IFES civic education curriculum. These included: a glossary of terms, supplementary materials and additional readings, adaptation of existing material for Kazakhstan-specific needs, and other working issues for the next several months. The teachers indicated that the IFES textbook coincides with the state standards of Kazakhstan for curriculum courses, which is the main requirement of the Ministry of Education.

In late May IFES/Kazakhstan continued the translation of text and materials relevant to the civic education program for secondary schools that have been collected for inclusion in the IFES project.

IFES continues information dissemination efforts

IFES/Central Asia Project Manager Tom Leckinger and Program Coordinator Saule Buldekbaeva attended the monthly Democracy Round Table conducted by USAID at the US Embassy in Almaty. Following updates by USAID grantees, which included discussions of the current political and economic situation in the country, Mr. Leckinger highlighted IFES' recent activities in Kazakhstan.

By invitation of the CEC of Kazakhstan, IFES/Kazakhstan Project Coordinator Marat Bigaliev has made presentations at a series of seminars for political parties being conducted by the CEC. The CEC will conduct 9 seminars during the upcoming month to discuss the role of political parties under the new election law, and the system of proportional representation being introduced into the code for elections to the Majilis.

Through its Almaty Elections Resource Centers, IFES/Kazakhstan continues to follow up on specific requests for election-related information from Kazakhstani lawmakers, government and election officials, and others interested in such issues. In May, IFES/Kazakhstan collected information on a variety of topics, including a compilation of general statistics from all parliamentary and presidential elections in Kazakhstan since 1990.

Impact Summary

Greater civic awareness of democracy and elections is a one of the main objectives IFES is setting forth in its work in Kazakhstan. The development of the Civic Education Curriculum in Kazakhstan represents a step forward to generating greater awareness among young and future voters, who represent an increasingly large portion of the population of Kazakhstan. The creation of an elections section as part of an overall civic text for upper high-school students will serve to engage the "next generation" of voters in the elections of today and help provide the impetus to play an active part in democracy-building in Kazakhstan. Through interactive projects being designed as part of the curriculum development, IFES, the Department of Education and the CEC hope to encourage the young electorate to hold future elections to the highest standards and accountability, while realizing their full potential and responsibility as citizens in a developing democracy.

KYRGYZSTAN

Election Code Signed by President

On 29 May, President Askar Akayev signed into law the new election code passed by the Jogorku Kenesh one month earlier. The code, as passed, represents a vast improvement over previous legislation and in particular provides for a far greater degree of transparency in the election process. IFES analyses indicate that, if properly administered, the law can provide the basis for the holding of elections that meet international standards. The presidential signature sets the stage for a busy election schedule over the next 18 months. The tentative election schedule begins with local elections in late October, parliamentary elections in February 2000 and presidential

elections in December 2000.

Recently adopted as well by the Jogorku Kenesh was a new law on political parties, which mandates that a party must be registered for at least one year in order to compete for seats under the new partial party list system of elections. 15 of 60 seats in the new Legislative Assembly (the lower house) will be distributed to those parties successfully surmounting the 5% threshold. IFES and its USAID-funded partners and other international organizations have agreed to review the code and examine implications for multi-party elections in light of the adoption of a codified election law.

Election Commission Training Program

IFES became engaged with the Kyrgyz Central Election Commission (CEC) in designing a training program for oblast and local-level election administrators. The CEC recently reviewed the first draft of an IFES-produced polling station procedural manual. This document, a version of which will also serve as a pollworker training manual, seeks to provide clarity on administrative regulations and augment the law in areas of technical administration otherwise less clear. Once accepted by the CEC, a pilot training phase will take place in which core trainers will be instructed in the manual's use, followed by selected training of lower-level officials in time for local elections scheduled to be held in October. IFES and the CEC are planning to train 10-15,000 precinct election commission members prior to local elections this fall.

IFES Lays Groundwork for Voter Education Program

Changes in the election law will mean voters will be confronted with different voting procedures when they go to the polls in future Kyrgyz elections. The practice of striking out candidates on the ballot or "negative voting" has been replaced with affirmative voting, consisting of marking the box by the candidate or party's name. An additional change, as discussed, calls for a portion of the parliament to be elected by a proportionate party list system in addition to single mandate seats. IFES will be working with the CEC and local and international partners to support the conducting of a comprehensive voter education program to highlight these and other changes

A second component of IFES' voter education programming is joint involvement with local NGO partners such as *Human Dimensions*. This Bishkek-based election watchdog organization seeks to increase the involvement of women in the Kyrgyz political system. *Human Dimensions* has pledged to participate with the domestic NGO community in an aggressive voter education project to both inform and motivate voters. IFES supports this initiative and seeks to collaborate with *Human Dimensions* to help the project gain momentum.

Impact Summary

IFES legal consultant John Christman, who recently completed a legal review of the codified election law, characterized the law as one of the best in Central Asia and compared it favorably with international standards of electoral legislation. Assisting the

CEC and Election Law Working Group in a liaison capacity over two-plus years of the law development, IFES was able to contribute to the formation of a strong legal basis under which future elections can be held that conform to the highest international norms and standards.

IFES consultants and staff made presentations at two NGO conferences providing analysis of the new election law and urging NGOs to plan and execute aggressive, far-ranging observation missions. Due to the lack of development of political parties in Kyrgyzstan and resulting inability of parties to provide membership in a large number of polling station commissions, neutral observers will play a critical role in overseeing the work of local election commissions in all phases of the electoral process.

TAJIKISTAN

Election Law Working Seminar

IFES, the OSCE, and the United Nations sponsored an Election Law Working Seminar from 25-27 May in Dushanbe. Participants included the leadership and many members of the Committee on National Reconciliation (CNR), representatives of the legal offices of the President and the Majlisi Oli, the Ministry of Justice, the judiciary, and representatives of domestic non-governmental organizations. Representatives of political parties and journalists and international organizations were invited as observers.

Participants received Russian language information on legislative systemic norms in elections; a collection of sample laws from other republics in Central Asia, the NIS, and Europe; and information on the system of elections in the U.S. Presentations were made by a number of international and local election experts, including a presentation on Registration of Voters, Parties, and Candidates by Tom Leckinger.

The Working Seminar proceeded smoothly considering the challenging political environment, and discussion among the participants was extremely lively, particularly on the topics of the role of women in the electoral process, refugee/expatriate voting, and adjudication of electoral grievances.

From the discussions that took place, it is clear that the CNR will have to focus intensively on drafting a new election law as required by the Peace Accords. Though several concepts were presented by members of the Committee, these were sometimes made without the benefit of a broader consensus, even among Opposition CNR members. As a follow-up to the Working Seminar, IFES is preparing to engage the CNR in a full-time election law development initiative including advising on legislative drafting and the creation of user handbooks outlining administrative regulations. Though much work remains to be done, the Working Seminar represents a positive step forward in the discussion of revising the framework of Tajik election legislation.

Voter Registration Project

Phase II of the IFES-sponsored voter registration project remains on hold until corresponding electoral legal and logistical issues can be resolved. Among the outstanding issues are the confirmation of a building in which to house the Computer Center, and the creation of a legal precedent in which to establish an electronic database of voters.

Voter Education Initiative

Alla Kuvatova and Margarita Khagai of the Dushanbe-based NGO *Traditions* requested a meeting with IFES to discuss the proposed "School of Political Leadership for Women" project, which would involve week-long training sessions on election issues in five cities in Tajikistan. IFES has agreed to review the project proposal and consider providing technical support as part of its own nationwide voter education program in the country. *Traditions* has cited the need to prepare all voters to make a more informed decision during the Constitutional Referendum, tentatively scheduled for this coming fall. IFES supports a citizen-based approach to voter education by working through local NGO partners, something it is prepared to do on advance of forthcoming elections and referenda.

Training Project Domestic for Election Observers

IFES/Dushanbe has been approached by several local NGOs willing to participate in a project to train domestic election observers. Based on an agreement with the OSCE, IFES will be conducting a joint training project on domestic monitoring of election and referenda working through locally based partners, who will serve as core trainers for the project. With the Central Election Commission (CEC) setting new electoral districts, local NGOs and international assistance providers are discussing how to optimize training of up to 3000 domestic observers. With the CEC agreeing to increase the number of election districts from 64 to 68, additional responsibility will be placed upon election observers to hold administrators accountable during the entire election process.

Regular meetings will take place between IFES and three local NGO partners involved in the proposed domestic observer training project to discuss development of materials, planning issues, and the recent realignment of election districts by the CEC

Impact Summary

IFES is continuing its efforts in providing technical assistance to support the building of an electoral infrastructure for future elections and referenda. The Election Law Working Seminar served as a tool for the Government of Tajikistan and United Tajik Opposition, working through the CNR, to pursue a common approach to shepherd the future election process. Working under the guidance of USAID, IFES is committed to cooperation with its international partners in helping the Committee on National Reconciliation implement the Peace Accords, and with local NGOs on grassroots civic education and domestic monitoring initiatives.

UZBEKISTAN

Preparations for Youth Summer Democracy Camp

IFES' Tom Leckinger and Lola Maksudova met with Muborak Tashpulatova, leader of the Public Education Center (PEC), and IFES' local partner in the Democracy Youth Summer Camp Project. The Youth Summer Camp will begin on 1 July and will be staged for 10 days at the Chinaz Sanatorium in Syrdarya. PEC and IFES representatives discussed and addressed different logistical issues relevant to the event.

The Camp will bring together more than 100 talented students from each oblast of Uzbekistan plus the Autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan to focus on democracy development activities. These "future leaders of Uzbekistan" will be immersed in projects designed to enhance their understanding as well as expectations for living in a democratic society. Through such interactive events as mock student elections, including: candidate debates, campaigning, image-making, election monitoring, pollworker and election commission role-playing, and other activities, the students will have a chance to experience democracy in action. The 10-day event will encourage these future voters to hold leaders accountable and demand transparency in the process of choosing elected representatives. Representatives of the Government of Uzbekistan, USAID, the U.S. Embassy, and international organizations will be invited to attend the mock student presidential election and inauguration scheduled for the second half of the Camp.

Public Opinion Survey

IFES' Tom Leckinger and IFES/Tashkent Country Coordinator Lola Maksudova met with Teresa Ware and Liana Ibragimova from the USAID/Tashkent office and J.P. Shutte, U.S. Embassy Democratization Officer. Leckinger reiterated IFES' commitment to concentrate its activities in Uzbekistan on civic education projects and civil society initiatives. USAID and the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent expressed their support for the survey project and the follow-on civic education seminar series planned by IFES and the Public Education Center.

The survey, designed to measure public opinion on topics such as civil society, non-governmental organizations, and civic participation in democracy-building, will be targeted to key oblasts in which the follow-on seminar series will be focused. Data collected will be compared to results from IFES' 1996 Baseline Survey of Democracy Indicators to track change in public opinion and perceptions of movement in the development of a democratic society. Results will be used to support civic awareness in the seminar series.

Leckinger and Maksudova met with USIS/Uzbekistan Country Representative Karen Aguilar, who indicated that USIS is planning to conduct a nationwide survey on religious attitudes. Questions in the survey will be targeted to identify religious attitudes of the people in Uzbekistan and public perceptions of the economic and political situation. Aguilar encouraged close

coordination on all survey projects in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

IFES Establishes Contact with NGO in Karakalpakstan

Gulnara Dosumova, leader of the NGO *Renaissance* based in Nukus, Karakalpakstan, visited the IFES/Tashkent office to discuss areas of possible collaboration. IFES proposed the idea of a pilot project on curriculum development in the secondary schools, using the Foundation's experience in Kazakhstan where a similar project is being implemented at present.

Ms. Dosumova pointed out that her NGO staff members are predominantly university and secondary school teachers and students, and due to the NGO members' background, they work very closely with the Ministry of Education of Karalpakstan. Dosumova, who promised to discuss the idea of a pilot project in Nukus with the Minister of Education, received support for the project from the Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and from the Ministry of Education of Karakalpakstan. Dosumova pointed out that the similarity of the Karakalpak and Kazakh languages should make the realization of the project easier from a translation standpoint.

IFES also held a meeting with Arzoim Abdirova, the Program Coordinator on Women's Issues from the Nukus Center of Public Opinion Research. The Center is one of the leading Karakalpak NGOs actively participating in democracy development issues, and which has developed its own civic education programs. Maksudova and Abdirova discussed IFES' focus on civic education initiatives and plans for a public opinion survey and seminar series.

Cooperation with other International Organizations

IFES' Lola Maksudova took part in the Women and Law round table meeting organized by the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, the Ombudsman office, the National Human Rights Center, the Public Opinion Study Research Center, the Gender and Development Center, and the Freidrich Ebert Foundation. The goal of the meeting was to increase the involvement of different women's organizations and international institutions and share ideas in the field of legal education for women.

In addition, Ms. Maksudova attended an international conference organized by the PEC, EU/TACIS and the Counterpart Consortium dedicated to NGO development issues. Representatives from Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Tajikistan and leading Uzbek NGOs discussed the importance of a regional and international network of information on civil society and NGOs as the main instrument of future integration. She also participated in an OSCE/Tashkent-sponsored meeting to discuss a project on Civic and Legal Education for Women. Representatives from the Eurasia Foundation, USAID, Soros, UNDP, Gender and Development and the British Embassy took part in the discussion.

Impact Summary

Preparations for the Summer Youth Democracy Camp continued

in May, with the confirmation of student participants and instructors. IFES offices in Tashkent, Almaty and Washington collaborated with the Public Education Center to discuss the training approach and methodology to be used in the event. USAID and the U.S. Embassy expressed their continuing support for the project, which involves a great investment in developing leaders from the next generation in Uzbekistan, an initiative openly supported by the Government of Uzbekistan.

By working with the international community and extending its outreach to regions such as Karakalpakstan, IFES is pursuing the goal of increasing the amount of information on democracy, civil society and the role of citizens in building a democratic society.

The support of local NGOs initiatives in development and implementation of high school curricula for future voters is vital to the democratic development of Uzbekistan.

ASIA

ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN ELECTION AUTHORITIES (AAEA)

The Indonesian Election Observation Mission

Final preparations were executed in May for the AAEA observation mission to Indonesia's national parliamentary elections, scheduled for 7 June. The Association's delegation will consist of seven member countries and two guest delegates from across Asia. The following nominees were chosen by their respective election commissions to represent their country on this mission: Mr. Aziz Choudhury (Bangladesh), Dr. Brajendra Singh (India), Mr. Achyut Rajbhandari (Nepal), Mr. Rahim Durrani (Pakistan), Mr. Reuben Kaiulo (Papua New Guinea), Mr. Japal Guiani (Philippines), and Mr. P.M. Siriwardhane (Sri Lanka). The two guest delegates were Mr. Im Sousey from the National Election Commission of Cambodia and Professor Rei Shiratori from the Institute for Political Studies in Japan.

IFES Program Assistant for Asia Du Tran, along with IFES Election Observation Specialist Jim Heilman, traveled to Indonesia at the end of May in order to start the preparations for the IFES-facilitated AAEA observation mission. Mr. Tran and Mr. Heilman attended to the necessary logistical, programmatic, and administrative aspects of the mission in preparing the briefing books, international observers' manuals, and on-site election observation check-lists for the AAEA mission. Delegates started to arrive on the last days of May so that they could prepare for the election observation mission for the 7 June elections.

Impact Summary

This will be the AAEA's second election observation and it is hoped that the success of the Association's mission to Cambodia's national election in July 1998 will be replicated here. As the Association continues to grow in membership size and strength, observation missions such as these to Indonesia and Cambodia help to broaden the professional experience of the election commissions' members. They also serve to inject

transparency into the electoral process and to build the confidence of the voters in the host country of the integrity of that process.

INDONESIA

IFES Assists the KPU in Preparing for Indonesian Elections (Continued from Page 1)

IFES Deputy Director of Program for Asia Mary Lou Schramm, Program Officer for Asia Nancy Fisher, and Program Assistant for Asia Du Tran, were deployed to Jakarta in late May to assist the IFES field office in Indonesia with its final programmatic and administrative tasks prior to the election.

Election Administration

IFES continued to work with the KPU, emphasizing the enhancement of transparency and integrity in the electoral process. Through the recommendations of IFES election administration specialist Theo Noel, mechanisms were proposed for the Indonesian electoral system that can be implemented throughout the next two years. In addition, Mr. Noel advocated strengthening the independent nature of the electoral authority.

IFES' Noel continued to serve as a resource for the KPU on issues pertaining to the electoral process, such as the finalization of the election calendar, the establishment of candidate lists, the production and management of election materials and manuals, and the registration of voters. Moreover, Mr. Noel provided recommendations and reference documents on campaign funding and expenses to a KPU Sub Commission in charge of this issue.

Election Laws and Regulations

IFES election law specialist Bob Dahl returned to Indonesia during May in order to continue helping the KPU to clarify the complex law related to the 7 June election. Topics that Mr. Dahl examined were candidates' list, seat allocation, and Panwas (the Indonesian adjudicator of election disputes). Mr. Dahl was also involved in the pre-election activities.

Voter Education - Joint Operations and Media Center (JOMC)

Under the supervision of IFES election specialist Kate Birsell, preparations for the establishment and opening of the Joint Operations and Media Center (JOMC) for the KPU were completed. The JOMC is a multi-faceted operation for the KPU, providing the following services: 1) tabulate unofficial election results prior to the receipt of the official government results; 2) provide a central media point for the national and international press; and 3) provide facilities for Indonesian monitoring groups to meet and discuss their findings.

The official opening of the JOMC was on 17 May. The event attracted approximately 350 guests, including 76 foreign Ambassadors to Indonesia, 50 officials of the Government of Indonesia, KPU members, national and international NGOs, and approximately 90 members of national and international media. This fully-staffed and equipped project will be a valuable tool to the KPU as it disseminates the election results, allowing it to

better manage the flow of information to the national and international press covering the election.

Voter Information Campaign

IFES continued to assist the KPU in the development of its intense voter information media campaign. The campaign was implemented by mid-May, and mass media started carrying the KPU's messages about the Indonesian elections. The central themes of the messages on television, radio, and print media were the integrity of the new election process, women's right to make a choice, a peaceful election, a free and fair election, the use of indelible ink to prevent voter fraud, the voting process including how to vote, and several themes about the counting method and how the seats would be allocated. The voter information campaign also included several live television broadcasts with national election officials using a town meeting forum where callers across the archipelago could telephone questions to the panel of officials. This provided an open and transparent method to relay information about the new processes and rules to be used during the election.

Pollworker Training

In preparation for the election, IFES' pollworker training materials, training video, and training manual were finalized and sent to the producer and printer for finalization. PPI Chair Jakob Tobing officially introduced the video during TV broadcasts the third week of May. Arrangements for TV airtime were completed and the training video was broadcast on all television stations throughout Indonesia in May. In addition, the pollworker training manuals were distributed to KPU trainers at the provincial level during training sessions. IFES' pollworker training specialists, Connie Kaplan and Jessica Hunter, continued to serve as resources to the KPU in its efforts to plan and coordinate the training of Indonesia's election workers. Specifically, Ms. Kaplan and Ms. Hunter conducted an evaluation of the KPU's pollworker training methods. To that end, they traveled to several provinces to assess the training program at the PPD I and PPD II levels.

Association of Asian Election Authorities Observation Mission

IFES' election observation specialist, Jim Heilman, traveled to Indonesia at the end of May in order to start the preparations for the IFES-facilitated Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) observation mission. Mr. Heilman prepared the briefing books and on-site election observation questionnaires for the AAEA mission. Delegates arrived on the last days of May so that they could prepare for the election observation mission.

IFES Releases Survey of the Indonesian Electorate

This month, IFES released its *Survey of the Indonesian Electorate*. The survey was fielded in January and February 1999, and initial results were released in April. This is the first survey of its kind for Indonesia, in that interviews were conducted nationwide, including rural areas, and questions were asked on a variety of topics, such as economic conditions, social issues, affinity for political parties, and the election system. The report shows interesting findings. For example, there is strong support for democracy and a projected high voter turnout for the

elections. The survey also provides interesting figures on key political leaders and parties.

The survey is available on the IFES web-site (www.ifes.org), along with other IFES reports on Indonesia. You can also check our latest survey findings on the web-site of the Indonesian National Election Commission (www.kpu.go.id).

NEPAL

Nepal Holds Parliamentary Elections

National parliamentary elections were held in Nepal in two phases on 3 and 17 May. The elections had been called for after the governing coalition, headed by the Nepali Congress Party, lost a vote of confidence. Voting was held in two separate phases in order to allow police officers to protect voters from protesters, primarily Maoists, who were advocating a boycott of the election. Soldiers were used to protect the ballot boxes during the interim period between electoral phases before vote tallying began at the close of polls on 17 May.

The centrist Nepali Congress Party won 110 seats in the 205-member Pratinidhi Sabha (Lower House), seven more than the minimum required to form a majority government. Unlike the results of previous elections, this majority win will allow a single political camp the long sought-after chance to govern without sharing power in a coalition. Some attribute this successful outcome to a show of unity by former Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, who offered to step aside for rival Krishna Prasad Bhattarai.

Nepal Gets New Prime Minister

On 25 May, His Majesty King Birendra appointed Nepali Congress Party leader Krishna Prasad Bhattarai to the office of Prime Minister. Mr. Bhattarai is the Kingdom's ninth Prime Minister in as many years. He replaced Girija Prasad Koirala, also of the centrist Nepali Congress Party, who resigned prior to the elections in order to strengthen the stability of the party.

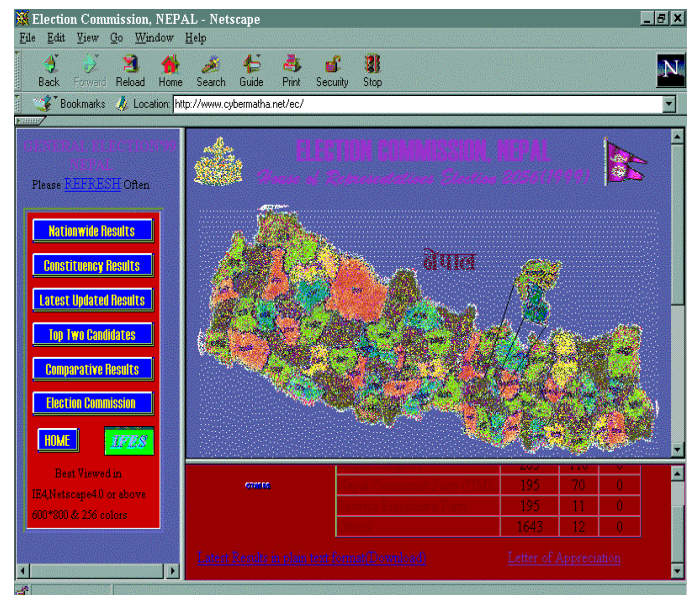
IFES' Results Transmission Project Underway

In preparation for these parliamentary elections, IFES assisted the Election Commission (EC) of Nepal with its election results transmission project. The objective was to help develop and install a system to house the election tally as it was reported on an hourly basis by the district counting centers and to have those results immediately available for public distribution to the mass media, the Internet, and various members of government. IFES effectively succeeded in its efforts, thus assisting the EC to obtain a reliable and timely results transmission system. This project was funded by the US Agency for International Development, with support from the US Embassy to Nepal.

IFES Election Technology Specialist Dr. Jorge I. Tirado arrived in Nepal on 23 April, and began working in close consultation with the EC and its project manager, Neel Kantha Upreti. IFES contracted the local computer programming company of Professional Computer System P. Ltd. to design and program the

hardware and software procured by IFES to assist the EC with the results transmission system. IFES initiated the assistance program by gathering and evaluating pertinent information in order to determine, as an independent entity, if the envisioned Nepal election result transmission system would comply with the EC's expectations. Thereafter, IFES provided technical assistance to the EC consisting of the procurement of computer equipment and technical assistance geared to developing, testing and implementing a system with the ability to receive, tally and count elections results accurately and efficiently.

The implemented system consisted of a central computerized result-receiving center, where periodic vote tabulation summaries were sent via fax from the district counting centers. The receiving center then processed the results and distributed the information to government officials, media and general public via Intranet and Internet connections.



IFES assisted the EC of Nepal in the creation of a webpage to publicize real time results of the national Parliamentary vote tabulation over the internet. The results were broken down by region and party and were updated frequently from Kathmandu.

IFES Assists with Website Construction

With assistance from IFES, funding from USAID, and support from the US Embassy to Nepal, the Election Commission of Nepal (EC) launched its website. The EC uses the website as a means of disseminating information about the latest election results, candidates, and the Commission itself. It is hoped that, through this website, information about election results will be more readily accessible to voters and the mass media. The website can be visited at <http://www.cybermatha.net/ec/>. In recognition of IFES and the other partners who assisted with the creation of the website, the EC released a letter of appreciation on its new site, as follows: "The Election Commission of the Kingdom of Nepal Highly Appreciates the United States

Embassy to Nepal for the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Extended to the Commission for Development & Implementation of Election Results Processing and Dissemination System (ERPDS). The International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) also deserves our Appreciation for their Enduring Efforts in Making the Assistance Materialized.”

Following is a table of nationwide election results for this May’s parliamentary election:

ELECTION COMMISSION, NEPAL			
House of Representatives Election 2056 (1999)			
Nationwide Election Results			
Total Elected: 203			
Party Name	Candidates Elected		
Leading			
Nepali Congress	205	110	0
Nepal Communist Party (UML)	195	70	0
Rastriya Prajatantra Party	195	11	0
Nepal Sadbhawana Party	68	5	0
Rastriya Jana Morcha	53	5	0
Sanyukta Janamorcha Nepal	40	1	0
Nepal Majdoor Kissan Party	41	1	0
Nepal Communist Party (Sanyukta)	19	0	0
Nepal Janahit Party		1	0
0			
Nepal Praja Parishad	8	0	0
Liberal Democratic Party	1	0	0
Sanyukta Prajatantra Party	2	0	0
Rastriya Janata Parishad	39	0	0
Rastriya Janamukti Party	130	0	0
Nepal Communist Party (Marxist)	28	0	0
Nepal Rastriya Aketa Party	1	0	0
Prajatantra Sagarmatha Dal	1	0	0
Save The Nation Movement	3	0	0
Samajbadi Gareeb Party		2	0
0			
Socialist Democratic Party	3	0	0
Pragatishil Upayog Tatto Nepal	1	0	0
Bahujan Samaj Party Nepal	3	0	0
Mechi Mahikali Jana Samonya Dal	1	0	0
Jana Congress	12	0	0
Janamukti Party Nepal	26	0	0
Nepal Dalit Shrmeeek Morcha		22	0
0			
Nepal Rastrabadi Dal	1	0	0
Prajatantric Nepali Janata Party	1	0	0
Nepal Communist Party (M.L)	197	0	0
Rastriya Prajatantra Party (Chand)	184	0	0
Nepal Socialist Party	6	0	0
Hariyali Nepal Party	45	0	0
Nepal Surakhcha Party	1	0	0
Rastrabadi Janata Party	2	0	0
Independent	633	0	0

Impact Summary

IFES is pleased to have been able to assist the Election Commission of Nepal at such a pivotal time in its political history. Through the successful launch of the EC website and the

installation of a results transmission system, IFES was able to assist the EC in ensuring that this recent round of national elections was conducted in as open and transparent a process as possible.

PHILLIPINES

IFES Assists Philippine Election Commission in Voter Registration Effort

In preparation for the upcoming September regional elections, a voter re-registration effort was undertaken by the Philippine Commission on Elections (Comelec) in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) from 8-9 May. At Comelec’s request, IFES assisted throughout the process. During the pre-registration period, IFES led the effort in developing civic and voter education materials for the ARMM electorate, and in training election officials. During the two-day registration, Project Director Gwenn Hofmann traveled to various areas in the ARMM to observe the registration process. Having evaluated the registration effort, IFES facilitated an After-Action Review Roundtable that provided an opportunity for NGOs, the vendor, and others involved in the electoral process to discuss their observations with Comelec and to offer recommendations.

Civic Education Curriculum

IFES Project Director Gwenn Hofmann continued to work on the civic education curriculum, the first draft of which has been reviewed by The Department of Education, Culture, and Sports (DECS), the Notre Dame University Center for Policy Advocacy and Strategic Studies (NDU/CPASS), and COMELEC. Based on their remarks, local Professor of Political Science Ton Umali was engaged on a *pro bono* basis to adapt the curriculum to the Philippine experience and to provide additional examples. NDU/CPASS will now begin “culturizing” the curriculum, so that it will be particularly relevant, informative, and acceptable to Muslim students in the ARMM.

Voter Registration Information Campaign

In preparation for the voter registration effort, IFES developed radio spots, a poster, and a brochure for COMELEC. IFES partnered with several NGOs – NDU/CPASS, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), and Vote Care - to develop radio spots and brochures for distribution. The spots were aired on the PPCRV radio network, which reaches most of the ARMM, and the written materials were distributed in public places.

Despite the efforts of Comelec, IFES, and the NGOs to distribute the voter information to a wide audience, the campaign was not as extensive as had been hoped, leading to some confusion among registrants. Due to Philippine budget limitations, COMELEC was unable to print the posters in the local ARMM dialects as IFES had suggested.

Training Seminars

Another focus of IFES’ pre-registration efforts was the training of Election Officers (EOs), for which two types of training materials

were developed. IFES produced a step-by-step manual that served as a workbook for election workers on registration day, and a flip chart that provided registration officials with solutions to the problems that Comelec felt they might face. These materials were used to train the EOs, who in turn trained the Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs).

Representatives, and Comelec has asked IFES for assistance on an expanded program if changes are made in the election cycle.

Registration Observation

In order to evaluate the voter registration process, IFES Project Director Gwenn Hofmann traveled to Cotabato City to observe registration activities. IFES, with other NGO groups, observed voter registration in all four provinces of ARMM. Hofmann observed that the problems encountered in each province were consistent and that many of these difficulties stem from a very short pre-registration process. Voter registration was not as successful as had been hoped due to the short time frame allotted. Comelec may have to re-register almost 70% of the people who participated in the May exercise.

After Action Review Roundtable

Based on the problems and concerns expressed by the voters and observing NGOs, IFES facilitated an After Action Review Roundtable on 20 May in Manila to give Comelec an opportunity to discuss the issues encountered during the voter registration effort on 8-9 May. It also provided an opportunity for the NGOs that participated or observed in the registration process to discuss their concerns and offer suggestions. Attendees included IFES, NDU/CPASS, Vote Care, PPCRV, NAMFREL, USAID, and Polaroid. Group representatives present their views with one session devoted to discussing solutions.

Participants determined that there is a need to hold additional registration in the ARMM region. Of particular concern was the number of voters who did not have their photo taken as part of the registration process due to the shortage of film, cameras, and batteries at many registration centers. There was further concern about the fingerprinting process: most registrants were allowed to print themselves, and the resulting prints will not meet legal requirements and may invalidate a majority of the registration forms. Comelec representatives acknowledged that they understood the depth of the registration problems and stated that all of the suggestions would be seriously considered prior to undertaking another registration of voters in the ARMM.

Continuing Election Preparations

IFES looks forward to offering continued assistance to Comelec in the coming months. While the general ARMM election is scheduled for 13 September, Philippine President Estrada has met with the current ARMM Governor to discuss the possibility of postponing it. This suggestion was made in the spirit of preserving the Peace Accord of 1996, which stipulates that there will be a Plebiscite prior to this next ARMM election that will allow ten additional provinces the opportunity to the ARMM region. If the region is expanded, then all new ARMM citizens will have the opportunity to vote for their elected officials. This issue is currently being discussed in the House of