

■ EDITORIAL

Mexico: Reducing the political reach of the Peso

2007 has been a year of many developments in democracy worldwide, not least in regions where International IDEA has a strong presence. Latin America, a region which is about to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Third Wave of democratization that spread like wildfire through the region in the late seventies, celebrated a tidal wave of elections over the past year. The great majority of these elections passed without a hitch. In Mexico though, the elections were seriously contested and the country experienced a very tumultuous post-electoral period.



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By Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General

■ FOCUS: Voting from Abroad

Who has the right to participate, and how?

Posted: December 6, 2007

As the number of countries holding democratic elections has increased, the ability of people to exercise their right to vote from outside their home country when an election takes place has become an issue of greater interest.

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Illustration: © Helena Lundin

External voting in Mexico

Posted: November 16, 2007

An interview with Mexican electoral counselor Rodrigo Morales, member of the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico's General Council that was responsible for institutional preparations and arrangements related to Mexico's external voting programme in 2006.

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■ OTHER NEWS

Civic and electoral education in Armenia

Posted: November 17, 2007

In 2007, International IDEA's Office in Armenia directed its efforts towards developing civic and electoral education (CEE) based on the Institute's previous capacity building work in the fields of elections.

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Party funding workshop for Sudanese parties held in Khartoum

Posted: November 14, 2007

At the end of October 2007, International IDEA organized a three-day workshop on party funding in the Sudanese capital Khartoum. Participants learnt about basic principles and different models of party funding, about what works and what doesn't in other countries and what criteria to apply when choosing a suitable system.

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Strengthening democracy, constitutional processes, and state reform in Latin America

Posted: November 12, 2007

From 2-11 October 2007, International IDEA's Secretary-General Vidar Helgesen made official visits to Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico aimed at strengthening relations with the governments and setting the strategic directions for the Institute's programming in Latin America.

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IDEA trains election administrators from East and Southern Africa

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Posted: November 10, 2007

Twenty-five election administrators from East and Southern Africa took part in a 3-day "Implementation Workshop" in Pretoria, South Africa from 5-7 November 2007. The aim of the workshop was to train individuals and organizations in the project management skills required to implement BRIDGE training courses in their own organizations.

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Training to boost effective electoral assistance

Posted: November 1, 2007

International IDEA is taking the lead to develop a broad international understanding about what constitutes effective electoral assistance, based on the experience of different countries. In October 2007, some 80 people participated in the third joint European Commission (EC)-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-International IDEA Training on Electoral Assistance in Brussels.

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NEW RELEASES

Voting from Abroad: The International IDEA Handbook

Examines the concept of external voting, existing practices and the challenges that surround this issue. It provides an overview of external voting provisions in 115 countries and territories in the world, and a map illustrating the regional spread.

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Effective Party Assistance: Stronger Parties for Better Democracy

This policy paper calls for the party assistance community to develop joint principles for project needs assessment, monitoring of implementation and impact evaluation.

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Reports on political parties in Africa

International IDEA's series of reports on political parties in Africa is based on research and dialogue with political parties in thirty African countries:

Political Parties in West Africa: The Challenge of Democratization in Fragile States (English and French)

Political Parties in Southern Africa: The State of Parties and their Role in Democratization

Political Parties in East Africa: Diversity in Political Party Systems

People's Constitution

International IDEA has produced a documentary about people's expectations and views on the constitution-building process in Nepal.

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Photos from making the documentary "People's Constitution" in Nepal 2007. Photo: Leena Rikkilä © International IDEA

International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).

Tel: +46 8 698 37 00, Fax: +46 8 20 24 22 | E-mail: info@idea.int | Web: www.idea.int

Editors: Bénédicte Walter and Monika Ericson

International IDEA, Strömsborg, SE-103 34 Stockholm, Sweden

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