

■ EDITORIAL

The glorious messiness of democratic politics

At the time of writing this, thousands are again assembled in Tahrir Square in Cairo to protest the outcome of the Egyptian elections. It's quite a paradox, in two ways.

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By Vidar Helgesen,
Secretary-General



■ FOCUS: NEPAL'S CONSTITUTION – WHAT HAPPENED?



Rally leading up to deadline day in Nepal
Photo ©: Deepti Khakurel/IDEA

No constitution yet for Nepal

Posted: May 29, 2012

The days leading up to the 27 May 2012 deadline for the Constituent Assembly (CA) to finalize the new constitution in Nepal were marked by intense negotiations, protests rallies, tension and shutdowns around the country. In the end, the CA got dissolved without a new constitution and elections are envisaged for November 2012. IDEA's Nepal office shares what can happen when it comes down to last-minute decision making in the constitution building process

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Read more through the experiences of two people involved in Nepal's constitution building process

Posted: May 29, 2012

- **"We were not consulted when citizenship and the electoral system were decided"**
Interview with Kalpana Rana, Coordinator of the Women's Caucus in the CA. » [Read more](#)
- **"There are some parties who want to declare the constitution without federalism which is unacceptable"**
Interview with Laxman Lal Karna, Vice Chair of Sabdahana Party and member of the Constitutional Dispute Resolution Sub-committee's Task Force. » [Read more](#)

■ OTHER NEWS

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How to measure accountability?

Posted: May 28, 2012

Organizations in Lesotho and Bolivia tested IDEA's *Democratic Accountability Tool*, assessing how their democratic systems work in holding their government to account for public services.

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Intercultural dialogue in Peru

Posted: May 23, 2012

Prior consultation can facilitate negotiated solutions that take into account the rights of original peoples. In Peru, International IDEA is supporting the process of intercultural dialogue and the implementation of 'prior consultation' as a mechanism for democratic participation.

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Monitoring election related violence in Sri Lanka

Posted: May 22, 2012

Designed to empower, prevent and mitigate election related violence, IDEA's *Electoral Risk Management Tool* has this time been piloted in Sri Lanka.

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Shared principles are one way to give everyone a stake in constitutional horse-trading

Posted: May 21, 2012

IDEA's Winluck Wahiu writes "what distinguishes constitutional politics is that constitutional arrangements will gain legitimacy only if they have the broadest base of supporters," discussing the recent IDEA and the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) co-publication *Constitutional Reform Processes and Political Parties - Principles for Practice*.

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Training youth and women to observe elections in Senegal

Posted: May 15, 2012

The upcoming July 2012 parliamentary elections in Senegal will continue to be an important test for the country's democratic record. In this process, IDEA has been involved in facilitating discussions and support networks on gender-mainstreaming of election observation initiatives.

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Elections in the Dominican Republic

Posted: May 20, 2012

On 20 May 2012, IDEA was invited by the Dominican Republic Central Electoral Board to be present during the presidential elections in the country.

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An insider's perspective: managing elections beyond e-day

Posted: May 23, 2012

In a series of interviews, IDEA is speaking with EMBS from its 27 Member States, bringing their daily work closer to our readers. Find out about the world of elections, and the life of EMBS in Finland and Barbados.

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Inter-regional dialogue on democracy in Jakarta

Posted: May 8, 2012

Driven by the regional entities around the world, the ASEAN Secretariat and International IDEA hosted the Second Meeting of the Inter-Regional Dialogue on Democracy on 1 May 2012 in Jakarta.

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Europe and the Arab Spring

IDEA is participating in the conference "Europe and the Arab Spring: Responding to the changing Arab order" on 30 May, organized by Friends of Europe in Brussels. Read our contributions to the conference.

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■ NEW PUBLICATIONS

Constitutional Reform Processes and Political Parties - Principles for Practice

Provides a set of guiding principles for constitutional reform based on practical experiences in Bolivia, Ghana,



Annual Report 2011 - A record of actions

Highlights International IDEA's objectives and main activities in 2011.



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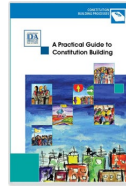
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A Practical Guide to Constitution Building

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Paloma