

■ EDITORIAL

Myanmar: Striving for democracy, from within

The popular protests in Myanmar demonstrate the power of democracy. What they also demonstrate is how little the outside world can actually predict events. Conventional wisdom on Myanmar has tended to be that people are too oppressed and too afraid to stand up for democracy. In the last few days tens of thousands of Burmese have, literally, demonstrated otherwise. They deserve our support in their call for a true, democratic and inclusive national dialogue to build a better future for their country.



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By Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General

■ FOCUS: Evaluating Democracy Support

Why evaluate, what should be evaluated and how?

Posted: September 25, 2007

Democracy support has increased significantly in the last two decades and so has the debate on how to effectively evaluate its impact and account.

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■ OTHER NEWS

Demand high in Latin America for technical expertise

International IDEA expands its regional programme

Posted: September 19, 2007

The work of International IDEA's Latin America team has intensified in recent months, particularly in the areas of democratization and political reform.

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□
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador Maria Fernanda Espinoza,
President of Ecuador Rafael Correa, Secretary General of OAS
José Miguel Insulza, Quito, July 2007.

Constitution Building: the New Social Contract

Posted: August 10, 2007

International IDEA organized a timely international workshop on Constitution Building, 29-31 July 2007 in Quito, just as Ecuador embarks on a constitutional reform process.

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BRIDGE training in Liberia, Kenya, Egypt and Jordan

Posted: 21 September, 2007

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The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network launches new regional centres

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Electoral processes can be undermined if professional election administrators lack the necessary skills to do their job properly. Between June and September 2007, International IDEA organized **BRIDGE training** – a course on electoral processes – in **Liberia**, Kenya, **Egypt** and **Jordan**. *BRIDGE participants in Liberia, June 2007*

International IDEA and the African Union strengthen cooperation

Posted: July 9, 2007

International IDEA and the African Union (AU) Commission have signed an agreement committing to a five-year programme of joint activities to promote democracy and develop democratic institutions in Africa.

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Capacity-building workshops to assist Sudanese political parties

Posted: July 7, 2007

International IDEA workshop on internal democracy for political parties and electoral quotas for women resulted in a series of requests for further training. The workshop was held in Khartoum, Sudan on 24-26 June 2007 and attended by 30 representatives of the six main political parties in Sudan.

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NEW RELEASES

Electoral System Design: The New International IDEA Handbook (Arabic)

Provides a comprehensive overview of the electoral systems in use worldwide. The Arabic edition is part of a project to offer a complete and systematic set of information and tools on electoral processes and systems in Arabic.

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Evaluating Democracy Support: Methods and experiences

Shares new conceptualizations of methods and techniques for evaluating democracy support and points the way forward to potentially promising new developments.

[» Read more](#)

Designing for Equality: Best-fit, medium-fit and non-favourable combinations of electoral systems and gender quotas (Spanish)

Now available in Spanish. It assesses how increased women's representation can be achieved under different combinations of electoral systems and quotas.

[» Read more](#)

Elusive Equality: Looking at the 2006 General Elections from a Gender Standpoint (Spanish)

Offers insight into whether women really compete on equal terms with men in Peru's electoral arena.

[» Read more](#)

The State of Opinion: Bolivians, the Constitution, and the Constituent (Spanish)

Provides insight into Bolivians' attitudes toward how their political system functions and the type of nation they envision for the future.

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