

■ EDITORIAL

Democracy: the challenge of recession

What impact will the recession have on democracy? One instinctive response may be: well, the economic boom did not have a uniformly positive impact. High prices of oil and gas have fuelled autocratic and/or populist tendencies in many countries and regions. High-growth but non-democratic models of governance have been held up as providing alternatives to the traditional notion that democracy and development go hand in hand.



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By Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General

■ FOCUS: Democracy and the European Union

*Election officials in Liberia's 2005 presidential elections
Photo ©: Photo: Margot Gould/IDEA*

What can the European Union do for you?

Posted: February 17, 2009

The European Union is a significant player on the world stage. It is seen as having a history and example from which others could learn from. It consists of 27 countries living out their own understanding of democracy. Yet it does not always have a coherent voice. International IDEA has launched a new initiative to facilitate a shared understanding of how the EU's role in democracy building can best assist international partners in building their own democracies.

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NEEDS to link election observation and electoral assistance

Posted: February 13, 2009

International IDEA is set to play a lead role in improving the ability of EU election observers to provide more informed and comprehensive assessments of electoral processes through the **Network for Enhanced Electoral and Democratic Support (NEEDS)** project.

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■ OTHER NEWS

Constitutional control of the security sector in Nepal

Posted: January 30, 2009

In January 2009, International IDEA arranged a dialogue in Kathmandu on the security sector and its implications for the ongoing constitution-building process in Nepal. The meeting was attended mainly by members of the Constituent Assembly.

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Ecuador looks to International IDEA for help with its electoral code

Posted: February 19, 2009

After the text of the new Ecuadorian Constitution was agreed in September 2008, the National Constituent Assembly's Legislative and Inspection Commission was tasked with preparing bills for a national electoral code.

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International IDEA ranks globally

International IDEA has been ranked 18th in the list of **top global [non US] Think Tanks in the World** in 2008 by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program of University of Pennsylvania.

Democracy support – where now?

Participate in International IDEA and **openDemocracy's** major debate on the current state of democracy support in the international arena.

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International IDEA and the African Union strengthen cooperation to support democracy in Africa

Posted: February 13, 2009

As part of International IDEA's and the African Union's partnership, International IDEA was invited to observe the 12th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Addis Ababa in February 2009.

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International IDEA and the African Union train election administrators in Africa

Posted: February 10, 2009

Twenty-two senior election administrators from the Election Management Bodies of Botswana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe took part in a five-day BRIDGE professional development training course in Pretoria, South Africa from 2-6 February 2009.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

Voting from Abroad: The International IDEA Handbook (Spanish)

Examines the concept of external voting, existing practices and the challenges that surround this issue.

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Creating the New Constitution: A Guide for Nepali Citizens (Nepali)

Presents a brief history of past constitutions in Nepal from the perspective of constitution making and identifies some of the proposals and controversies surrounding political reform.

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Democracy and Development in a Globalized World: International IDEA Democracy Round Table in partnership with CSDS

Democracy and development are deeply intertwined in spite of the difficulty of identifying a direct, causal and quantifiable relationship between them. These issues were discussed at the Democracy and Development Round Table held in New Delhi from 17 to 18 June 2008.

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International IDEA Publications Catalogue 2009

Lists all International IDEA's titles available for sale.

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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: James Lenahan and Monika Ericson

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

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