

EDITORIAL

Our past and our future: reflecting on an anniversary

This year's International Day of Democracy – September 15th – is also an opportunity to recall International IDEA's 15th anniversary and to reflect on past and future challenges for democracy and adequate responses to them. Being fifteen is not an age at which youngsters tend to enjoy the full confidence of their parents. Yet, International IDEA, though being only 15, has long ceased to be a "teenager" in the field of democracy support.



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Vidar Helgesen

By Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General

FOCUS: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY



What's in a day?

This year, 2010, International IDEA celebrates 15 years. On this important day, 15 September, we are launching our booklet *15 Years of Supporting Democracy Worldwide*. It is a reflection of the efforts of the many individuals and organizations committed to bringing about democratization in their own countries, and how IDEA has contributed to their processes. Here are 15 of their stories!

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OTHER NEWS

Bolivian laws advance equality among men and women

Posted: September 15, 2010

In a little over a year, important advances have been made to incorporate a gender perspective in Bolivia's constitutional process. Over two years ago, International IDEA and the Women's Coordinator signed an agreement in order to identify the remaining gaps on women's rights in current legislation. The agreement also includes a strategy to develop new constitutional legislation based on women's needs.

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Constitution Information Centres launched in Nepal

Posted: September 13, 2010

Five Constitution Information Centres were launched in Nepal in August and September 2010 by International IDEA and Nepal Law Society in close collaboration with the Constituent Assembly (CA). These centres will provide local people and organizations information about the CA and the constitution making process.

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Second Ibero-American conference on electoral justice

Posted: September 9, 2010

The second "Ibero-American Conference on Electoral Justice" was held in Panama City from 1-3 September 2010. Jointly convened by International IDEA, the Electoral Tribunal of Panama, and the Government of Panama, it aimed to foster the exchange of knowledge between Latin American experts on the issues around electoral justice and the important role it has to play in ensuring free and transparent elections.

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IDEA supports inter-party dialogue in West Africa

Posted: August 31, 2010

International IDEA has started research on inter-party dialogue mechanisms in five countries in West Africa – Cape Verde, Ghana, Liberia, Mali and Sierra Leone – to make a comparative analysis of the effectiveness of the existing dialogue mechanisms and to explore how such systems could be improved in the region.

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Zambia State of Democracy assessment project launched

Posted: July 30, 2010

Zambia's State of Democracy assessment project was launched on 20 July 2010 in Lusaka. Organized by International IDEA's partners in Zambia – the Foundation for Democratic Process (FODEP) and the Department of Political and Administrative Studies of the University of Zambia (UNZA) – the launch marked the culmination of extended consultations with a broad range of stakeholders and partners about the need for such an assessment.

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IDEA and OAS strengthen cooperation to support democracy in Latin America

Posted: August 1, 2010

The strategic relationship between International IDEA and the Organization of American States (OAS) reached a new level with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two bodies in Washington DC on 29 June 2010.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

**Forthcoming in November 2010:
Electoral Justice: The International IDEA Handbook**

This handbook examines the concept of electoral justice and how to prevent electoral disputes. Using examples from around the world, it will assist any country with the design and implementation of an electoral justice system that best suits their situation. (Read more in IDEA's next newsletter)

15 Years of Supporting Democracy Worldwide

International IDEA's 15th Anniversary booklet is a reflection of the efforts of the many individuals and organizations committed to bringing about democratization in their own countries, and how the Institute has contributed to their processes.



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