Editorial: The integrity of elections

Holding elections is not rocket science. But upholding the integrity of elections is another matter. Elections take place on a weekly basis around the world – not all of them in democratic countries, and not all of them marked by fair electoral competition. One such election took place recently in Russia, where the 4 December State Duma elections were marked by fraud and a total lack of the conditions for fair electoral competition.

By Vidar Helgesen, Secretary-General

Focus: The integrity of elections

Looking closely at the role of regional organizations in elections

A workshop on the role of regional organizations in promoting and protecting the integrity of elections is being hosted by International IDEA in Stockholm from 13–15 December 2011.

Electoral Management Bodies meet in Stockholm


Integrity of elections – a renewed commitment

"Building democracy is a complex process", said Kofi Annan at the second meeting of The Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security in Doha in November.
Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security in Doha in November. “Elections are only a starting point but if their integrity is compromised, so is the legitimacy of democracy.”

» Read more

OTHER NEWS

The Arab Spring – almost a year underway
Posted: December 14, 2011

The Arab Spring is nearing the end of its first year. IDEA’s Ayman Ayoub reflects on the past year and the way ahead in the region.

» Read more

State of Democracy in Zambia – report launched in Lusaka
Posted: December 8, 2011

The State of Democracy in Zambia report was launched at a time of new leadership in Zambia, reflecting the hope and aspirations of the Zambian people.

» Read more

2011 Latinobarometer
Posted: November 30, 2011

IDEA’s Daniel Zovatto summarizes the outcome of the 2011 Latinobarometer, a public opinion survey covering 17 Latin American countries, in the article “Central America: Pessimism increases hand in hand with the economic crisis and insecurity”.

» Read more

Protecting politics from drug trafficking
Posted: December 9, 2011

Although drug trafficking has affected Latin American countries for years, the rise in transnational crime syndicates poses new and urgent challenges to the region’s fledgling democracies.

» Read more

Women’s participation in Nepal: debate of inclusive proportional representation
Posted: December 8, 2011

In Nepal, equal representation is a major agenda item for the women’s movement. In this newsletter, we are sharing two articles by two voices from the country.

- Deepti Khakurel, Women and Constitution Building Coordinator, International IDEA
- Usha Kala Rai, former Coordinator, Women’s Caucus (Constituent Assembly member)

Exploring constitutional processes in Barcelona
Posted: November 21, 2011

Participants from all over the world gathered to learn more about how they can effectively engage in constitutional reform and implementation processes back home, and how people in other countries have solved problems similar to their own.

» Watch the movie and read more

Designing politics for development
Posted: December 5, 2011

How to design democratic politics to promote economic growth and social development was the subject of a meeting organized by International IDEA in Stockholm on 5–6 December.

» Read more

Sustaining the momentum of democratization in the Arab world: discussed at democracy forum
Posted: November 28, 2011

“International IDEA’s firm conviction is that there is no ‘one-size-fits-all’ solution for the democratization and reform processes underway in the Arab region”, said Vidar Helgesen at the Forum in Madrid in November.

» Read more

NEW PUBLICATIONS

A Practical Guide to Constitution Building

This Guide offers a wide range of world examples of how constitutions develop and how their development can establish and entrench democratic values.

» Read more

Introducing Electronic Voting: Essential Considerations

Outlines factors that can influence the success of e-voting solutions and highlights the importance of taking them into account.

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

5th Global Electoral Organization Conference: Credible Elections for Democracy

The GEO 2011 brought together politicians, academics, donors, international organizations and electoral management bodies to share their experiences, discuss current challenges facing elections and new approaches to managing them.

» Read more