

VoICE International

A Quarterly Global Magazine for Voter Information, Communication & Education

A VoICE.NET & India A-WEB Center Publication

Sharing Global Knowledge on Voter Education & Election Management

Innovative Methods for Registration of Different Categories of Voters



VOICE.NET

Member & Associate Countries





A Milestone Covered for VoICE International

It gives me immense happiness and satisfaction to release the Annual Issue of VoICE International that marks the completion of third year of its successful journey. The event coincides with the International Conference on 'Strengthening Institutional Capacity' and the 10th Meeting of the Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia and the 10th National Voters' day Celebrations in India. I congratulate the readers and the contributors to the magazine on this occasion.

VoICE International, a quarterly magazine of ECI's VoICE.NET Platform for global knowledge sharing on voter education and other election related topics started its journey three years back on January 24, 2017 with the launch of its first Issue on 'Strategies for empowering Young and Future Voters' on the eve of International Seminar on the subject at the time of 7th National Voters' Day of India. I am happy to note that during these three years, it has shared best practices, rich experiences from across the countries of the world in a thematic progression. In the process it has a vast reservoir of knowledge and acts as a catalyst for learning from each other.

Levels of electoral participation act as thermometers of the health of a democracy. If large number of citizens fail to turn out to vote, not only they abstain from making a political choice, but they also signal voter apathy. Voter Registration is the first step in connecting democracy with its constituent units, the citizens, to the electoral process. Therefore, the theme of the Issue 'Innovative Registration Methods for Different Categories of Voters' is very significant. The Issue shares the innovation in removal of barriers in voter registration improving the efficiency and health of the Electoral Roll through integration of technology with the ultimate goal of enhancing participation for democratic consolidation. In this backdrop, it is proposed to dedicate the next Issue of the Magazine to the topic 'Strategies for Bridging the gaps of Voter Participation'.

The last Issue of the magazine was shared with the A-WEB community on the eve of 4th General Assembly of the Association of World Election Bodies at Bengaluru in India on September 2-4, 2019. This has been helpful in a quantum jump in VoICE International readership and in effect strengthens VoICE.NET. All the A-WEB members and Partner organizations have also been addressed separately. I am sure that EMBs and more partner organizations will join the Advisory and Editorial Board and also make substantive contributions to the magazine in the form of articles on the topic and other election related subjects.

The Commission congratulates Mr. Umesh Sinha, Secretary General, ECI & Editor-in-Chief, VoICE International alongwith his entire Editorial and the Advisory Board for their valuable contribution to the successful journey of the magazine.

Sunil Arora

Chief Election Commissioner of India &
Chairman A-WEB

EDITORIAL BOARD



SAFAA E. JASIM
Independent High
Electoral Commission Iraq



IRAQ



KENYA



JANE GITONGA
Independent Electoral and
Boundaries Commission Kenya



LESOTHO



LYDIA MACHELI
Independent Electoral Commission
Lesotho



INDIA



MALDIVES



UMESH SINHA
Editor-in-Chief
Election Commission
of India



DHIRENDRA OJHA
Election
Commission
of India



DR. AARTI AGGARWAL
Associate Editor
Election Commission
of India



NAZMA NIZAM
Election Commission
of Maldives



VASU MOHAN
International
Foundation for
Electoral Systems



ANTONIO SPINELLI
International IDEA



S D SHARMA
Advisor
Election Commission
of India



ARIN KUMAR
Fijian Elections Office



FIJI



FOREWORD

Dear Reader,

It gives me immense happiness and satisfaction in presenting to you Issue 4 (Volume III) of VoICE International that marks the completion of third year of its successful journey in thematic progression. The quarterly Issues of the magazine, starting with the theme 'Empowering Young and Future Voters' launched in the International Conference on the subject in January 2017, have shared with you global knowledge on voter education for enhancing the electoral participation from different categories of voters.

Let me share with you that the launch of this Issue of VoICE International is very significant as it coincides with a very important date in the chronicle of India. Having been established on January 25, 1950, the Election Commission of India completes seven decades of delivering elections to the country. Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP), the flagship voter education programme of the ECI and the National Voters' Day celebration complete their decadal journey of empowering voters for informed, ethical ballot decisions and enhancing participation.

The Issue shares with you articles from Australia, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Malawi, International IDEA and Global Perspectives on 'Innovative Registration Methods for Different Categories of Voters'. The Issue also shares with you interesting articles from Kazakhstan on Pilot Project in schools, Sri Lanka on PwD's, Malawi on 'Impact of Climate Change on Elections' and a lot more interesting information on events, conferences, training and global election updates from across the world.

On behalf of VoICE International and the VoICE.NET community, I take this opportunity to congratulate Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner of India Mr. Sunil Arora for taking over as the Chairperson of Association of World Election Management Bodies (A-WEB) when India hosted the 4th General Assembly on 2-4 September, 2019. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the new Secretary General of A-WEB Mr. Jonghyun Choe. You would also be glad to know that the last Issue of VoICE International was released during the event with the endorsement that it would evolve as the magazine of A-WEB. We look forward to the valuable guidance from the Chairman A-WEB, other Member EMB and Partner Organizations and proactive support from the new Secretary General A-WEB in furthering the cause of knowledge sharing through VoICE International. Connect with the A-WEB community envisages a quantum jump in the readership of the magazine and we look forward to Enrich Knowledge, Experience and Best Practices from the entire A-WEB community.

I take this opportunity to convey my special thanks to Hon'ble Mr. Sik Bun Hok, Chairman National Election Committee, the Kingdom of Cambodia for his contribution to voter registration in Cambodia. I would like to express my gratitude to all the authors from EMB International Organizations, the Advisory Board and the Editorial Board for their valuable contribution to the Issue.

I dedicate this issue to the cause of enhancing electoral participation through 'Innovative Registration Methods for Different Categories of Voters'.

Lastly, I would also like to announce that the next issue to be launched in the month of April, 2020 is focused on the topic 'Strategies for Bridging the Gaps in Voter Participation' and look forward to early contributions on the subject.

Best Wishes

Umesh Sinha

Editor-in-Chief, VoICE International
Secretary General, ECI &
Sr. Advisor, India A-WEB Center

ADVISORY BOARD



JOSE' ROBERTO RUIZ
National Electoral
Institute, Mexico



MEXICO



DIEGO ZAMBRANO
National Electoral Council,
Ecuador



ECUADOR



BRAZIL



DR. FABIO LIMA QUINTAS
Superior Electoral Court,
Brazil



ZEHRA TEPIC
Central Election Commission,
Bosnia & Herzegovina



BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA



TUNISIA



KHAMEYEL FENNICHE
High Independent Election
Commission Tunisia



SAO
TOME
PRINCIPE



HERNANE VIEGAS SANTIAGO
Democratic Republic of
Sao Tome & Principe



NAMIBIA



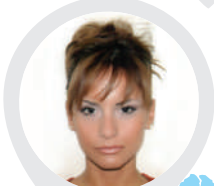
MARILYN KATINJU
Electoral Commission
of Namibia



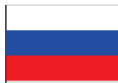
DEL ZAKKADAD
United Nations
Development Programme



Justice Dr Jane Mayemu Ansah
Malawi Electoral Commission



NATIA ZAALISHVILI
Central Election
Commission of Georgia



NIKOLAI LEVICHEV
Central Election Commission
of the Russian Federation



PHUB DORJI
Election Commission
of Bhutan



BHUTAN



MARIYA MUSORLIEVA
CEC Republic of Bulgaria



BULGARIA



NAVARAJ DHAKAL
Election Commission
of Nepal



NEPAL



ASADUZZAMAN
Election Commission,
Bangladesh



BANGLADESH



JAMES TZUNG-YU LAI
Central Election
Commission, Taiwan



TAIWAN



RT. HON. LORD DALGETY Q.C.
Electoral Commission
Kingdom of Tonga



**KINGDOM
OF TONGA**



PALESTINE



AFGHANISTAN



**Ashraf
Palestine**



DR. ABDUL KHABIR MOMAND
Independent Election
Commission of Afghanistan



SRI LANKA



U TIN TUN
Union Election
Commission, Myanmar



**MYANMAR
(BURMA)**



J.A.S.P JAYASINGHE
Sri Lankan Election
Commission



MAURITUS



DHARMAJAI MULLOO
Office of the Electoral
Commissioner Mauritius



SOUTH AFRICA



DR NOMSA MASUKU
Electoral Commission
of South Africa



AUSTRALIA



BERNADETTE O'MEARA
Australian Electoral
Commission

CONTENTS

INDIA CHAIRS 11

Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) 11

RESPONSES BY READERS 12

BANGLADESH 12

CAMBODIA 12

MALAWI 12

LESOTHO 12

FEATURES 13 - 29

Australia 13

Innovative Methods of Voter Registration: Australian Experience

Cambodia 15

Cambodia NEC Provides Voter Registration Service Close to Citizen

Fiji 18

Innovative Methods for Voter Registration: Experience in Fiji

India 23

Successful Journey of Electoral Registration in India

International IDEA 26

The Role of Voter Education in Voter Registration

Malawi 28

Malawi Successfully Migrates to Biometric Voter Registration System

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE 30 - 37

Innovative Methods for Voter Registration 30

INSIGHTS 38 - 45

Kazakhstan 38

About the pilot project 'Elections of the school President'

Malawi 41

Impact of climate change on Elections

Sri Lanka 43

Importance of disaggregated data of Voters with Disabilities: Sri Lankan case study

A-WEB CONFERENCE 46 - 65

The 4th General Assembly A-WEB 46

September 2, 2019 47

Extra ordinary Executive Board Meeting

September 3, 2019 53

India takes over as Chair of A-WEB

September 4, 2019 58

International Conference on 'Initiatives and Challenges of Social Media and Information Technology in Elections'

Exhibition 63

Exhibition on Election Innovation at the 4th General Assembly of A-WEB

India A-WEB Center 65

EVENTS

66 - 82

Republic of Korea 66

Seminar on improvement of Election Laws and Systems

Malawi 67

SADC Electoral Commissions reflect on Electoral Observation

Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) 69

Capacity Building Program to Encourage Future Voters

International Day of Democracy 75

IIIDEM 77

International trainings conducted at IIIDEM Center, India

IFES 80

Inclusive Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning: Toward an Integrated Approach

Second Electoral Technology and Cyber-Hygiene Course Conducted 81

GLOBAL ELECTION UPDATES

83 - 91

Argentina 83

Fernández-Fernández sweep Argentine elections

Britain 84

Conservatives sweep 'early' UK elections

Canada 85

Liberals retain Canada

Mozambique 86

Mozambique's dual elections

Romania 87

Iohannis prevails in Romania

Sri Lanka 88

Sri Lanka elects Rajapaksa

Tunisia 89

Twin elections in Tunisia

Elections to watch in 2020 90

ANNOUNCEMENTS 92 - 93

IFES 92

IFES welcomes Anthony Banbury as new President and CEO

Ecuador 93

CNE invites the European Union to observe the 2021 Elections

Executive statement ratifies reforms promoted by the Electoral Function

PUBLICATIONS 94 - 96

The Global State of Democracy 2019 94

Open Primary Election 94

Electoral Justice System Assessment Guide 95

Electoral Management Design 95

New Issue of the VoICE 96

International Launched 96

Online Violence Against Women 96

in Politics in Ukraine: An IFES

Assessment

GLOSSARY

QUIZ

Copyright of VI

All rights reserved. The material (i.e writing, artwork and/ or photos) featured in this publication may be used or reproduced with an acknowledgement to the author, their institution, and VoICE.International at the Election Commission of India. However, any material downloaded or copied from VoICE.International should be an exact reproduction and without any alteration whatsoever.

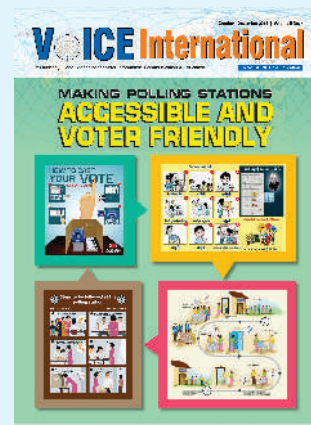
PREVIOUS ISSUES OF VoICE INTERNATIONAL



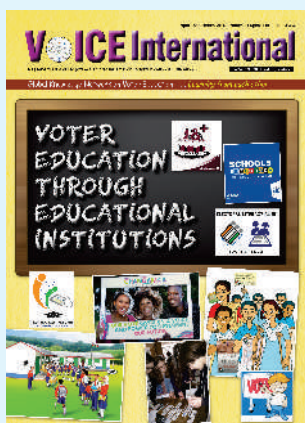
JULY-SEPT 2019



JAN- JUN 2019



OCT- DEC 2018



APR-SEPT 2018



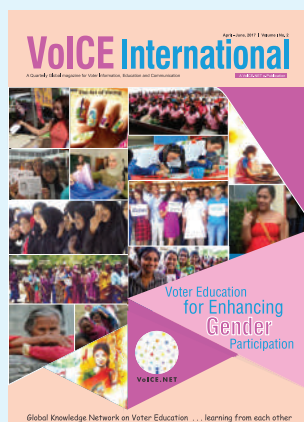
JAN-MAR 2018



OCT-DEC 2017



JUL-SEP 2017



APR-JUN 2017



JAN-MAR 2017

INDIA CHAIRS

Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)



Chief Election Commissioner of India, Sunil Arora was elected as the new Chairman of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) for the term 2019-21 as India took over the Chair from Romania at the 4th General Assembly of A-WEB at Bengaluru on September 3, 2019.

More than 110 delegates from 45 countries attended the meeting. On this occasion, Sunil Arora, Chief Election Commissioner of India, along with the two Election Commissioners of India namely, Ashok Lavasa and Sushil Chandra and Senior Deputy Election Commissioner of India, Umesh Sinha also launched ECI's quarterly magazine – 'VoICE International' which showcases best practices from more than 30 Countries.

Sunil Arora recalled Mahatma Gandhi's words - 'Democracy must in essence mean the art and science of mobilizing the entire physical, economic and spiritual resources of all the various sections of the people in the service of the common good of all'. Arora also noted that the very preamble of A-WEB Charter spells out the vision of A-WEB where in it mentions the need for strengthening cooperation between and among EMBs for the purpose of ensuring a credible electoral process in the world; committing to promote conditions conducive to free, fair, transparent and participative elections and to the development of a democratic culture in the world; promoting gender equality and the inclusion of People with Disabilities (PwDs) and other marginalised communities in the electoral process. "Moreover, more than two-third of global population now lives under democratic rule," he added.

Arora announced that an A-WEB Centre would be set up in New Delhi for documentation, research and training; for sharing best practices and capacity

building among the members EMBs of the Association. The Institute has already conducted over 750 training programmes for over 27,000 election officials in India besides organising 62 International Capacity Building Programmes for over 1165 election officials from 96 countries. Standard training modules for National & International participants are developed by a renowned team of Indian and International experts. The members greatly appreciated the generous offer from India to support capacity building program for other countries.



The General Assembly also ratified the appointment of the new Vice Chairman of A-WEB Glen Vuma Mashinini, Chairperson of Election Commission of South Africa and the new Secretary General, Jonghyun Choe, from Republic of Korea. Bidding farewell to Outgoing Secretary General of A-WEB, Yong-Hi Kim, Arora complimented him for

steering the Secretariat in a professional and efficient manner and expanding the activities of A-WEB. Arora placed on record deep gratitude to the outgoing Chairman Constantin – Florin Mituletu – Buica, Hon'ble President of the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania for having shouldered the responsibility as the Chairperson of A-WEB for the last two years.

Accepting the responsibility as Chairman of A-WEB, Arora said, "Election Commission of India looks forward to further strengthening its interaction and partnership with A-WEB Secretariat and member EMBs in promoting the activities of the Association as per its objectives and empowering the fellow EMBs through its capacity building programmes". He thanked the members for the trust and confidence reposed in the Election Commission of India.

Dear Readers...

BANGLADESH

We would like to this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your dedication and commitment in building global network through VoICE International. This is the platform of sharing knowledge and experience.

You may aware that Bangladesh Election Commission has started using EVM in different level of elections. We would like to share our experience of use of EVM through your magazine.

Md. Israil Hossain
Director, Public Relations
Bangladesh Election Commission

CAMBODIA

September 3, 2019 is a landmark day in the history of the National Election Committee (NEC) of the Kingdom of Cambodia, which was approved by the 4th General Assembly of A-WEB to be a full-fledged member of A-WEB. Therefore, on behalf of Cambodia NEC members and officials, I would like to thank all A-WEB members for offering their support and this great honor to Cambodia NEC.

The NEC has a goal and vision ahead for future reform, preparing for online registration of the political parties and the candidate lists running for the election unlike what we used to do manually.

Sik Bun Hok
Chairman
National Election Committee
The Kingdom of Cambodia

MALAWI

The Malawi Electoral Commission is pleased to accept the invitation and hereby express its acceptance to be a member of VoICE.NET. We feel this will be a good platform for us to learn from other and at the same time share best practices for the benefit of the global village.

Sam Alfandika
Chief Elections Officer

LESOTHO

I would like to resume the working and sending of articles. May I kindly be accepted? Thank you.

Lydia Macheli
Independent Electoral Commission
Lesotho



Innovative Methods of Voter Registration: Australian Experience

The Australian Electoral Commission's (AEC) communication outreach aims to provide information to help maximise enrolment and successful participation in the federal election among all eligible voters. To ensure comprehensive communications, consideration and planning for the diversity of the Australian population and their information needs is key. This is particularly important given Australia's compulsory voting system, to enable people to exercise their democratic right and obligation to vote.

Australia has a large culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) population. The 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Australia's largest statistical collection undertaken every five years) shows that nearly half of Australians had either been born overseas, or one or both parents had been born overseas. Given this diversity, the creation and distribution of translated information and targeted activities remain essential to ensure effective and engaging communications about federal elections. Through strategically identifying and targeting the most at need language groups, it is possible to reach a majority of Australia's CALD population.

For the 2019 federal election, election information was produced in up to 30 languages (including languages such as Hindi, Arabic, Chinese, Nepali, Urdu and Tamil), ensuring outreach of approximately 76% of the CALD community.

The AEC ensures that information is delivered through suitable channels to reach and resonate with voters. The 2019 federal election public information campaign involved advertising across multi cultural media channels, in multiple languages across the three campaign phases of close of rolls, voter services and formality. In addition to advertising, audiences were reached through media and community relations, by translating and distributing a range of media releases and key information products via community and stakeholder networks, and through a telephone interpreter service for assistance and further information about voting and the election.

In the lead-up to the 2019 New South Wales (NSW) state election in March and federal election in May, the AEC worked with the Ethnic Communities' Council of New South Wales (NSW) and the NSW Electoral Commission

to deliver the Vote Talk pilot program. The program aimed to deliver information to CALD voters in their own language. Through engaging in-language conversations, this program would assist to address cultural/language barriers which hinder their participation as Australian citizens in the voting process.

The messages, when delivered using the Vote Talk model, encourage communities to actively pursue their rights as Australian citizens to vote. Using the ECCNSW 'Speak My Language' (SML) model and framework, the partnership co-designed the Vote Talk program guidelines, training materials and activities.

Using trusted and recognised members of the community, the Vote Talk pilot program harnessed the power of ethnic radio to deliver in-language information about voting and election processes, which helped make voting in Australia simple and easy to understand.

Initial demographic research and a data review 2018 identified eight language groups for inclusion (Arabic, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Chinese, Spanish, Hindi, Assyrian and Tamil). A second review in October 2018 included three CALD community consultations attended by forty-six



Café conversations were pre-recorded interviews conducted in person or on the telephone and involved two or more people for 20-30 minutes. Conducted entirely in the target language, they were used to scope and record community attitudes and responses towards voting and election processes. This provided the opportunity for the bilingual facilitator to explore the guest speaker's personal attitudes and experiences towards voting and elections. As the conversation evolved, the facilitator, where applicable, intervened by providing accurate information with the aim of dispelling any misconceptions which could affect people casting a formal vote. Finally, all recordings were put through two Vote Talk quality assurance checking processes prior to being disseminated to the public. Recordings which did not pass the quality assurance checks were not shared with the public. However, were still deemed as a valuable resource. The content and information provided in these recordings were used as case studies to debrief with the bilingual



However, it noted that a more comprehensive marketing and communication strategy in the next round would ensure an increase to the program's exposure, and made a number of other recommendations for future target groups and activities. The AEC will continue to use population data and insights into voter behaviour to ensure access to comprehensive information is provided to facilitate successful participation in electoral events.

Executive Officer to the Commissioner National Executive
National Executive Australian Electoral Commission



Cambodia NEC Provides Voter Registration Service Close to Citizen



Voting activity of disabled on General Election in 2018



Voter Registration 2019 in Province

Since its establishment in 1997 until 2015, the National Election Committee (NEC) of Cambodia used manual voter registration, requiring applicants to be physically present and produce required documents, including Cambodian National ID card or passport or other identity certificate. All data was then manually recorded and transferred to the NEC to be stored in its computer system. In 2016, with the assistance of the European Union and Japan, the NEC updated the voter registration from manual to computerized framework.

Voter registration is the first phase of the electoral process and takes place annually for approximately three months, from May to July. In addition, in the year of a general election, the NEC can decide on the date and duration for revision of the voter lists and registration of new voters, as well as validation of other voter lists.

While the main registration operation is conducted in commune/sangkat offices across the country, mobile voter registration stations will now be placed to some villages to be closer to citizens' residences.

To ensure citizens' rights to vote and to create high-quality voter lists, the NEC has followed three universal principles including:

- **Completeness**- all eligible Cambodian citizens must have their names on the voter lists
- **Accuracy** - the name and data of voters are properly recorded from the Cambodian National ID card or identity certificate produced by applicants
- **Currency** - regular updating recording changed situation of voters (e.g. new address or name).



Stakeholder Meeting on conclusion of voter registration, preparation and display of preliminary voter list



Voter Registration 2019 in Province



Voting activity of disabled on General Election in 2013

In order to achieve the above three goals, various methods have been applied in voter education and dissemination including:

Education and Dissemination Through Training

- Generally, prior to the opening of the annual voter registration, the NEC organizes training on regulations and procedures for every phase of voter registration for voter registration officials at all levels, from national to individual registration station.
- **H.E. Sik Bun Hok,** NEC Chairman, has visited five regions in Cambodia to educate, disseminate and raise awareness about elections to thousands of participants including youth, students, teachers and professors, an activity which we believe to be unprecedented for a Head of Election Management Body (EMB).

Education and Dissemination through Media, Social Networks, and Websites

- Media in this regard, perhaps the NEC

implemented similar activities to EMBs of other countries, producing a number of educational programs for dissemination via state-owned and private newspapers, radio and television stations.

- Social Networks NEC has set up accounts on Facebook, YouTube, Flickr, Online Radio & TV, Cam NEC News (app)
- Website NEC has created one website for general information at www.necelect.org.kh and another for voter list information at www.voterlist.org.kh or App VoterlistKH.

Local Education

- NEC cooperates with and encourages the participation of authorities, NGOs, and political parties in enabling citizens to register for vote.
- Playing recordings via mobile loudspeakers in villages in all 1646 communes for three days announcing the voter registration period.
- Provincial/Capital Election Secretariats hold weekly meetings with provincial/Capital authorities, NGOs and political parties to monitor working activities and resolve any problems that have arisen.
- Producing the following voter registration educational materials and documents:
 - Leaflet on voter lists updates and voter registration
 - Poster on voter registration station sample
 - Poster on inviting Cambodian eligible citizen to participate in voter list revision and voter registration
 - Banners showing voter registration date and duration
 - Manual on voter lists revision and voter registration
 - Aide-memoire for voter list revision and voter registration
 - Cartoon booklet for voter registration
- Question-Answer booklet on voter lists revision and voter registration
- Educational video spot on voter registration for people with visual or hearing impediments
- Educational video spot on voter registration for persons with other disabilities.



Election Material Transportation by Elephant



Ballot Counting on General Election in 2018

Playing the role of service mindedness, the NEC distributes materials and documents to all destinations by all means to enable the general public as well as voters to access information in remote areas, including by using elephants and boats, and other means of transportation.

Education via Telephone

- The NEC sends out important announcements via SMS to mobile phones.
- The NEC operates a Call Center which citizens can call via 18002030 free of charge to get

technical information on voter lists, regulations and procedures for the election.

- The NEC sends out Interactive Voice Response (IVR) on important electoral information relating to voter lists, regulations and procedures for the election to mobile phones.

As service mindedness, Cambodia NEC has set out two goals: ensuring legitimacy and credibility in voter registration and elections. H.E. Sik Bun Hok, NEC Chairman, stated that citizens who are of voting age for vote must have their name on voter lists and their votes shall be counted most properly.

The Cambodia NEC is committed to further widespread education and dissemination on voter registration for all citizens, especially for elders and persons with disabilities, with the participation of all stakeholders, cooperative partners, and further cooperation with international parties, especially with the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) to share mutual experiences on electoral tasks to ensure the continual improvement of the entire election process.

Sik Bun Hok

Chairman
National Election Committee
The Kingdom of Cambodia



Voting activity of disabled on General Election in 2018



Innovative Methods for Voter Registration: Experience in Fiji

The Fijian Elections Office is mandated by law Electoral (Registration of Voters) Act, 2012 to prepare and maintain the National Register of Voters ['NRV']. To comply with the legislative requirements, the FEO carries out continuous registration of eligible voters between elections and does frequent data cleansing to ensure that the NRV is accurate and updated. To ensure that all persons entitled to vote are given equal opportunity to register and exercise their right to vote, the FEO has taken an all-inclusive approach by implementing various registration methods such as school registration drives, mobile registration (house call service), registration at business houses and government agencies, Voter Services Centre, nationwide voter registration exercise or community outreach and the overseas voter registration drive.

In adopting a wide range of methods, the FEO ensures that eligible young voters, persons with disabilities, elderly citizens, bedridden or immobile persons as well as those living abroad and in remote communities are easily able to access voter services.

Background

Pursuant to section 55 (1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji and section 3 (1) of the Electoral (Registration of Voters) Act, 2012 a person is required to have reached the age of 18 years and be a citizen of Fiji prior to being registered as a voter. Apart from this, standard policies and procedures are also in place by the organisation for the conduct of registration, one of which is the mandatory documentation requirements such as the Birth Certificate and either a valid photo Identification or Fiji passport. Beginning in July 2012, FEO started voter registration programs in Fiji using a biometric voter registration system. In the process of registration, essential personal details of voters

(name, date of birth, residential address, gender and etc.) together with its biometric including fingerprints and facial photographs are captured. With the biometric information and through the process of data matching and adjudication, the FEO ensures that there is no intentional existence of multiple registration of voters.

In Fiji, once a voter is registered, the registration is valid for life and the voter receives a Voter Card. The Voter Card is specific to every voter and contains a unique Voter Number. Being Fiji's most popular ID with the eagerness to instantly own a Photo ID; the Voter Card has been a driving factor in encouraging eligible Fijians to register. Voter Card 1.0 was introduced together with the BVR system in 2012 which contained the unique voter number, photo, and full name, date of birth and residential address of the voter. Then in April 2017, FEO saw the need to redesign and update the Voter Card to include the FEO logo and contact details as well as the incorporation of additional security features to avoid copying and duplication of cards.

After the 2018 General Election, FEO further improved the Voter Card 2.0 by including the polling venue information into its current and existing format of Voter Card 2.0. Inclusion of this information was introduced earlier last year (2019) and allowed voters to be able to view and confirm their polling venue as printed on the card. Fiji has a precinct voting system whereby voters are registered based on their usual place of residence. On Election Day a voter can only vote at his or her designated polling station as stated in the Voter Card.

The latest census conducted in Fiji was in 2017 whereby the total population obtained was 884,887. For the 2018 General Election, total registered voters were 637,527 compared to 591,101 for the previous General Election in 2014. From the total registered voters recorded,



Students of Bhawani Dayal Arya College after being registered



Ballantine Memorial School Students getting registered during the school registrant

female voters constitute of 49.63% which is a total of 316,431 voters and males at 50.37% having a total of 321,096 voters.

In the 2018 Fijian General Election Final Report of the Multinational Observer Group ['MOG'], they commended on the approach taken by FEO on its registration processes and methods. The MOG found the process to be orderly, inclusive and well-communicated. Nevertheless, the MOG has recommended for an external audit of the Voter Register and lists as this would reassure Fijian voters of the efficacy of the FEO's management of the register. FEO has taken this recommendation on board and has included this in its next 4 years [2020 -2023] strategic plan.

Registration Methods Implemented by FEO School Registration Drives

Beginning in 2015, the FEO has continuously conducted school registration drives for all secondary, tertiary and vocational schools throughout Fiji. The targeted audience for this exercise are students that have turned 18 years old



Information session during school registration drive

while still in their secondary school level of education. This has become an annual event for the FEO, which have seen enrolments of around 6,000 to 7,000 students on a yearly basis from this initiative alone.

Inclusive of the school registration drive program is a 30 minutes information session which is conducted for years 11 to 13 students. This category of students consists of those who have turned 18 years old or will be turning 18 years old during the school year. The key information delivered for information session includes:

- Who can register to vote;
- How to register to vote;
- Your responsibility as a voter; and
- Eligibility and Requirements for registration.

This method has been found to be an effective and convenient way of providing voter awareness to students while capturing large number of new registrants at the same time.

Mobile Registration

FEO conducts mobile registration by deploying Voter Registration Teams through home visits to eligible voters who are either ill or disable as well as to elderly and immobile individuals who are unable to access voter registration services offered at the Voter Services Centre ['VSC']. This method is only available upon a request from the eligible voter, voter's relative or next of kin.



H.E The President, Major General (Ret'd) Jioji Konroteis served by an FEO Official during the business house visit to the Office of the President.

Registration at Business Houses

Another method of registration is by FEO conducting Registration Program for Business Houses. This initiative is normally implemented during build up to a General Election on Election year. The program for business houses include voter awareness sessions for staff and as well as voter services such as registration or updating of voter details.

FEO notes that this is one of its successful initiative as it receives quite a large number of requests or invites from various employers who usually takes advantage of this opportunity of having voter services delivered to the door steps of their staff.



Display of the NRV to Parliament staff during the business house visit program.

Voter Services Centres (VSC)

The VSCs were established to facilitate for ongoing voter services during non-election years. It provides services such as registration of eligible voters and updating of details by registered voters.

After the 2014 General Election, the VSCs were opened in two (2) main cities and one (1) major town. Then one (1) year prior to the 2018 General Election sixteen (16) other VSCs were opened in towns across Fiji to cater for the general public's demand for voter services.



Voters lining up at VSC, Suva prior to the 2018 General Election



FEO Staff serving a voter at VSC, Suva

Nationwide Voter Registration Exercise/ Community Outreach

The national registration drives were developed and implemented to provide a Fiji wide registration coverage targeting those eligible voters living in the remote communities and rural outskirts of the two (2) main islands in Fiji. These individuals were not able to access the Voter Services Centres due to the remoteness and inaccessibility of the area they lived in.

During the build-up to the 2018 General Election, the FEO implemented a three (3) phase nationwide drive exercise. This involved a massive Fiji wide coverage whereby FEO teams visited communities, schools, villages and settlements in the maritime islands, rural and urban dwellings.

These three (3) phase exercises were conducted as follows:

- Nationwide Registration Drive/ NRV Display (May, 2017);
- Know Your Election ['KYE'] Awareness Drive I (March, 2018); and
- Know Your Election ['KYE'] Awareness Drive II (September, 2018).

The first phase exercise included registration of eligible voters and display of the NRV to registered voters which provided them an opportunity to verify and confirm their own enrolment details. Moreover, the second and third phases not only included registration and display of NRV, it also provided platform for delivery of critical election related information to voters prior



Registration conducted during an outdoor broadcast prior to the 2018 General Election

to the conduct of the 2018 General Election. However, it must be noted that the maritime areas were specifically targeted for the third phase as they had the least access to voter services.

Apart from this, Voter Registration Centres ['VRC'] were set up at prominent locations or hotspots such as supermarkets and malls to cater for voters in the urban and peri urban areas. These locations were selected for its convenience to voters and heavy foot traffic.

Overseas Voter Registration Drive

FEO has the responsibility of registering eligible voters who either reside in the country or live abroad. As such, Fijian citizens who reside overseas are also given the equal opportunity to be registered in the NRV and participate in a General Election.

The Overseas Voter Registration Drive is a massive exercise that is implemented by FEO one year prior to election year and normally conducted during 'Fiji Day' celebrations as most Fijians living overseas would congregate to a specific location in their countries of residence to celebrate this event.

Countries where a high number of Fijian nationals are residing were selected for this exercise and this included Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States of America and neighbouring Pacific Island countries. FEO worked closely with Fijian embassies and consulates in the various countries to ensure this exercise was carried out successfully.



FEO official assist voters in checking their voter details during the NRV Display, 2017



Overseas Registration conducted in Seattle, USA (left) and Fiji High Commission, London (right) during the 2017 Overseas Voter Registration Drive

Innovative move towards the advanced technology era

Although FEO has been successfully implementing the registration methods that have been mentioned earlier on, there are still room for improvement bearing in mind the availability of advance registration technologies. Therefore, FEO is considering to develop an **online portal** for **voters** to update their **voter details**.

The current process requires a voter to visit the nearest VSC or VRC to update their voter detail which becomes inconvenient at times. With an available online portal, voters will be able to access and update their details from the comfort of their homes.

With further development to this online portal, enrolments of new registrants residing overseas could also be considered. However, this option needs to take into account the safety and security of information before it could be introduced.

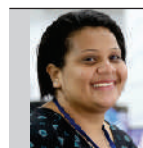
Further, the introduction and use of **QR Code** in our registration system and Voter Card is another feature which FEO is heading towards. The use of QR code would allow voters and institutions that used the Voter Card to easily verify voter details

contained in this card. With the scanning of QR Code on the Voter Card, related information of specific voter would be viewable to the interested party.

Conclusion

Voter registration method and strategies are designed to improve registration rates, accuracy and allows election administrators to effectively and efficiently reach out to its potential voters. Inclusive registration methods also positively contribute to the voter turnout rate during elections.

With the approach taken by FEO, it ensures that all categories of potential and registered voters are given equal opportunity to access its voter services. Remote location, age, disability status of a voter should not be a barrier in participating in an election unless and otherwise restricted by law. Moving forward towards the era of advance technology, online services could be developed for convenient and effective way of providing voter services. Nevertheless, special considerations needs to be taken into account on the safety and security of its organisation assets most importantly being the voter data which needs to be treated with highest confidentiality.



Litia Sema

Operations Coordinator
Voter Registration
Fijian Elections Office



Successful Journey of Electoral Registration in India

The concept of democracy as enshrined in the Indian Constitution presupposes the representation of the citizens in the Parliament and State Legislatures by method of periodically held elections on basis of universal adult franchise. For conduct of any election, electoral roll is a basic document.

The Constitution mandates Election Commission of India to conduct elections and prepare electoral rolls before such elections.

The election laws provide the following eligibility conditions for registration of any person as an elector in a constituency in India-

- He must be a citizen of India,
- He must not be less than 18 years of age on the qualifying date as prescribed by law,
- He should be ordinarily resident in the constituency concerned,
- He must not be disqualified for such registration under the law made by Parliament.

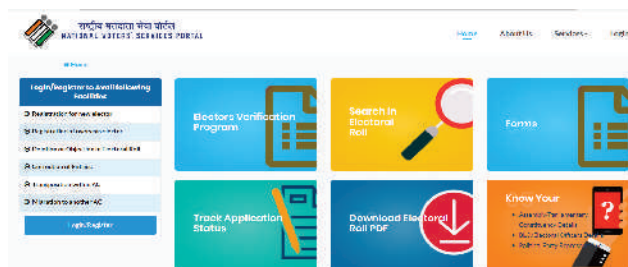
There are three categories of electors-

- General elector- An unenrolled eligible Indian citizen can apply for enrolment in electoral roll by submitting application in Form-6 to the concerned Electoral Registration Officer.
- Service elector- A service elector is a person who is a member of armed forces of the Union or armed police force of a state, serving outside that state or a person who is employed under Government of India in a post outside India. For enrolment as a service voter, an eligible service personnel should apply in Form-2/2A/3, as the case may be, through his controlling authority to the registration officer.
- Overseas Indian elector- An overseas Indian elector is a citizen of India, absenting from his place of ordinary residence in India owing to his employment, education or some other reason and who has not acquired citizenship of any other country. An Overseas Indian can apply in Form-6A. He is registered in the electoral roll of the constituency in which his

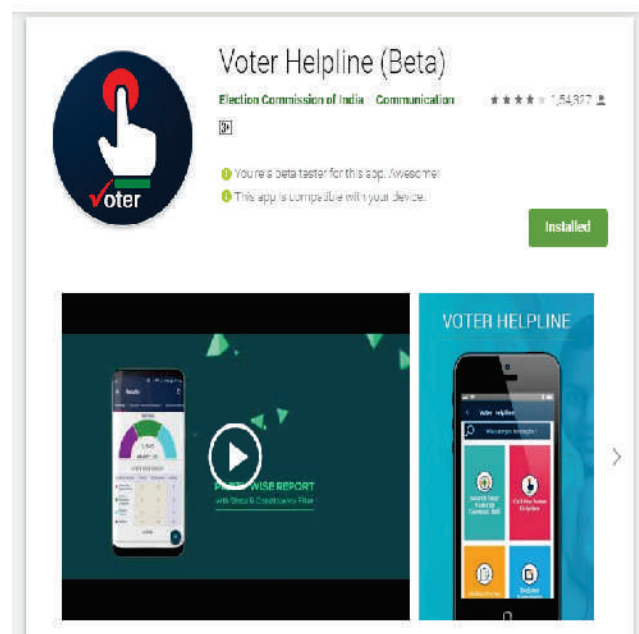
- place of residence as shown in the passport is located.

To fulfil the constitutional responsibilities vested in it, Election Commission ensures that the elections in the country are not only free and fair but also inclusive. The Election Commission is committed to register every eligible citizen as elector. In order to keep electoral roll updated, the Election Commission conducts revision of the electoral roll every year. The citizens applying for registration as general elector or overseas elector have been given several facilities for making online application for enrolment and verification of details, which include the following –

- National Voters' Services Portal (www.nvsp.in)



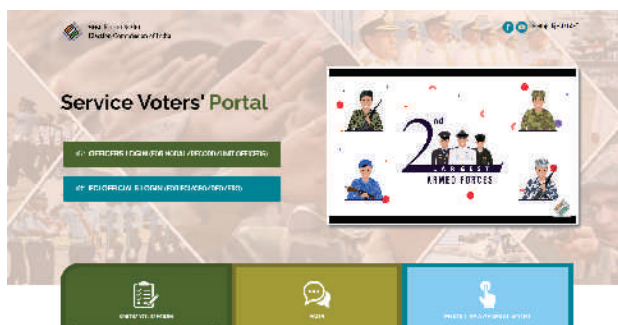
- Voter Helpline Mobile App



- By visiting Common Service Centres (CSCs).
- For submitting the application in offline mode, the citizens can visit Voter Registration

Centre/Voter Facilitation Centre at offices of Electoral Registration Officer.

The service electors have been given facility for online registration through a dedicated service voters portal (<http://servicevoter.nic.in>).



The Election Commission has been taking every possible effort to maximise the enrolment of eligible citizens. In addition to the annual revisions, the Election Commission has been holding special programmes in campaign mode to achieve improvement of the health of electoral roll by focussing on inclusion of targeted groups like first time voters, women, Persons with Disabilities (PwD) and citizens above 80 years age, correcting inaccuracies in details of electors and deleting names of the electors who are no longer eligible to remain on the roll.

With objective to reach the last eligible person, the Election Commission sensitizes its electoral roll machinery and deputes the field functionaries like Booth Level Officers (BLO) to visit the citizens to their doorsteps. Booth level officers, who are local government/semi-government officials maintain BLO registers in which they regularly update the details of electors in their respective assigned polling station areas.

During last three decades, the Election Commission has adopted more and more proactive role in the areas of electoral registration. In the year 1993, Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) were introduced in all states for the first time. In 1997, the Election Commission embarked upon various new projects to improve the quality of electoral rolls. Computerization of

electoral rolls was one of the links of the chain of such innovative measures. The Election Commission launched its website on February 28, 1998. During revision with reference to 1.1.2005, photo electoral roll was introduced in the some selected states. In subsequent annual revisions, photo electoral roll replaced the text roll in the country. Further, the Election Commission developed certain IT applications for managing the huge electoral database and streamlining the monitoring system. In 2017, a web based system named as ERO-Net, was created to provide a platform to registration officers to process applications received from citizens and to closely monitor the enrolment process throughout the country.

The Election Commission has been taking efforts to enhance the enrolment of PwDs electors in the electoral roll. Special camps are organized for PwDs on such locations where they can easily reach. They are encouraged to come forward and provide information pertaining to their disability in the registration form to enable the election officials to provide them necessary assistance like wheelchairs, transport facilities or special support from polling personnel/volunteers at the polling stations at the time of poll. The persons with visual impairment are issued Braille Electors Photo Identity Card and accessible photo voter slips with Braille features during the elections. Besides PwD and 80+ years electors have been given option of Postal Ballots where instead of visiting the polling station personally, they can vote by postal ballot.

The management of electoral system in the country is a gigantic task, given the sheer size of the electorate, geographical diversity, socio cultural dynamics, gender bias, disability and lack of awareness on the part of citizens. In the backdrop of such challenge, the Election Commission has been continuously and consistently striving to overcome all such barriers. The Election Commission, through national programme titled 'Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)' has been educating and motivating citizens to register and participate in the electoral process whole heartedly during preparation of electoral roll and conduct of elections. Our SVEEP programmes connect all the stakeholders-voters, electoral machinery, candidates and political



parties. Civil society organizations, media, educational institutions and icons are also partner in the SVEEP programmes and work closely to reach out the voters.

Thanks to the efforts taken by the Election Commission, citizens' participation and cooperation in process of preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of elections has come a long way. The total number of electors in the country which was 17.3 crores in the first revision held in 1947 increased manifold to the tune of 91 crores in 2019 and there is hardly any gap between the eligible population and citizens enrolled as electors. The gap between enrolment of male and female electors has also significantly come down. Similarly, the participation of electors in the voting process has enhanced tremendously. While in the 1st General election to the House of People, the poll percentage was 44.87% and the same was recorded at 60.74% in the last General election held in 2019.



Umesh Sinha
Editor-in-Chief, VoICE International
Secretary General ECI &
Sr. Advisor India A-WEB Center





The Role of Voter Education in Voter Registration

Voter education efforts around new, innovative, voter registration systems need to go beyond informing citizens about procedures to follow to get correctly included on the voter roll.

One such issue had to be considered by the Papua New Guinea for the Constitutional Law Reform Commission in 2019: the question of how to overcome cultural or religious objections against biometric voter registration. In Papua New Guinea certain groups are opposed to submitting their signatures or fingerprints for voter registration purposes. Some consider this to be something the Bible warns about, others attach magic and witchcraft to the gathering of such personal data.

Cultural and religious objections against biometric voter registration

Indeed, this is a challenge that arises in many other countries as well. Nigeria adopted biometric technologies prior to their election in 2015. Some voters, particularly in rural areas, believed their biometric data could expose them to 'demonic manipulation, and could be used for occult practices by their enemies.' These symbolic attachments to beliefs of photos being used by enemies to invoke spirits are still prevalent beliefs for some citizens, making it necessary to present biometric technology as genuine and 'not intended to inflict spiritual harm.'

In the Solomon Islands, sorcery is an offense under law and strong beliefs in custom rituals and magic remain. Biometric voter registration was introduced in 2014 to clean up the electoral roll. The system only stored data on voters' thumb prints and facial recognition details - both considered less intrusive forms of biometric data. The Commonwealth Observer Group noted that this raised both confidence in and integrity of the electoral roll. Nonetheless, rumours persisted, for

example regarding an increased vulnerability to malevolent sorcery through biometrics, and about protection against malevolent sorcerers by keeping one's real name secret.

The role of voter education

International IDEA's publication on biometric voter registration provides a succinct answer to this challenge, as follows: while there are many reasons that citizens can be hesitant regarding biometric technologies, the job of designers is to understand whether the objections indicate authentic opposition to biometric data, or whether the objections are a result of misinformed assumptions which can be addressed with information campaigns. Ultimately, people's willingness to participate in a system, and their commitment to it, depend on their understanding of its value and benefits.

In her work on sorcery and witchcraft beliefs in the rule of law sector, Professor Miranda Forsythe of the Australian National University advises a legal pluralism/responsive regulation approach. In this approach multiple ways of understanding law and institutional structures are normalised, and the regulatory response to infractions or objections are societally appropriate. While beliefs are not treated as 'nonsense', there may need to be work done, such as consultations and civic education, to 'separate' beliefs from, for example, violent responses.²

In Haiti, where religious and superstitious beliefs may influence attitudes to registration and voting, the Provisional Electoral Council is composed with three of the nine members representing the religious sectors of Haiti. The intention is for this representation to help mediate and communicate the interests and concerns of the respective communities in the decision-making and electoral design processes.

Is voter education enough?

However, cultural or religious reservations against biometrics may remain even after community outreach and voter education. In this case it may be necessary to exempt some groups of society from parts or all of the biometric process. In rural areas in Afghanistan for example, women can be registered without the otherwise mandatory picture.

Introducing electoral technologies such as biometrics demands a discussion on tradeoffs between inclusiveness on the one hand and the integrity of the system on the other. This point is particularly relevant in this case of religious or belief-based skepticism, where one might consider the option of exceptions for certain categories of voters.

With biometrics it is in principle possible to allow exceptions. Technically, voter registration techniques still work if some or even all biometric data is omitted. This brings the risk of unevenness in the register, whereby error rates may be higher with less data points to 'match' in order to identify duplicates or find voters on polling lists. Legally, there may be limitations in domestic law relating to the equality of the vote. From an integrity point of view, there may be a perception of vulnerabilities in the system if, for example, there is a geographic or political dimension to the differences in how people are registered.

Voter education to give more clarity to stakeholders

In sum, the more registration technology is designed to rigidly enforce rules and prevent manipulation, the more it may exclude voters from the process. If on the flip side, technology is designed to be more inclusive, for example by allowing exceptions, these exceptions can be exploited for manipulation. In any case such exceptions should be legally assessed, clearly defined, agreed by relevant stakeholders and reviewed over time as more experience of the consequences of using systems and exceptions becomes available.

Eventually each country needs to find a balance between inclusiveness and integrity that is acceptable to its stakeholders and that need to be explained to voters.

This leads to a final concern that is still too often omitted from voter education about a new voter registration system: the data protection dimension. People may, justifiably, want to know why the information is being collected and if and how it will be used beyond the scope of the election. This is an important consideration not only for the legal and technical design, but also for creating the communication strategy about the system.

Peter Wolf

Technical Services Manager
Electoral Processes and Constitution
Building Programmes, International IDEA

Source:

Iwuoha, Victor Chidubem. "ICT and Elections in Nigeria: Rural Dynamics of Biometric Voting Technology Adoption." *Africa Spectrum* 53, no. 3 (2018): 89-113.

Papua New Guinea National Election June-July 2017. Report. Commonwealth Observer Group. 2017. http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/inline/PNG_COG_Report_FINAL.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1J9U092o6T6ExetgTjgvZJySg9QczvKuVstZssrnDCw1VMqlgeUFetrag.

Introducing Biometric Technology in Elections, © 2017 International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, 27: <https://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/introducing-biometric-technology-elections>.

Forsyth, Miranda. "A Pluralist Response to the Regulation of Sorcery and Witchcraft in Melanesia." *Talking it Through*, 213: ANU Press, 2015.



Malawi Successfully Migrates to Biometric Voter Registration System



Voter registration remains one of the most complex and contested parts of the electoral process. Electoral Management Bodies all over the world are consistently searching for new means and technologies to provide a credible voter register.

In most cases introduction of a biometric technology has always come in as panacea. However, Malawi has had a successful case of migrating successfully to a biometric voter registration system. This article reflects on the challenges necessitating the change and the process followed by Malawi.

Challenges with the old system

For years Malawi used the Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) system which is largely paper-based and involved a lot of human input. Candidate's details were captured manually and this created room for human errors like misspelling of names, date of births, age and all other text details. This made the process expensive as more people had to be employed. Registering could take time. Starting with taking of photographs. Taking pictures and printing also exhausted sometime and in the end, there were long queues during registration.

The paper-based method of registering voters did not have adequate in-built mechanism for detecting multiple registrations and therefore there were instances where some individuals could register more than once resulting in a bloated voter register. The thumb prints were captured on a paper and later scanned into the system. The quality was too poor that it could be used for eliminating multiple registrations in the system.

All this could culminate into a voters register with deficiencies like misspelled, missing or misallocated names on the polling day with potential of undermining credibility of the election.

With these changes the Commission started searching for alternatives and the introduction of a biometric voter registration system became the feasible option.

The Biometric solution was designed to counter all the shortfalls faced with the OMR. Biometric technology makes the detection and removal of multiple registrations from the system possible. The voters' role becomes more accurate and reliable for election purposes. Processing of transfers for voters who have relocated is also easy and can be done within a very short time.

Getting stakeholder buy in and confidence

Introduction of new technology in elections will always be treated with suspicions and contempt, no matter how good the intentions might be. The electoral management body needs an elaborate strategy of stakeholder engagement to harness their energies to support the innovation.

For MEC, although stakeholders were in agreement for introduction of a biometric system, they needed to be sensitized and motivated to support the process. The Commission conducted meetings with stakeholders starting with party leaders, civil society groups, Members of Parliament, Development Partners among others. During the meetings the Commission made presentations on how the system would work, the benefits and not leaving out security figures. The stakeholders were given an opportunity to ask questions and even participate in mock voter registration so that they can go out and be vanguards of the new system.

Since political parties supported the system, they went out and educated and mobilized the people to register. They helped demystify some of the myths associated with the computerization of the voter registration process.

Biometric system is vast, choose what you want

The biometric system is wide and has many facilities. A country needs to choose what it wants and adapt the system to that. Introduction of new system comes with heavy once-off costs on equipment and in order to implement the process cost-effectively and effectively, MEC collaborated with the National Registration Bureau (NRB). The NRB had conducted national wide registration for citizens which involved capturing their finger prints, photos and other text details. Citizens were given a National ID that had a chip and a QR code.

The MEC signed a memorandum of understanding with the NRB that allowed MEC to use the bureau's equipment and benefit from its data.

During voter registration, the National ID was the sole identification document. To cater for those that had not registered for national ID, MEC and NRB made an arrangement whereby at every voter registration centre there were also NRB staff. People with no national ID could first register with the NRB and be given a slip as proof of registration which they could use to register as voters. The slip had a machine readable QR code and it worked in place of national ID.

During the voter registration drive, registration staff were just scanning details of the registrant for purposes of allocating an appropriate registration centre. The voter certificate was printed immediately and it contained only the text details of the registrant and a QR code. This process was very efficient and for the first time in the history of elections, people did not queue to register. It took an average of a minute to process one registrant.

After voter registration in the field, MEC consolidated the data into one server and also using the national registration numbers, they obtained biometric voter registration details from the NRB to build the voters register.

Using the biometric details, it was simple to run a de-duplication process after all data was pulled to a central place and a total of 13,244 records were deleted. The end result was a clean voters register.

During voters' register inspection, the process run smoothly as the voters' roll was clean from deficiencies noticed in past elections. No names were missing, no misspellings or misallocation of names or misplacement of pictures.

The use of the national ID card also eliminated the challenge of determining age and citizenship. In the past, with a good percentage of the population having no proper birth certificates, the testimony of parents and guardians weighed heavily. This was prone to error and manipulation. But with the biometric system, minors were automatically rejected during voter registration.

Also since the national registration followed a rigorous and credible process on determining citizens, the national ID eliminated the challenges faced in the border districts whereby some foreigners in the past would want to register also.

Conclusion and some tips

Malawi successfully migrated to a biometric voter registration system with the praise of all electoral stakeholders. With the collaboration of NRB, the process was cost effective as the MEC never bought registration equipment but borrowed the equipment used by the NRB during the national civil registration exercise. Because MEC was not capturing biometric details, the process was fast and cost-effective.



Sangwani Mwafuliwa
Director, Media and Public Relations
Malawi Electoral Commission

‘Innovative Methods for Voter Registration’

General

Free and fair elections are fundamental to democracy and the basis for legitimacy in a democratic governance. They provide periodic opportunity, by way of elections, to citizens to hold their elected representatives accountable. A credible election is characterized by inclusiveness, transparency, accountability, and competitiveness.

Levels of electoral participation function as thermometers of the health of a democracy. If large number of citizens fails to turn out to vote, not only they abstain from contributing to a political choice, but they are an indicator of barriers to the participation and signal voter apathy.

The Inclusion of voice as a right in electing the representatives is enshrined in the covenants of UDHR and as such constitute a basic human right in a democracy. While voting on Election Day is the ultimate expression of this right, the process of registering voters and creating an accurate electoral roll is a critical and a key component of the electoral process that makes the exercise of this right possible. Although there have been elections without registering voters as an exception, a formal registration process backed by force of law and maintenance of healthy electoral roll means significant advantages and the inbuilt benefit of enabling and empowering eligible voting age adults an opportunity to exercise their franchise. These advantages may include:

- Providing adequate time frame to voters to establish eligibility;
- Greater transparency by providing an opportunity to stakeholders to scrutinize the draft roll and raise objections to any irregularities, errors therein;
- Opportunity to appeal for a person denied inclusion
- Planning in logistics for men and material management in elections;
- Reducing the opportunity for ballot-stuffing or fraudulent alteration of vote counts by limiting

the number of valid votes from any polling station around number of registered voters attached to a polling station

- Number of eligible voters aids in calculating voter turnout
- Copy of the electoral roll helps parties and candidates in canvassing
- Providing a basis for validation of signatures for nominations, petitions, candidate recalls or other measures that are only open to participation by registered voters
- Establishing a basis for limits on campaign spending when the extant law limits the expenses to criteria of number of registered voters.
- Aids delimitation of electoral areas;
- Planning for civic and voter education.

Electoral Roll: Global Principles and Harmony with local diversity.

The underlying principles for the process of creating and maintaining an electoral roll stem from adherence to universal principles on one hand and responsiveness to local context on the other. While these two factors may not always coexist in perfect harmony, policy and procedural decision should strive to honor both of these. In this context, Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 which states that the authority of any government stems from universal and equal suffrage, provides the guiding force. In effect, the law, policy and process for a sustainable and accurate electoral roll should be driven by the essential basic principle of universal and equal suffrage. In this backdrop, following basic characteristics should determine the health of an electoral roll:

- Integrity — the registration process should be fair, honest and designed to allow all eligible persons to be included on the rolls while ensuring exclusion of the ineligible;
- Inclusiveness — all eligible persons should be enrolled without any discrimination in regard to political preferences, literacy, ethnicity, etc whatsoever.

- **Comprehensiveness** — A roll should include all eligible persons and have a special focus on including marginalized segments of population, women, youth, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, service personnel, overseas citizens, the poor, remote location, etc.
- **Accuracy** — registration data should be recorded and maintained in a way that guarantees the highest degree of accuracy.
- **Accessibility** — Barriers, obstacles in any form must be obliterated through sustained initiatives for preparing the roll; facilitation of different categories wherever necessary should be provided by the EMB's.
- **Transparency** — Processes in enrolling and updating voter records should be transparent and open to scrutiny by stakeholders.
- **Security** — Sanctity and security of all data must be ensured; Protection from unauthorized access, loss due to technical or user error or disaster should be ensured.
- **Accountability** — Any changes in the roll, claims and objections in regard to the entries must be processed according to established laws, regulations and policies; all decisions should be placed in public domain for redress of grievances if any.

The Process

Voter registration or enrollment is the first step for a citizen, otherwise eligible to vote, to registers or enroll in an electoral roll and become an elector entitled and permitted to vote. The registration process may be automatic or may require filing of an application with necessary supporting documents by an eligible applicant.

The legislative framework governing registration may vary from country to country. Some countries may have "election day registration" and there may be others which do not require any registration, or may simply require production of evidence of entitlement to vote at time of voting. In some countries registration by those at the voting age is compulsory, while in most it is optional. In jurisdictions where registration is voluntary, an effort may be made to encourage persons

otherwise eligible to vote to register, in what is called as a voter registration drive or camp.

Registered persons may need to re-register or update their registration in case of change residence or other relevant particulars. In some jurisdictions, when a person registers a change of residence with a government agency, say, for a driver's license, the government agency may forward the information to the electoral agency to automatically update the voter registration information.

Special facilitation

may be necessary for different categories of voters such as Gender, PwD's, Senior Citizens Service Voters, Overseas citizens, Absentee voters with a view to obliterate barriers and give due effect to inclusion on the premise of 'Every Vote Matters'.

Given the basic parameters for registration of voters, democracies across the world have developed good practices and offer a rich experience on voters registration. The article intends to visit some of the Best practices as discussed in what follows.

The USA: Same Day Voter Registration or Election Day Registration

SDR practice is followed in several states in the US

- As of June 30, 2019, 21 states and the District of Columbia .
- In states that permit same-day registration, voters have to submit proof of residency (e.g., utility bill, pay stub) and identity (e.g., driver's license) at the time of registration.

In the United States of America, a unique practice of 'Same day Voter Registration' (SDR) is provided for convenience of voters as per law in many states. The practice is supported by suitable legislation to ensure that the practice is followed in a systematic manner and the citizens are facilitated effectively for joining the electoral process. In all 21 states and the District of Columbia (June 2019) have enacted same-day registration (SDR) provisions for enabling voters to register and vote at the same time. These states permit same-day registration. Voters must generally provide proof of residency (e.g., utility bill, pay stub) and identity document (e.g., driver's license) at the time of

"The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures."

Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948

registration. The practice allows a qualified resident of the state to go to register to vote and cast a ballot all in that day. These states along with the year of enactment are as listed below:

California (2012), Colorado (2013), Connecticut (2012), District of Columbia (2010), Hawaii (2014), Idaho (1994), Illinois (2005 and 2015), Iowa (2007), Maine (1973), Maryland (2013 and 2018), Michigan (2018), Minnesota (1974), Montana (2005), Nevada (2019), New Hampshire (1996), New Mexico (2019), North Carolina (2007), Utah (2018), Utah (2015), Washington (2018), Washington (1975) and Wyoming (1994).

Time frame, locations and verification processes are well defined in all these states to ensure efficient delivery of service. Each of the states have defined specifics of the aforesaid parameters viz North Carolina makes same day registration possible for a portion of the early voting period but not on Election Day, New Mexico has enacted legislation in 2019 but will implement it in phases over the next several years, Nevada enacted same-day voter registration in 2019, Washington's same-day registration bill, enacted in 2018, is in effect as of June 30, 2019. In most other states, voters must register by a given deadline prior to Election Day. The deadline varies by state, with most falling between eight and 30 days before the election. The States fall into three categories such as (i) States that have enacted same day registration, including on Election Day (ii) States that have allowed same day registration only during the early voting period and (iii) the States that have passed Election Day registration but are in the process of implementing it.

How SDR Works

Proof of Residency is a basic requirement for same day registration in all states that follow the system of SDR. In case of conventional system of registration prior to election day, the election officials have sufficient time to correspond and verify residence of a prospective voter before his application is processed for registration. However, in case of the SDR, it is not possible to carry out an applicant's prior residence verification. Therefore, a prospective voter has to present proof of

"Voting is a right and taking part in the government of his country is the cornerstone of democracy" Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Without an exhaustive, credible and reliable electoral roll, this right cannot be exercised.

residence at the time of registration or immediately thereafter. An ID Card or a subsisting driver's license may be acceptable as residence proof in such cases. In some of the states, documents such as a paycheck or utility bill showing residential

address are admissible as residence proof. Some states even permit an already-registered voter to certify the residence of a SDR applicant.

Applicant Identity Documents

SDR states also require that applicants for SDR should present documentation to verify their identity. While some states accept a photo Identity Document, others accept simple Identity Documents without a photo.

Voter Turnout Impact of SDR

States that followed SDR system have witnessed higher voter turnouts immediately after the implementation of SDR. However, many states that have implemented SDR have a record of higher voter turnouts, making it difficult to conclude on the impact of SDR implementation. Studies report average 5% increase in turnouts. But it is necessary have more empirical studies done to come to considered conclusions.

Automatic Voter Registration in the US

Ensure Every American can Vote

In 1993, the Congress passed the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). The NVRA provided a new experience of voter registration in America. It required most states to provide citizens with an opportunity to register as a voter while applying for or renewing a driver's license at a Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) or other designated state agencies. Because of the requirement for DMVs to participate in voter registration, the NVRA is often referred to as 'motor-voter.' The U S Election Assistance Commission noted that during the 2016 election cycle about 25 million voter registration applications (33% of all) originated through DMV.

The technological improvements since 1993 have encouraged many states to upgrade and modernize their registration processes. During the 1990s and into the early 2000s, states were heavily dependent on a paper registration process

at the DMV. Eligible voters in these states were asked to complete a paper registration form which was then sent to either a state or local election office for review and then process voter information into the registration database.

However with technological integration, collection of voter information is shifting from paper-based forms to digital. Many state DMV systems are now linked to the state voter registration database. This allows the DMV system to not only collect information on eligible voters but to electronically transfer information to the voter registration database thereby improving the efficiency of the entire process.

Thus AVR is an innovative practice under the voting reforms that streamlines the registration process for voting in many states in the US. Under the AVR system, eligible voters are automatically registered to vote whenever they interact with government agencies (e.g., departments of motor vehicles). Eligible voters are registered by default. However, they may request not to be registered and opt out of it.

States where AVR states introduced are shortlisted as below:

Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia.

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of June 28, 2019, 18 states and the District of Columbia had enacted automatic voter registration policies.
- In 2015, California and Oregon became the first states to enact automatic voter registration policies.
- In 2016, Alaska became the first state to enact an automatic voter registration policy via ballot measure.

AVR makes two simple and transformative amends in registration process of voters. Firstly, it makes voter registration “opt-out” instead of “opt-in”—eligible citizens who interact with government agencies are suo motu registered to vote or have their existing registration information updated unless they affirmatively decline. It is not a compulsory registration; a voter has exercise option to opt-out. Secondly, those agencies

transfer voter registration information electronically to election officials instead of using paper application forms for registration. These common-sense reforms increase registration rates, clean up the voter rolls, and save states money.

AVR is gaining momentum across the US. 18 states and the District of Columbia have approved the policy, meaning that over a third of Americans population is covered under the facility that has either passed or implemented AVR.

Automatic Voter Registration in Georgia

Registration of voters in Georgia is categorized as passive since voters are not required to register. All citizens are automatically registered as soon as they reach the age of eligibility for suffrage Each citizen may check the accuracy of the data in the register of voters and request corrections for any inaccuracy. Citizens over 18 years of age have the right to vote, except for prisoners sentenced to more than five years imprisonment.

The CEC (Central Election Commission) of Georgia has the final responsibility for computerization of voter lists based primarily on the following data:

- Data sources of territorially registered citizens of suffrage group from the CRA of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia
- Data concerning deceased persons from the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Welfare; and Ministry of Internal Affairs, supplemented by the data from local self-governance and other governance bodies
- Data concerning IDPs provided by the Ministry of Refugees and Settlement
- Data concerning ineligible voters, citizens deprived of their voting rights and persons in preliminary detention supplied by various sources including Ministry of Internal Affairs, Supreme Court of Georgia and other related governmental agencies.



The Public Service Development Agency (PSDA) is in the process of introducing biometric data in the state registry. To remove inconsistencies in voter lists, door-to-door verification was conducted and facial recognition software is being used to remove duplicate records. In addition, a photograph of the voter is included on Voter List, which, appears to be largely accepted by the public. In general, an increased level of trust and confidence in the accuracy of voter lists has been noted.

Biometric voter registration

Biometrics for elections to support the "One person, One vote" principle

Many countries are still finding themselves confronted with difficulties in registering and authenticating voters. They are gauging the negative effects of this on their democratic process, even if, over the last ten years or so, the usage of biometrics has become more widespread, seeking to ensure voter equality, based on the principle of one voter, one vote, in other words that everyone's vote should count equally.

Elections are still a moment of quite considerable tension in many countries. It is a period which can give rise to demonstrations, confrontations and extreme violence. All solutions which make it possible to improve the electoral process with the approval of the various political powers already in place are a form of democratic progress for the country as a whole and often for neighboring countries too.

'Democracy is always a work in progress' as stated by UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), a key player in supporting democratic elections.

Biometric voter registration essentially involves use of biometric technology in addition to demographics of an applicant for registration. The process includes authentication by way of capturing unique physical features of an individual fingerprinting being the most commonly used.

Biometric templates of the electors are maintained in the databases in the enrollment infrastructure. A biometric voting project would include use of biometric registration kits; using electronic voter identification devices before and on Election

Day; issuing of voter ID's such as Biometric Voter Cards etc.

A biometric voting registration project usually operate on the basis of enabling legislation, prior assessment, feasibility studies, securing financial resources, running pilot projects and mock registration exercises. This may be followed by procurement and distribution of equipment, installation, and testing, recruitment and training of staff, voter information; deployment and special audits in the post election period.

The final aim of implementing biometric election technology is achieving de-duplication of the voting register with a view to preventing multiple registration and multiple voting; efficient voter identification at the polling station, and mitigating the incidence of voter fraud.

The data captured during the registration process has to be secured while maintaining personalization and privacy of the roll. Further, it is also imperative to have alternate mechanisms in place, in case systems malfunction. The system must operate on the premise of 'Every Vote Matters' and 'No Voter is Left Behind'.

Countries with Biometric Voter Registration

The number of countries that have adopted biometric registration and biometric technology in electoral processes has gradually increased to over 50 including almost half of the countries in Africa and Latin America.

Countries which have used Biometric voting registration include Armenia, Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, BurkinaFaso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Iraq, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, The Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somaliland, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

(International IDEA 2016)

While biometric registration is in use in many countries, it has its plus and minus points. It must pass the basic tests of **'Global Principles and**

Harmony with local diversity' as mentioned in the foregoing.

At this point let us look at some illustration as to how biometric system operates in some of the countries.

Kenya: Biometric Voter Registration

How to Register



How do you register as a voter?

- An eligible voter must present himself or herself to the registration officer with his/her original identification documents at the designated registration centre during working hours.
- The applicant fills the Application for Registration form.
- Registered voters will be issued with a registration acknowledgment slip bearing the voters details.
- However, this slip will not be a requirement for voting.

When can someone be denied registration?

- When an applicant is under 18 years of age
- When an applicant is not in possession of the original ID card or a valid Kenyan passport
- When one is un-discharged bankrupt.
- When a person has been found guilty by an election court or reported to be guilty of any election offence during the preceding five years.
- If a competent court declares a person to be of unsound mind.

Is an eligible voter allowed to register more than once?

No! A person is only allowed to register once as a voter in a constituency or registration centre of his

or her choice. It is an offence to register more than once.

Can a person transfer as a voter to another registration centre or constituency?

YES! A person may transfer as a voter to another registration centre of his or her choice within the registration period.

Republic of the Gambia

The Independent Electoral Commission uses a biometric voter registration system integrated in both the voter card and the data capture processes to ensure that the list of voters is accurate. However, electronic voting is not presently used in any elections. Currently, Gambians living abroad must return to the country during the voter registration period and on Election Day to vote. However, the Independent Electoral Commission is in the process of determining how to create a voter registration specifically for Gambians abroad in compliance with Section 11, Subsection 1 of the Elections Act.

Any voter with disabilities or visual impairment can be assisted by a person of their choice to cast their ballot token. Alternatively, the voter is allowed to ask for assistance from the presiding officer.

Ghana

Ghana follows biometric registration of voters. A voter goes to the voting location along with her/his voter registration card. Election officials hand over the ballot paper after processing the document identification. The ballot contains information about the list of candidates running for elections in the electoral district. To vote for a candidate, the voter is required to make a thumb print beside the name of the preferred candidate behind a voting screen to maintain secrecy of vote. The voter then has to return to the election official and put her/his ballot in a ballot box. In Ghana, any citizen who is eighteen years of age or above and is of sound mind has the right to vote.

Australia

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC), established under the Electoral Act, 1984 as an independent organization, is charged with the responsibility of all matters relating to conducting federal elections, referendums and maintaining the Commonwealth electoral roll. The AEC is responsible for educating and informing the

community about participating in the electoral process. AEC has developed comprehensive and well designed voter information and education resources. While the AEC resources provide comprehensive information and guidance to voters on all election related matters including enrolling and voting, the AEC schools provides free educational resources and programmes for teachers and students.

It is compulsory by law for all eligible Australian citizens to enroll and vote in federal elections, by-elections and referendums. AEC voter education resources provide information that explain in simple and unambiguous terms, all what a citizen needs to understand for a convenient connect with the electoral process. The information empowers and enables citizens about when, where, how and why of steps in electoral process including enrollment and exercise of franchise and inter alia covers the following topics:

Enrollment for vote

- Information on Eligibility basics
- Documentary Requirements

Special Enrolment Options along with forms and the detailed information for:

- Silent electors
- General postal voters
- People with no fixed address (homeless, seasonal workers, travelers with no address to return to
- Long term travelers within Australia
- Overseas residents or going overseas; all options along with how to vote while overseas.
- Persons with Disabilities
- Prisoners
- Norfolk Islands electors
- Workers in Antarctica
- Senior Citizens

Use of Technology for Empowering Voters

The AEC has traditionally been implementing use of technology effectively and yet while maintaining integrity of the electoral system. The AEC carried out trials for electronic voting for identified groups, including blind and low vision voters at the 2007 federal elections This evolved into the current method of telephone voting for blind and low

vision voters. At the 2013 federal election, the AEC piloted the use of electronic certified lists (ECLs) in selected locations to introduce efficiencies into the process of finding and marking voters off the electoral roll.

At the 2016 federal election, the AEC deployed up to 1500 ECLs that were used in high volume early (pre-poll) voting centers, at large polling places (also referred to as super booths) on election day and by remote mobile voting teams in over 40 electoral divisions around the country. ECLs are also being used presently in all electoral divisions to undertake and streamline the required checks against the electoral roll for voters who cast declaration votes. During 2016 federal election, the AEC scanned millions of Senate ballot papers and also recorded voter preferences electronically.

At the Polling Place

The information provides guidance if an electors name is not found or there are other mistakes in the roll and action to be taken. Assisted voting, how to vote. Interestingly, guidance is also provided on if you may advise a polling official of the illness, death or other circumstances of another person. Although the polling official will record all the information you have given them, they are unable to tell you whether that person will be fined for not voting. This decision can only be made by the returning officer for that division. Information also provides guidance on procedure for marking the ballot paper.

Voting on election day if a voter is travelling in Australia

One can vote at any election day polling place in the state or territory where an elector is enrolled while travelling within the state. This is called an absent vote. One may vote at an interstate voting center if an elector is travelling in another state.

Epilogue

Voter Registration practice followed in different countries is indicated in Annex in a precise manner. Whatever practice may be followed for registration of voters in a country, it must pass the test of Integrity, Inclusiveness, Comprehensiveness, Accuracy, Accessibility, Security, Accountability and should be supported by matching legislative framework, integration of technology to provide efficient and timely delivery of outcomes.

Province Primary Method(s) of Registering Voters

Argentina Local election officials add eligible citizens to the voter rolls from a national list of all citizens maintained by a federal agency.

Australia Election officials gather information from other government agencies to identify voting eligible individuals who are unregistered, and mail these individuals registration materials.

Austria Local election officials automatically generate voter lists from larger population databases maintained at the municipal level. Inclusion on the municipal database is mandatory.

Bahamas Eligible individuals must initiate their own voter registrations in-person at a local election office.

Belgium Local election officials automatically generate voter lists from larger population databases maintained at the municipal level. Inclusion on the municipal database is mandatory.

Belize Eligible individuals must initiate their own voter registrations in-person at a local election office.

Burundi Eligible individuals must initiate their own voter registrations in-person at a local election office.

Canada Election officials use information collected from other government agencies to add eligible citizens to the rolls. If more information is required, election officials mail individuals pre-printed registration forms, with postage-paid return envelopes. **Canada: British Columbia** Election authorities automatically add voters to the rolls from motor vehicle agency records and the federal voter rolls. Voters may also register online and at the polls. **Canada: Ontario** Election authorities automatically add voters to the rolls from provincial property tax lists and the federal voter rolls. Voters may also register at the polls. **Canada: Québec** Election authorities automatically add voters to the rolls when they

turn 18 years old, based primarily on information from the provincial health insurance agency. Voters may opt out of registration after receiving notice, and may also register at the polls. **Canada:**

Saskatchewan Election officials go door-to-door registering eligible voters before each general election. Voters may also register at the polls.

France Election officials automatically register 18 year olds using information compiled by the department of defense for military conscription purposes.

Germany Local election officials automatically generate voter lists from larger population databases maintained at the municipal level. Inclusion on the municipal database is mandatory.

Great Britain The government seeks out every eligible voter through an annual nationwide 'canvass,' during which local officials mail or hand-deliver a form used for voter registration to each household. Indonesia The government conducts a nationwide enumeration by hiring temporary workers to go door-to-door, registering every eligible voter.

Mexico Although most voters are required to register in-person at local election offices, the government deploys mobile units to register voters in rural areas and other places with historically low registration rates.

Peru The government registers all eligible voters using information from the national population database.

South Africa Each voter must register in-person at a local election office or voting station. To facilitate registration, the government hires thousands of temporary workers to register voters out of temporary stations that will be used as polling places.

Sweden The government automatically registers all eligible voters using information contained in the national population database.



S D Sharma
Senior Fellow
Election Commission of India



About the pilot project

‘Elections of the school President’

The process of social modernization initiated by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan depends on the legal competent implementation by voters of their rights, conscious choice of their own position during the election campaign.

Today, mechanisms are needed to improve the legal culture of **young and future voters**.

Legal education is aimed at solving the problem of conscious involvement and participation of young voters in the electoral process.

In this regard, the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan (hereinafter - CEC) focused its own attention on organizing various forms of electoral education for young generation, including the introduction of mechanisms of electoral education of potential voters through **the development of student self-government**.

In order to inculcate practice-oriented knowledge, skills and experience in electoral activities for school students, the CEC developed a pilot project ‘Elections of the President of the school’.

The main concept of the pilot project is to organize the election of the President of the school as close as possible to the procedure of election of the President of country, and thereby inculcate the electoral skills for school students.

A working group was created in the CEC, which included representatives of the pedagogical community of Astana city – Directors, deputy directors for educational work, teachers of history and discipline ‘Human. Society. Law’, as well as representatives of JSC National center for professional development ‘Orleu’ - Institute for professional development of pedagogical staff at Astana.



For realizing the project, a package of organizational and methodological materials necessary for the elections of the President of the school was developed, including:

- Regulation on election of the President of the school,
- Calendar plan of activities for the preparation and conduct of election of the President of the school,
- Annex-samples of all documents required for holding the elections.

The package of developed documents has been discussed many times at the meetings of the CEC members, sessions of the Working group and after taking into account all the proposals was recommended for implementation in the pilot schools.

The purpose of the project: development and implementation of mechanisms of electoral education of potential voters through the development of school self-government.

Project objectives:

Informative: To provide students with knowledge about the electoral rights and electoral procedures, basic principles and stages on holding of the elections of the President. To form practical skills for school students necessary for participate in the electoral procedure.

Educational: Formation of students' active civil position, education of respect for democratic values, improving the legal culture of the younger generation as future participants in the electoral process.

Developing: Awareness by students the necessity of the importance of elections and responsibility for their choice, instilling skills of active participation in the electoral process. Development of leadership and communicational skills.

Key points of the project: The basic principles of electoral right, the system of counting votes, the stages of electoral procedures in the election of the President of the school are similar to the principles laid in the Law 'On elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan'.

The categories of election participants, age criteria and the timing of electoral procedures are adapted to the age categories of school students.

The algorithm of electoral events with specific activities, deadlines and executives are fully reflected in the developed calendar plan of activities for the preparation and conduct of the election of the President of the school.

Partners of the project:

- Akimats (administration body of the city) of Astana city, and its three districts;
- Department of education of Astana city;
- Department of internal policy of Astana city;
- Joint-Stock Company National center for professional development 'Orleu';
- City and district election commissions (Astana);
- Certified trainers for electoral education.

The pilot project was implemented on the basis of three leading secondary schools in Astana.

Permanent methodological support of the project in pilot schools was carried out by the Department on organization of electoral education of the CEC of the Republic of Kazakhstan and regional inspectors of apparatus of the CEC.

In addition, the city election commission of Astana identified representatives of territorial election commissions to participate in the project and assist in its support.

The branch of JSC National Center for professional development 'Orleu' - Institute for professional development of pedagogical staff in Astana published in September a package of organizational and methodological documents on the election of the President of the school in a special edition of the Republican informational and methodological journal 'Bilimdegizhanalyktar', which is monthly published and distributed to all educational organizations of Astana.

The big election campaign started in Astana on **September 20**.

The General voting day was scheduled for **October 22, 2017**.

In total, **6026 school students** of 2-11 classes' of three schools in Astana took part in the project.

In accordance with the Regulation on election of the President of the school, students of 8-10 classes' were members of the School Election Commission as well as the staff of school, as a rule, it is a current members of the precinct election commissions, who helped in organizing of the election process.

The nominated candidates met with voters, distributed campaign materials, told about their election programs and, of course, participated in debates. As in real election campaign, authorized representatives of candidates for the Presidency of the school, one from each class parallel from 2 to 11 classes', assisted the candidates in the conduct of the election campaign, pre-election campaign, and represented the interests of the candidates.

The participation of pupils in the elections was voluntary. No one has the right to coerce a student to participate or not to participate in elections, as well as to restrict his will. Voters, and these are students of 2-11 classes', participated in the election of the President of the school on an equal basis, and each of them had, respectively, one vote. Voting ballot papers were issued only upon presentation of the document – a personal sheet of the student. More than 6 thousand students participated in secret voting. Also the organizers didn't forget those who couldn't come to the polling station according to the health reasons, for them were organized voting at home.

School students approached with a creative spark to such a serious claim as the exclusion of the

possibility of any control over the expression of the will of the voters. On the day before the E-day, there was a competition for the best design of the polling booths. Cabins were made of cardboard materials and did not require large financial costs.

Public control during the election campaign and on the E-day was carried out by observers, who were represented by students of 5-11 classes'. As well as the election was also observed by the representatives of the parents community, board of the school and school administration, current election commissions, education authorities, other schools of the city, public organizations and the media.

Each school has chosen one leader. For the presidency in the three schools were run 22 candidates - 9 and 10 classes' students.

And if the school-lyceum 76 winner was determined immediately by the results of the first round, having more than 50% of the votes, the school-gymnasium 6 and secondary school 37 organized the second round of election, where the leader was elected among the two candidates with the highest number of votes got in the first round.

On October 24 of this year in number 6 and number 37 schools was passed **a second vote** because of the clause 32 of the Regulation on election of the President of the school, a candidate is considered to be elected who received **more than 50%** of the votes:

School-gymnasium N° 6

Voter turnout on the second round was **96%**.

Student of 10B class, **Nechaev Ivan**, who received **51.8%** of the votes, was elected as the President of the school-gymnasium 6.

Secondary school N° 37

Voter turnout on the second round was **91.7%**.

Student of 9A class, **Kulmaeva Tomiris**, who received **57.8 %** of the votes, was elected as the President of secondary school 37.

On November 20, 2017 the CEC was held a meeting on the results of the pilot project 'Election of the President of the School'.

Secretary of the CEC Sabila Mustafina congratulated the elected Presidents of the schools: a student of 9A class Kulmaeva Tomiris at secondary school 37, a student of 10B class Nechaev Ivan at school-gymnasium 6, a student of 10A class Skendr Miras of school-lyceum 76, also chairmen of school electoral commissions.

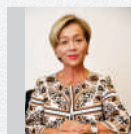
All participants of the event were awarded with letters of thanks on behalf of the Chairman of the CEC and gifts.

Today, when the most acute problems as a sense of patriotism, moral traits and ability in social creativity arise in education of children, the pilot project 'Election of the President of the school' is one of the forms of socialization of children. Participation of school students in the development of student self-government is the basis for the creating of their active citizenship and leadership character.

In this regard, the initiative of the CEC on electoral education of young generation and improving the legal culture of future voters is in the same context with the ideas of developing patriotic education for young people, set out in the governmental program '**Ruhani Zhangyru**'.

The National Academy of Education named after Y.Altynsarin concluded that the value of a pilot project, tested on the basis of three schools in Astana, is that the basic principles of electoral law, the vote counting system, the staging of electoral procedure.

The Ministry of Education and Science on the basis of the expert opinion of the National Academy of Education named after Y.Altynsarin recommended the practice and experience of taking the election of the President of the school according to the organizational and methodological materials developed by the CEC of the Republic of Kazakhstan.



S. Mustafina

Secretary, Central Election Commission
Republic of Kazakhstan



Impact of climate change on Elections

The impact of climate change is being felt in all spheres of life. It is not a surprise that political party and candidate manifestos world over have taken time to narrate how they are going to address the devastating impacts on climate change.

register matches with the person presenting for voting. However, the Commission still had to intensify voter education regarding this arrangement amongst the people affected by the floods so that they do not fail to vote because they lost their voter certificates.



Another impact is that the floods also demolished structures like public schools which are used as polling stations. Where people have not been affected and displaced, the Commission brings tents for shelter for polling staff and safe keeping of polling materials. However, polling takes place on bare ground.

Today we take time to look at the impact of climate on management and organization of elections.

In the run up to the May 21 Tripartite Elections, Malawi was affected by the effects of Cyclone Idai. During the rainy season some areas of the country were affected by floods. People lost their household property and harvest in the floods including voter certificates. Fortunately the Commission already had a standing practice and procedure that anyone who loses their voter certificate is allowed to vote as long as the name is found in the voter register and the photo in the

The complicated issues involved people who had been displaced. The Commission had to set up satellite centres in the camps where the people were being kept. This enabled them to vote despite moving away from the centre where they originally registered.





The floods also damaged roads and hindered access to some places. When the Commission was conducting vetting of ballot paper templates by candidates, in some councils the exercise was postponed because of the impacts of Cyclone Idai. The flooding waters made it difficult for the candidates and their agents to travel to the vetting venues.

The impact might not have been felt by the electoral management body and the registered voters only but also other

stakeholders like political parties who were unable to conduct campaign meetings in such situations. Civil Society Organizations accredited to conduct civic and voter education also had it difficult to conduct voter education because of mobility and accessibility.

As the country continues to build resilience against the

impact of climate change, it is also important for electoral stakeholders now to start embracing the challenges and considering them in elections planning and management. Planners should now this of climate smart approaches like what of it rains on the polling day, what if there are no trees for making ballot papers and voter registers?

Many political parties and candidates also cancelled rallies because the roads to such areas were impassable.



Sangwani Mwafulirwa
Director, Media and Public Relations
Malawi Electoral Commission



Importance of disaggregated data of Voters with Disabilities: **Sri Lankan case study**

People with disabilities all across the globe face diverse barriers towards integration into the political life of countries they live in. The issues are more profound in countries of the Global South where physical infrastructure as well as society in general, is not responsive to the needs of persons with disabilities. In Sri Lanka too, the State has failed to establish effective inclusive policies and practices despite having ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2016. The general physical infrastructure including public buildings, transport as well as educational institutions remains inaccessible to persons with diverse disabilities while negative stereotyping and stigma are still evidently prominent in society. People with disabilities also encounter barriers to accessing information due to the lack of availability of accessible formats. Accordingly, democratic participation of persons with disabilities is affected and the majority of persons with disabilities are left out of the electoral processes.

Diversity and the need for disaggregated data

The need for good quality, comprehensive disability disaggregated data is one of the most crucial factors in implementing disability inclusive policies and practices. According to Abualghaib et al (2019) the complete unavailability of disability data is a fallacy, whereas the issue is more about the quality and compatibility of disaggregated data. The main reason for this is the complexity of disability as a phenomenon. The Washington Group on Disability Statistics (The Washington Group) emphasises that understanding the exact

nature of barriers faced by persons with disabilities in it is insufficient if it is not accompanied by the determination of action to be taken to remove those barriers as well as planning for their implementation.

Disability Data in Sri Lanka

There primary source of reliable disability data in Sri Lanka is the population census. The last census was conducted in 2012 where the population of persons with all types of disabilities are identified as 8.7% of the total population. The Census Report indicate that the Washington Group guidelines were followed in identifying persons with difficulties in; seeing, hearing, walking, cognition, self-care, and communication. Additionally, the Vision 2020 Secretariat of the Ministry of Health conducted a sample blindness survey of persons 40 years above in 68 clusters across the island. However, the available data from these sources do not provide sufficient disaggregation in terms of accessibility requirements of persons with disabilities.

How does data affect democratic participation?

Equal and unrestrained involvement of citizens in the political process of a country is a defining character of liberal democracies. Persons with disabilities are often left out of this process especially in terms of exercising their right to vote. The reasons for this are not only the inaccessibility of electoral processes but also the general lack of access to public buildings, to transport as well as prevalent social and cultural barriers. In this context, the task of franchising excluded communities become more challenging for

¹Abualghaib, O., Groce, N., Simeu, N., T. Carew, M. and Mont, D. (2019). [online] Mdpi.com. Available at: <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/11/11/3091/pdf> [Accessed 3 Nov. 2019].

²The Washington Group is a United Nations Statistics Commission City Group formed of representatives of national statistical offices working on developing methods to better improve statistics on persons with disabilities globally, with input from various international agencies and experts. These include UN agencies, bilateral aid agencies, NGOs, Disabled People Organizations, and researchers (<http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com>).

³Department of Census and Statistics -

http://www.statistics.gov.lk/samplesurvey/LFS_Q4_Bulletin_WEB_2018_final.pdf

Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs). The lack of availability of disability disaggregated data, especially in the context of countries of the global south, makes accessible elections a more serious issue. In a context where there is little or no access in public places and the general legal and policy frameworks are not adapted to respond to the fundamental principles laid out by the CRPD, the task for EMBs become more onerous. EMB would, in such a situation, face the challenge of finding a starting point, especially when there is a dearth of data giving the types of accessibility required by voters.

Collecting Disability Data

The Election Commission of Sri Lanka (EC) has been struggling with conducting disability inclusive elections in Sri Lanka mainly due to the above mentioned general inaccessibility of physical infrastructure. For example the EC works in collaboration with other government institutions i.e. the Ministry of Education to select locations for polling centres. However, the lack of accessibility in schools affects the level of access persons with certain types of disabilities gain to the political process. The EC, cognizant of this fact came to the conclusion that one of the primary steps to be taken in terms of making elections in Sri Lanka inclusive would be to gather comprehensive disaggregated data on accessibility requirements of each voter with a disability.

Accordingly, in 2018, the EC had discussion with the technical working group on disability (Disability Inclusive Elections in Sri Lanka-DIESL) which was established by cross-disability representative national disabled peoples' organizations (DPOs) on possible measures that could be taken to acquire disaggregated data that would inform the EC of accessibility requirements of voters across the island. The discussions

resulted in the development of an Accessibility Data Collection Format, a guide that can be used by Grama Niladharis to collect disability-disaggregated data. This format utilizes the Washington Group Short Set of Questions (<http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com>) and follows CRPD principles. The questions on the form capture persons who experience barriers as a result of sensory, intellectual, physical and psychosocial disabilities.

The EC, together with DIESL, piloted the data collection tool initially in 5 areas one of which was an administrative district and the others being divisional secretariat divisions. The areas were; Killinochchi District, Kothmale Division of Nuwara Eliya District, Wellawaya Division of Moneragala District, and Yatiyanthota Division of Kegale District. A small introductory workshop, conducted with support from IFES, introduced the data collection format to the Grama Niladharis. At the end of the pilot data collection, DIESL tabulated the data and presented an analysis of findings along with recommendations to the EC. The primary recommendation was to adopt the Accessibility Data Collection Format in the national enumeration process.

The EC, taking this recommendation in to consideration introduced a new supplementary disability data form to the annual enumeration process, which takes place from June to August each year. The supplementary data form asks voters to indicate reasonable accommodations for voting, such as step-free entry. The form was distributed with a voter registration form to each household. The Grama Niladharis were responsible for the distribution and collection, and certification of the completed forms. The enumeration form collects information on the names, national identity card numbers and the gender of voters in each household.

⁴National Blindness Survey (2014-2015)

<http://www.iapb.org/wp-content/uploads/National-Survey-of-Blindness-A-Report-2014-2018.pdf>

⁵A Grama Niladhari (village officer) is a Sri Lankan public official appointed by the central government to carry out administrative duties which is the lowest level administrative division in Sri Lanka.

Obtain Additional Data To Provide Accessible Facilities Necessary For The Disabled And Elderly Persons At The Elections.

Objective of obtaining these data is to prepare a programme to provide accessible facilities necessary for the disabled and elderly persons at an election
Include in this form regarding the facilities required in the Polling Station at an election, for disabled and elderly persons at your residence.

National Identity Card No.	Sex	Date of Birth	Mark a Cross (X) on the cage before the accessible facility of which the relevant persons expect to obtain at an election. Consider that more than one answer can be provided.											
			Need to use the wheel chair inside the polling station	Need to use moving aids inside the polling station other than the wheel chairs	Need to establish the voting cubicle and the ballot box at a lower height	Braille medium is required	A non visible technical assist other than the Braille is required	Enlarging equipment is required	Unhurried explanations are required	Visual details are required	Assistance of a sign language communicator is needed.	Assistant is required to cast the vote.	Assistance to visit the polling station is required	Transport facilities to the premises of the polling station is required

Signature of Chief Occupant:

Report on the Particulars of Adolescents between the Ages of 15 - 18 Years and Ordinarily Resident at Household Units

A copy of the supplementary collection form being used by the EC that indicates accessibility features for voters

The enumeration process was completed in August and the EC intends to work with DIESL to tabulate the information and identify accessibility requirements in each polling division. In the meantime the EC conducted a pre-Presidential Election accessibility audit of one of the pilot data collection divisions.

This, along with the data that would be in the possession of the EC would lead them towards the next phase of formulating an implementation plan. Such plan however cannot be considered the sole

task and responsibility of the EC which has limited resources especially in terms of accessible infrastructure development. The EC would need to work in close collaboration with other government institutions such as Social Empowerment and Education ministries and the Divisional Secretariats while also strengthening the DIESL-EC partnership further. Additionally the EC would be required to allocate budgets in order to implement inclusive policies and practices for elections, some of which are already being introduced in the lead up to the upcoming Presidential Election.

Contributed By: Election Commission of Sri Lanka

The 4th General Assembly A-WEB

Date: September 2 - 4, 2019 | Venue : Taj West End, Bengaluru, India



INDIA TAKES OVER AS CHAIR
OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF WORLD ELECTION BODIES (A-WEB)

Extraordinary Executive Board Meeting

IIIDEM declared as A-WEB Center for training, research and documentation



The 4th General Assembly of AWEB started with Extraordinary Executive Board Meeting that was held on September 2, 2019 at Taj West End, Bengaluru, India. 16 members from the Executive Board participated in the meeting.

The meeting started with announcement of the agenda. "The agenda for the meeting would be in the following order : first, report on the issues of elections for the next Vice-Chairperson; second, report on the issues of the election for the next Executive Board Members; third, appointment of next Secretary General; fourth, appointment of the next Oversight & Audit Committee Members; fifth, new membership application, sixth, items to be approved by or reported to the General Assembly; seventh, discussion on the host of the next Executive Board Meeting, and lastly, discussion on six items proposed by Election Commission of India. Under the Charter, decisions will be adopted by consensus. If a consensus is not reached, a decision will be adopted by a simple majority of members present at the meeting today," informed Jinju Jo, Emcee, Extraordinary Executive Board Meeting.

This was followed by a welcome address by Sunil Arora, Chief Election Commissioner of India. "It's my privilege and pleasure to welcome you all in Bengaluru, which is one of our most IT friendly cities, called 'the Silicon Valley of India', known for its salubrious weather, very sound infrastructures and hospitable local cultures," he said.

"The Election Commission of India, as you know, has been closely associated with the formation process of A-WEB during 2011-12, and was one of the founding members in October 2013. Since August 2017, it has taken over as Vice-Chair, and continues to promote its mission wholeheartedly. With 115 EMBs from 106 countries as members and 16 Partner Organizations besides Associate Members, A-WEB has become a truly global organization, strengthening election management all over the world in a non-invasive manner," he continued.

"We also have set up over a period of time, and India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM), this was set up in June 2011. We are proposing to set up A-WEB center at IIIDEM for documentation, research and



as a training center for sharing best practices. The Election Commission of India will provide all the necessary resources for the regional center, and we would be happy to receive any delegates from any of our member countries," he declared.

This was followed by Ion Mincu Radulescu, delivering the opening speech on behalf of Permanent Election Authority of Romania and declaring the Extraordinary Executive Board Meeting open.

Next, election of next Vice-Chairperson was taken up. Article 17.1 of the A-WEB Charter states that the head of the Election Management Body, hosting the next General Assembly shall serve as the Vice-Chairperson of A-WEB. Election Commission of South Africa, being the single candidate, was elected as the next Vice-Chairperson at the General Assembly.

Then the election of the next EB Members was taken up. Article 15.2 of the A-WEB Charter stipulates that the EB members' term of office lasts until the appointment of the next Executive Board by the following General Assembly, with members being able to serve up to two (2) consecutive terms. "Those EB members who wish for second term will be first put on the table at the General Assembly for approval. Then the vacant seats: two (2) for Africa, one (1) for America and two (2) for Europe will be elected at the General Assembly," announced Yong-Hi Kim, Secretary General, A-WEB Secretariat.

After this appointment of the next Secretary

General was discussed as Yong-Hi Kim, Secretary General, A-WEB had expressed his intention to resign at the 7th Executive Board meeting in Bulgaria, requesting the election of the next Secretary General to be conducted at the 4th General Assembly in India. The Executive Board had accepted his resignation and his request to initiate a process to elect the next Secretary General, and decided to receive applications for candidate registration. The Secretariat had received three applications: Jonghyun Choe from South Korea, Terry Tselane from South Africa and Umesh Sinha from India. They all agreed that Choe is to be the sole candidate for the next Secretary General according to the spirit of the Charter of A-WEB, stressing on reaching a consensus for a decision-making. "I would embrace the role with a true sense of mission, and exert sincere, devoted efforts to fulfill my responsibilities. The goals and ideas embraced by this Association are very close to my heart," announced Jonghyun Choe on his candidature.

Then the appointment of the next Oversight & Audit Committee was announced. Article 26 of the A-WEB Charter states that the members of the Oversight & Audit Committee shall serve for a single term of three (3) years. It was informed that the term of the incumbent OAC members terminates on October 13, 2019 as they were first

elected on October 14, 2016, and a new Oversight and Audit Committee needs to be organized. Fiji proposed Samoa from the Pacific region to the Audit & Oversight Committee. India proposed Mauritius and Guinea proposed Burkina Faso. The agenda was closed with appointment of Samoa, Mauritius and Burkina Faso as Oversight Audit Committee Members.

Agenda on new membership application was discussed next. Article 6.1 of the A-WEB Charter states that National Election

Management Bodies shall submit a request for membership in writing to the Executive Board and Article 6.3 of the A-WEB Charter states that prior to the approval of membership by the General Assembly, the Executive Board may assign

Africa

Burkina Faso
Guinea
Kenya
Malawi
Tunisia

Oceania

Fiji

Current Executive Board of A-WEB

America

Argentina
Colombia
El Salvador
Paraguay

Europe

Albania
Belarus
Croatia

Asia

Bangladesh
Palestine
Taiwan
Uzbekistan

temporary membership to candidate organizations. The agenda item on approval was to grant temporary membership to the Political Parties Registration Commission of Sierra Leone and temporary associate membership to Association of Asian Election Authorities that applied for membership after the 7th Executive Board meeting.

Discussions ensued among Executive Board members on inclusion of a political party in A-WEB. India, Bangladesh, El Salvador, Fiji, Kenya, Guinea, Palestine, Uzbekistan, Malawi, Tunisia, Burkina Faso and Kenya; all presented their point of views. Terry Tselane, Advisor opined, "Political Parties Registration Commission of Sierra Leone is not run by political parties but by professionals, such as those that run the elections, except that it is outsourced or it is left outside the Election Management Body, but there is cooperation between the Election Management Body and party registration office," he added. Finally, it was decided to organize a committee to take a decision on membership of Political Parties Registration Commission of Sierra Leone and place before the General Assembly.

Then the application for suspension of membership of TSE of Costa Rica was put up. TSE of Costa Rica has notified the Secretariat that it can no longer be a member of A-WEB as A-WEB is turning into an Inter-governmental organization. Terry Tselane, Advisor informed, "It is a resolution of the General Assembly that this body must become an Inter-governmental body. Now, Costa Rica says it is

against that the resolution of the conference or the General Assembly and therefore they want to leave this body." Yong-Hi Kim declared that suspension of TSE of Costa Rica would also be tabled at the 4th General Assembly

Further Yong-Hi Kim informed "there are four items for report and seven items for approval by General Assembly. Moreover, I would like to announce that the NEC of Republic of Korea will be the host of the next Executive Board meeting."

After this, Umesh Sinha, ECI, India presented his observations." There should be more election observers' programs so that the EMB officials are able to get exposure, understand the challenges and best practices of different countries for knowledge sharing and learning from each other. Also, it is proposed that the Chair and Vice-Chair lead certain A-WEB delegations, whether it is for the electoral visitors program or exposure visits to the member countries. Moreover, resources should be augmented and members of the Executive Board should sponsor at least one program in their country," he said.

"Election Commission of India would set up A-WEB Center in New Delhi, with focus on the area of training and capacity building, research and documentation. The proposed center would address emerging challenges for providing intensive research-based solutions and can eventually function as a Think-Tank of the A-WEB. The Publication Division would be based upon the



Voice-International, the ECI's flagship international publication which will then be published from A-WEB India center. At the present, the Voice-International has 30 countries contributing to the magazine. ECI will remain the source of funding for publishing the Voice-International," he opined.

"The article 19.3 says 'regional offices may be established where necessary'. I declare that the Executive Board has decided to establish New Delhi A-WEB Center for training and research, and documentation," said Yong-Hi Kim, Secretary

General, A-WEB Secretariat. Sunil Arora, Chairperson India, ECI proposed Umesh Sinha as a Senior Advisor for the center.

Ion Mincu-Radulescu, Romania Chairperson (acting), PEA congratulated India as the new Chair and Jonghyun Choe, as the new Secretary General. He proposed Yonghi Kim Secretary General, A-WEB Secretariat, the outgoing Secretary as the Senior Advisor for A-WEB Secretariat. He thanked all the members of the Executive Board and declared the meeting close.

Glimpses of Proceedings

- Jonghyun Choe was nominated for the post of Secretary General, A-WEB (vice Yong-hi Kim, who resigned).
- Samoa, Mauritius and Burkina Faso appointed as members of Oversight and Audit Committee for the next 3 years.
- The next Executive Board Meeting will be hosted by NEC of Republic of Korea in April, 2020.
- Election Commission of India's proposal of establishing an A-WEB Centre in New Delhi for training/research and documentation for A-WEB Members was approved.
- Appointment of Umesh Sinha, Secretary General, ECI as Senior Advisor of the A-WEB Centre in New Delhi.
- The Executive Board approved the use of annual membership fees for A-WEB operations.





EXTRA ORDINARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING



EXTRA ORDINARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING



EXTRA ORDINARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING





EXTRA ORDINARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING



EXTRA ORDINARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING



EXTRA ORDINARY
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING



India takes over as Chair of A-WEB



The 4th General Assembly of A-WEB witnessed the participation of over 120 delegates from more than 50 countries across the globe making it the largest congregation of EMB delegates in India. It started with evaluation of previous Executive Meetings outcomes, progress report, and audit and payment report of the Annual Membership Fees. At first, reports on the 6th Executive Board Meeting held in Nandi, Fiji and 7th Executive Board Meeting held in Sofia, Bulgaria were presented and the agenda items were evaluated.

This was followed up by the progress report of 2017- 2019. The detailed agenda in the reports contained the quintessential aspects of elections thought out the world such as Election Management Capacity Building, Application of ICT Technology for the Advancement of Electoral Procedures, Efforts for the Sustainable growth of A-WEB, Support for Free and Fair Electoral Management through Visitor's Program along with the activities for Increasing A-WEB's Global Presence.

The second phase of the meeting was started with the discussion on 2020 Project Plan with emphasis on the Election Management Capacity Building

Program and Specialised Training Program on Transparency in Elections.

After this, new membership application was submitted to the Secretary General. Temporary memberships for the CEC of Ukraine and NEC of Cambodia were approved at the 6th EB and temporary memberships of the ECC of the Afghanistan, BAWASLU of the Republic of Indonesia and OCE of the Mauritius were approved at 7th EB meeting.

Appointment of the Next Executive Board was also taken up where following agenda items were discussed;

- Report of the members of the EB who have no intent to serve consecutively or can go longer takes over the position
- Approval of the members of the EB with the intent to serve for their second term,
- Nomination of the candidates representing continents where there are vacant positions by decision of each continent
- Confirmation of the new EB members by the General Assembly



The General Assembly also welcomed the EMBs from Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to the Executive Board. EMBs from Burkina Faso, Mauritius and Samoa have been appointed as members of the Oversight and Audit Committee of A-WEB. EMBs from Ukraine, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Political Parties Registration Commission of Sierra Leone, Indonesia and Mauritius joined the A-WEB family as Members and the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) as an Associate Member.

At the General Assembly, Sunil Arora, Chief Election Commissioner of India took over as A-WEB's Chair for the 2019-21 terms. The A-WEB flag was handed over to the new Chairman by the Representative of the outgoing Chair, Ion Mincu Radulescu, Advisor, and Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania. Convening the General Assembly as the new Chairman of A-WEB, Sunil Arora acknowledged that it was his privilege and pleasure to welcome all delegates to Bengaluru for the A-WEB meetings. Citing Mahatma Gandhi's writings, Arora said "Democracy must in essence mean the art and science of mobilizing the entire physical, economic and spiritual resources of all the various sections of the people in the service of the common good of all".

A-WEB was founded with the shared vision among its members of achieving sustainable democracy around the world. A-WEB aims at strengthening the processes of election management in member countries. Since, its inception A-WEB has undertaken election ICT Programmes in various countries like Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Fiji, Papua Guinea and Samoa. A-WEB also undertakes Election Visitor and Observation Programmes in various countries to study various election management practices and share knowledge with other Member of EMBs. The association has

organized such EVPs to Bosnia & Herzegovina, Ecuador. The A-WEB Secretariat also undertakes Election Management Capacity Building Programme for the officials from Member EMBs. Since 2014, it has conducted more than 89 programmes for over 645 participants from over 70 countries.

Accepting the responsibility as Chairman of A-WEB, Arora said India looks forward to further strengthening its interaction and partnership with A-WEB Secretariat and member EMBs in promoting the activities of the Association as per its objectives and empowering the fellow EMBs through its capacity building programmes. He thanked the Members for the trust and confidence reposed in the Election Commission of India.



At present, A-WEB has 115 EMBs as Members & 20 Regional Associations/Organisations as Associate Members. 24 EMBs from Asia, 37 from Africa, 31 from America, 17 from Europe & 6 from Oceania presently are members of A WEB. ECI will continue to remain on the Executive Board of A-WEB for 2021-23 in its capacity as immediate former Chair of A-WEB.

He also highlighted that the Preamble of A-WEB Charter spells out the vision of strengthening cooperation between and among EMBs for the purpose of ensuring a credible electoral process in the world; committing to promote conditions conducive to free, fair, transparent and participative elections and to the development of a democratic culture in the world; promoting gender equality and the inclusion of People with Disabilities and other marginalized communities in the electoral process.

In addition to that, he stressed that a number of nascent democracies are still working on to stabilize their political system through improving their electoral and legal systems. He also said, "This is where organizations such as A-WEB



provide valuable contribution, professional support and advice by sharing innovations, experience and skills with support from and participation of its Members. Free, fair, credible and professionally managed elections form the bedrock of a healthy and vibrant democracy”.

The General Assembly also ratified the appointment of the new Vice Chairman of A-WEB – Glen Vuma Mashinini, Chairperson of Electoral Commission of South Africa and the new Secretary General, Jonghyun Choe, from Republic of Korea. Bidding farewell to Outgoing Secretary General Yong-Hi Kim A-WEB, Arora complimented Kim for steering the Secretariat in a professional and efficient manner and expanding the activities of A-WEB. Yong-Hi Kim expressed the gratitude to have served the A-WEB community for last 6 years. He was presented with an achievement plaque by NEC chairperson, North Korea.

Among the august gathering, Chief Election Commissioner of India and Newly appointed A-WEB Chairman Sunil Arora along with other dignitaries launched new edition of the ECI's



quarterly magazine – ‘VOICE International’ which shares International experiences and best practices from more than 25 member countries. The theme of the issue was ‘best Practices, Innovations and Initiatives for Enhancing Voter Participation’. The international magazine was also declared as the official magazine of the A-WEB Community.

It was also announced that A-WEB Centre would be setup at the India International Institute of Democracy and Election Management (IIIDEM) in New Delhi for documentation, research and training; for sharing best practices and capacity building among the members EMBs of the Association. The Institute has already conducted over 995 training programmes for over 35,350 election officials in India besides organising 71 International Capacity Building Programmes for over 1440 election officials from 97 countries. Standard training modules for National & International participants are developed by a renowned team of Indian and International experts. The members greatly appreciated the generous offer from India to support capacity building program for other countries.

4th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF A-WEB4th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF A-WEB

Glimpses of Proceedings

- Sunil Arora, Chief Election Commission of India took over as Chairperson of A-WEB at the General Assembly.
- Outcomes of the 6th Executive Board Meeting held in Fiji on March 27, 2018 & 7th Executive Board Meeting held in Sofia on February 21, 2019
- 2017-19 Progress Reports on various projects undertaken by A-WEB Sectt.
- 2017-18 Audit Report
- 2020 Project Plan was approved
- The applications for A-WEB membership from Ukraine, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Mauritius & Sierra Leone as well as the Associate membership for the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) was approved.
- The General Assembly approved the nomination of EC of South-Africa as Vice-Chair of A-WEB. South Africa will host the next General Assembly in 2021 and take over as Chair for 2021-23.
- The General Assembly approved appointment of DR Congo and Somalia (from Africa); Dominican Republic (from Americas) and Bosnia & Herzegovina (from Europe) as new Executive Board Members.
- The General Assembly approved the appointment of Jonghyun Choe as the next Secretary General of A-WEB for a 3-year term.
- The General Assembly approved the proposed amendments to the A-WEB Charter.





4th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF A-WEB



4th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF A-WEB



4th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF A-WEB



International Conference on 'Initiatives and Challenges of Social Media and Information Technology in Elections'

On September 4, 2019 an international Conference was organised on 'Initiatives and Challenges of Social Media and Information Technology in Elections'.

The Conference was further commenced with the welcome speech by Umesh Sinha, Deputy Election Commissioner, followed by the address by K. M. Nurul Huda, CEC, EC of Bangladesh, Shiram Atamaint Wamputsar, President, NEC of Ecuador, Swoon-Il Kwon, Chairperson, NEC of Korea, Justice Esau Elliot Chulu, Chairperson, EC of Zambia, Anthony Banbury, President & CEO, IFES, Sushil Chandra, EC, India, Ashok Lavasa, EC, India.

The inaugural session ended with the Key Note address by Sunil Arora, Chief Election Commissioner of the India and the newly appointed A-WEB chair. He highlighted the significance of these of social media as well as its vulnerability in a diverse country like India. He said that in the context of the semination of misinformation, a country like India, with so many ethnics, regional, casts, class issues, a slight kind of misinformation by anybody using social media can cause a virtual communal riot and violence. It has happened in the past; I hope it does not happen in future. Hence a set of dos and don't have been adopted voluntarily by the associations for the electronic media.

Ahead of Lok Sabha Elections 2019, a series of meeting were conducted with different social media platforms and voluntary code of ethics was adopted which helped in curbing the misinformation and fake news.

In Session I of the conference, country experiences were shared by Benin, Bhutan, Bosnia - Herzegovina, Cameroon, El Salvador, Georgia, Malawi, Mauritius, Palestine, Romania, Russia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Togo and Tunisia presented on the subject.

Election Commission of Bhutan used social media as an tool for voter information and dissemination programme and for news update as well as communication within EMB and offices on election duty. ECB is now looking forward to the conduct of Third Local Government Election in 2021.



Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina explained the role of special media in election campaigning according to the BiH Election Law alongwith the challenges and the outcomes of the violation of the BiH Election Law.

Court practice

Explanation in the decision of the BiH Court:

"It is not allowed to candidates and supporters of political parties, as well as all participants in the election to use language which could provoke or incite someone to violence or spread hatred inter alia through Internet communications"

Elections Cameroon uses social media to gather data from blogs and social media websites and analyse such data to make strategic action plan and take proactive decisions. The social media platforms help to stay close to the population and make it easier to conduct research which can be used to improve processes and conduct voter education campaigns. A social tool ZIMBRA helped employees to access information they need to work effectively and solve operational problems.

In El Salvador, due to complexities in the Salvadoran Electoral System a and in order to publicize the preliminary electoral results, the same night of the elections, the technology of the RTS Scanners donated by the government of the South Korea was used.


A-DEFINITION OF TERMS

1- Media

Media are communication channels through which news, entertainment, education, data or promotional messages are disseminated.

2- Social Media

According to **Margaret Rouse**, **Whats.com** and **Ivy Wigmore** (Essential Guide: **Tapping the potential Of social media analytics tools**), Social media is the collective of online Communication channels dedicated to Communication-based input, interaction, Content-sharing and collaboration. Elections



stakeholders to earn their trust and build confidence in the whole process, without which, the credibility, transparency and integrity of the electoral processes and outcomes would be undermined.

THE WAY FORWARD

- ▣ Online Registration of Electors
- ▣ Use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM)
- ▣ Use of other Social Networking Sites such as Twitter, YouTube etc.

Central Elections Commission Palestine highlighted the different software applications used by them in election process, technology used in day to day work along with the benefit of Online Registration.



TRANSMISSION





TSE STAFF TESTING EQUIPMENT IN FRONT OF PUBLIC MEDIA AND SUPERVISORY BODIES.



RTS-1000 DURING FIELD TESTING ON DESIGNATED VOTING SITES.



www.elections.ps

 /CecPalestine

 /PalElections

 /CecPalestine

www.elections.ps

The Central Election Commission of Georgia promoted transparency of vote tabulation process by engaging social networks. Using a 360 degree video camera installed at the CEC tabulation centre, the process of vote tabulation was being live streamed online through social networks.

Malawi Electoral Commission monitored social media frequently to pick and counter fake news which could have been detrimental to the conduct of credible elections. The Commission took a pre-emptive measure by meeting with all presidential candidates and their representatives, urging them to be cautious when dealing with and commenting on issues that arise on social media which they had not verified with the Commission.

Office of the Electoral Commissioner (OEC), Mauritius discussed about the use of technology in election, use of new media like access of website, use of mobile application etc. The presentation emphasised on the fact that technology is evolving very fast, the need to make full use of new technologies is inevitable and critical. However, when envisioning the application of new technologies and new media in the electoral process, it is critical for EMBs to work closely with all

The Permanent Electoral Authority (PEA) Romania emphasized on the awareness about digital democracy to create secure and smart systems for people for voting. Technology doesn't improve democracy, but it does increase ease-of-access and facilitates the voting process.

Are we aware of digital democracy and the real mean or use of it....



- Technology:
 - voting equipment, electronic poll books, election management systems;
 - other hardware and software designed to serve voters and election administrators;
- Social media:
 - facebook, youtube, twitter, snapchat etc.;
- Media literacy;
- Digital literacy & digital democracy;
- Sociology literacy;

The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation has system of video surveillance and image translation via internet, Use of technical means of Vote Counting, technology of QR coding of voting result sof protocol, Public monitoring during Elections, Information and reference center of the CEC of Russia.

National Electoral Commssion (NEC), Sierra Leone highlighted some points on the challanges to the use of information technology in elections like: Low availability of ICT skills: ICT are complex systems requiring Highly skilled experts, Short

lifespan of Election ICT systems. In most applications, Election technologies adopted can be used cannot be extended periods covering several elections.



Some Recommendations were also given by them like: the laws should be enacted to control the use Social Media and there is a need to ensure that the technology adopted can be used in one cycle and extended over periods covering several electoral cycles.



Umesh Sinha, Secretary General ECI, shared the experience of National Elections 2019 highlighting Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) Evolution, preparation planning and process of elections, targeted interventions, Progress on Electoral Literacy Clubs, Use of modern as well as traditional mediums to communications to sanitise people towards their

voting rights. Sudeep Jain, Deputy Election Commissioner, ECI gave a brief of use of EVMs-VVPATs in General Elections 2019, its storage, security and advantages of using in elections.

Sandeep Saxena, Sr. Deputy Election Commissioner, ECI focused on role of ICT in Electoral Registration, and about ERO-Net-Centralized Web based Roll Management System in 14 languages and 11 scripts -links over 10K Electoral Registration Officers, National Voters Services Portal (www.nvsp.in) – Portal for Citizen Electoral services, Voter Helpline : Android Mobile App, Cvigil, Door-Step Form Assistance, Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System.

Twitter India highlighted some campaigns done by them for Voter Awareness:-

#SVEEP: Twitter hosted a delegation from Election Commission of India and Eighteen Not for Profit partners for a voter awareness workshop on voting and election FAQs, #PowerOf18 aiming to encourage the youth of India to think about priorities turning 18, a special emoji and hashtag for the Lok Sabha General Elections to make it easier for Indians across the world to join the election conversation on the platform.

A presentation on 'Countering Disinformation, Hate Speech and Incitement to Violence on Social Media' by IFES Mr. Vasu Mohan, Regional Director-Asia Pacific was presented highlighting the points on how to Respond to Hate Speech & Disinformation.

The session was concluded with a Q&A followed by the Remarks from the Members on Dias as well as concluding remarks by Sunil Arora, Chief Election Commissioner of India and Chairman, A- WEB. Arora said that we should continue to learn from each other and strengthen the A-Web network further. He urged all to work together to curb the technological and social media challenges to keep up the electoral & democratic ethics.

A vote of thanks was addressed by Sanjeev Kumar, Chief Electoral Officer of Karnataka, India.

Dr. Aarti Aggarwal
Sr. Consultant
Election Commission of India

Aradhana
Communication Consultant
Election Commission of India



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE





INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



Exhibition on Election Innovation at the 4th General Assembly of A-WEB

The 4th General Assembly of Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB), which was co-hosted by A-WEB Secretariat and the Election Commission of India (ECI), was successfully held in Bengaluru, India on September 3, 2019. More than 150 delegates from over 50 countries attended the Assembly. In addition to existing 109 member organizations from 103 countries, six new membership applications from Ukraine, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Mauritius and Sierra Leone were approved at the assembly. At present, A-WEB has 115 EMBs as members from 106 countries.

A Multimedia Exhibition was setup for further promoting knowledge sharing and collaboration among member EMBs. The exhibition had two main segments. The first segment had stalls that highlighted the salient innovations and initiatives taken by member EMBs of AWEB. The EMBs were clubbed together into four groups- 1) Africa, 2) Asia, 3) Americas, Australia & Oceania and 4) Europe and the resources shared by respective EMBs were exhibited on an audio-visual display.

Being the co-host of the Assembly and the largest EMB in the world, ECI had curated the second segment of the exhibition. The first stall of this segment, titled "Unfolding Indian Elections", displayed history of elections in India and the many landmark decisions taken by the Commission over the years. The second stall was dedicated to the new IT & ICT innovations introduced by the Commission to make the electoral processes more efficient and convenient for everyone. cVigil, Voter Helpline App, PwD app, new dynamic websites were some of the highlights of this stall. The third stall was titled "Endeavours & Innovations" and all the novel initiatives taken in run-up to the national General Election in India,

which had completed just a couple of months back, were exhibited on this stall. The last exhibition stall of this segment was dedicated to Lok Sabha Election 2019 – the national general elections with facts, images and testimonials from all over the country on display.

The Electoral Literacy Club (ELC) is an ambitious nationwide outreach programme of ECI. The resource guides of ELCs and other publications of ECI such as Brochures, Magazines, VoICE International were on the display racks in the exhibition. Two floor based games and a digital game related to ELC were also a part of the exhibition and were tried out by the delegates with delight.

At the same Assembly, Sunil Arora, Chief Election Commissioner of the Election Commission of India (ECI) took over as a new Chairperson of A-WEB for the 2019-21 terms, and Glen Mashinini, Chairperson of Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) was appointed the Vice-Chairperson of A-WEB. The 4th General Assembly successfully concluded with the active participation of the member organizations, and all delegates had a fruitful discussion that will set a new direction for the A-WEB.

The exhibition continued during the International Conference on the theme of "Initiatives and Challenges of Social Media and Information Technology in Elections" on September 4, 2019. Throughout the two days, delegates were seen reviewing the exhibits of other EMBs and discussing its applicability in their own region. The exhibition received commendation from senior delegates for promoting knowledge sharing and building capacity to meet the future challenges.

Apoorv Tiwary

Communication Consultant
Election Commission of India



EXHIBITION



EXHIBITION

EXHIBITION





India A-WEB Center

Proposal For India A-web Center

- The Center will function under the administrative control of the Election Commission of India as its integral part.
- It will maintain coordination with the A-WEB for fulfillment of its mandate.

Important Decisions Made In Executive Board Meeting of A-WEB

- Establishing an A-WEB Center in New Delhi.
- Appointment of Umesh Sinha, Secretary General, ECI as Senior Adviser for the aforesaid A-WEB Center.
- A Center for 'Documentation, Research and Training' for A-WEB Members for sharing best practices and capacity building among the members of A-WEB in election management.
- ECI will provide necessary resources for the Center.

India A-WEB Center: Aims

- The India A-WEB Center aims to become a global 'Knowledge and Resource Center' for world class 'Documentation, Research and Training' in pursuit of supporting free, fair, inclusive, accessible, efficient, transparent and credible elections and strengthening Electoral Democracy.

India A-WEB Center: Objectives

- Publication of VoICE International Magazine quarterly (In 5 years 20 Issues will be published)
- Publication of Journal on Electoral systems of the world half yearly (In 5 years 10 Issues will be published) (Research papers from different countries will be invited)
- Yearly Publication of Documents on focused Topics (Will be updated regularly)
- Training and Capacity Building of EMB officials on focused topics in coordination with IIIDEM.

Areas of Thematic Research for Documentation of Electoral Systems and Best Practices Projected Outcomes 2020-2024: Two Monographs each year in all 22 Documents

Electoral Reforms

Voter Education

Regulation of Media

Electoral Registration

**PwD and
Senior Citizens at the P.S**

Use of Technology

**Expenditure
Management**

**Regulation
of Social Media**

Facilitation for Gender

Early Voting System

**Facilities for service
and Overseas Electors**

Seminar on improvement of Election Laws and Systems

The National Election Commission (NEC) of the Republic of Korea in cooperation with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), conducted a 'Seminar for the Improvement of Election Laws and Systems' at the Korean Civic Education Institute for Democracy (KOCEI) and the KOICA training center for election officials from Timor-Leste from October 28 to 30.

As part of KOICA's program for strengthening governance in Timor-Leste (together with UNDP), this training was arranged by KOICA and the UNDP (United Nations Development Program) after receiving a request for 'training on the operation and experiences of the Korean election system' ahead of the first nationwide simultaneous local elections in Timor-Leste.

The training program covered the following areas:

- Civic education for democracy
- Overview of the election system, voter's list and candidates

- Korean early voting system and overseas voting
- Voting and counting, elected candidates and election litigation
- Election campaigning, restrictions and prohibitions and punishments

Since 2010, the NEC has invited a total of 103 election officials from 11 countries to hold the Seminar for the Improvement of Election Laws and Systems, and Timor-Leste has participated since 2016.

The NEC stated, "We hope this training program will help share our election management knowledge and experience, and contribute to the successful management of the local elections in Timor-Leste scheduled for 2021."

Contributed by: National Election Commission, Republic of Korea





SADC Electoral Commissions reflect on Electoral Observation

The 21st Annual General Conference of the Electoral Commissions Forum (ECF-SADC) was held from September 23 - 27, 2019 in Malawi under the theme Enhancing the Credibility of Elections through Observation.

The official opening was held on September 23rd and was graced by the State Vice-President, Everton Chimulirenji, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, various government dignitaries and civil society organisations and Development Partners.

In his opening speech the Vice-president observed that over the years, election observation, both domestic and international, has come to play a vital role in validating the integrity of an electoral process.

"At the same time, I am aware that in some instances the role of observers has come under intense scrutiny and attack especially where the results of an election have been heavily disputed and even overturned.

I am glad to hear that tomorrow there will be a seminar where there will be presentations by distinguished international presenters and discussions around this topic of election observation. I have full confidence that this will further entrench election observation as an integral part of enhancing integrity of elections", he said.

On the second day there was a seminar on Enhancing Credibility of Elections Through Electoral Observation which had a number of presentations from international distinguished experts on various topics.

In her remarks during the opening, the President of ECF-SADC, who also happens to be the

chairperson for Malawi Electoral Commission, Justice Dr Jane Ansah, said the seminar provided an opportunity for electoral management bodies to reflect on the role observers have played over the years and explore means of entrenching their relevance in holding credible elections in the SADC region.

"We know what works and we know what causes strife. We have had the benefit of the wisdom from several Elections Observer Groups. We must draw upon these lessons to improve our elections by identifying the gaps and retaining the best practices. It is in cognizance of this critical role of observation that the Annual General Conference is being held on this theme", she said.

She also added that the seminar provided a platform for electoral management bodies to assess the progress made in election observation in terms of planning for and execution of the missions, identifying challenges and suggesting solutions on what needs to be done to improve election observation and its sustain ability.

And in line with this thought the presentations during the seminar included. The Engineering of the normative regimes in elections; assessing adherence to shared value instruments developed by the regional & continental bodies by Dr Victor Shale and Impact & Sustain ability of election observation by Taona Mwanyisa.

The two presentations outlined the history and normative regimes of elections, did stocktaking of existing tools for electoral observation, practices of electoral observation, the impact on democratization. They also reflected on the perceptions of various stakeholders towards electoral observer missions.



Regional observation missions, in the short term when deployed in a country, bring a sense of calmness in otherwise volatile elections. The deployment of election observers changes the electoral field by bringing confidence to the electoral process. Presence of regional observers acts as a deterrence to malfeasance during election period thus minimising the chances of disputed election results, explained Mwanyisa in his presentation.

Some of the challenges faced by observers included lack of funds, in-depth technical skills to do thorough analyses and some of the regional missions, are viewed as diplomatic missions and less of technical missions. They are seen as approaching election observation from a conflict prevention angle as opposed to a technical angle.

Participants agreed that there was need to harmonise observation tools and ensure the same assessment criteria/standards to evaluate the conduct of elections in respective member countries. It was noted that various organisations within the SADC were using different tools in assessing an election which in some instances led to conflicting statements about the outcome of an election.

It was also recommended to strengthen cooperation among the different observer mission so that they can leverage on the strength of numbers and pool on expert resources that are in each mission.

There was also a presentation on Strengthening the EMBs and Observer Group relations by Ian

Goredema. The recommendations included that electoral management bodies should establish a unit/focal person for the observer groups, which will make the EMB more accessible to the domestic citizen observers. Also Observer Accreditation, should be easy, and not expensive and that EMBs should support domestic observation efforts by providing appropriate training and periodic briefings.

On the third day delegates from the ECF-SADC member states had an annual general conference whereby they reflected on what the organization had implemented during the 2018/19 financial year and also planned for the next year.

Closing the annual general conference, Justice Dr Jane Ansah, who was the host, noted that a number of resolutions had been made and for the organization to move forward it would depend on how zealous the members will be in implementing them.

"If we all join hands we can lift our organisations to a higher level where we can be a model to other regions and even have under influence on the table when it comes to negotiation and influencing democracy and policies in the region", She said.

The Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC countries (ECF-SADC), is an independent organization whose Secretariat is based in Gaborone, Botswana. It comprises of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) of the SADC member States namely; Angola, Botswana, DRC, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zanzibar and Zimbabwe. The ECF-SADC has been in place since July 1998 and hosted by the Government of Botswana since 2005.

The Forum has played an important role in ensuring that the management of elections in the SADC countries is improved and in building the capacity of election management bodies to fulfil their roles.

Contributed by: Malawi Electoral Commission

Capacity Building Program to Encourage Future Voters

The Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) organized the third Election Management Capacity Building Program of 2019 on 'Approaches to Encourage Political Participation of Prospective Voters.' Held in Incheon, South Korea, from October 22 to November 1, the program gathered 17 electoral officials from 7 countries: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Myanmar, Paraguay, and Tonga.

Before the start of the program, all participants shared their expectations for the program, helping the facilitators and organizers assess what specific areas to focus on for the lectures and different activities planned for the program.

"I believe this program will afford me an invaluable opportunity to develop and sustain the voter education capacity of the EOJ and to become a flagship EMB for voter education in the Caribbean" (EC Jamaica)

"Learn to develop new skills and explore ways to encourage more participation of voters in all

electoral processes" (EC Kingdom of Tonga)

The program was divided into three parts:

1. Lectures and Case Study Presentations
2. Drafting and Presenting Action Plans
3. Participation in Seoul International Forum on Elections and the Voter Political Festival

Day 1- October 22, 2019

A short orientation session was followed by an opening ceremony where Director General of A-WEB Secretariat, Daeil Kim gave his welcoming remarks and the participants had a chance to visit the A-WEB Secretariat offices.

In the afternoon, Professor Kyung Bae Park from Korean Institute for Development Strategy (KDS), explained how to draft an Action Plan and the participants were asked to come up with topics to focus on for their Action Plans.

The following topics for the Action Plans were assigned:



1. How to make it easier for young people to register to vote? (CENI- Burkina Faso)
2. Action Plan to provide voter education for Ethiopian high school students as prospective voters (NEB – Ethiopia)
3. What laws should the Government establish to encourage young people to engage in the electoral process? (EC- Jamaica)
4. What partnerships should the EMBs establish with other agencies for the education of young future voters? (CEC – Kazakhstan)
5. Approaches to Encourage Political Participation of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) (UEC – Myanmar)
6. How to utilize technology as a way of engaging young people in the political process (TSJE- Paraguay)
7. EMB to work together with Curriculum Division of the Ministry of Education on updating civic education for both Primary and Secondary levels in Tonga (EC- Tonga)



Day 2 - October 23, 2019

Yvonne Goudie, a civic and voter education consultant who has worked with International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), gave a series of lectures on the 'Development of Focused Civic Education and Voter Education Programs.'

Through the lectures, participants were able to go back to basics, first defining the terms, 'voter education,' 'voter information,' and 'civic education.'

Later, the participants discussed the electoral phases and when voter information, civic education, and voter education have to be implemented. Throughout the session, the participants shared some of the main concerns they have on designing voter education programs. Through the guidance of Ms. Yvonne Goudie and the experiences of other participants, the sessions were spent discussing ways to overcome many of the setbacks faced by officials when implementing effective programs for prospective voters.

Day 3 - October 24, 2019

Participants attended the '2019 Seoul International Forum on Elections,' hosted by the National Election Commission of the Republic of Korea (NEC). The Forum covered topics such as election campaigning, credibility in election polls, and measures to increase voter participation.

Day 4 - October 25, 2019

Participants visited the Korean Civic Education Institute for Democracy (KOCEI) to take part in the 'Voter Political Festival.'

EmnaBouladi from the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) moderated the country report presentations.

The country reports allowed the participants to learn about the similar and different experiences they have regarding low political participation of youth, trends of voting in youth, and the role of the EMB in imparting voter education.

Presenters from Jamaica and Kazakhstan also discussed ways in which their organizations carry out cooperation with schools and the Ministry of



Education to facilitate voter education in the school classrooms. Jamaica, on one hand, explained how the EC has provided educational materials, presentations, and lessons to teachers and students on the electoral process. Kazakhstan on the other talked about how a lack of specialized curriculum in the state educational policy has led the CEC to push for increased hours of electoral education in secondary schools, in a system that puts emphasis on technical education, mathematics, and natural sciences.

The country reports also provided a unique opportunity for participants to share the voter education tools used such as stickers, posters, magazines, and other publications used by each participating country.



Day 5 - October 26, 2019

During the trip to Seoul on October 26, the participants visited Gyeongbokgung Palace and the Namdaemun Traditional Market, where they gained cultural experience and learned some of the Korean history.

Day 6 - October 28, 2019

Yoon Tae Kim from Korean Civic Education Institute for Democracy (KOCEI) presented a case study of the Republic of Korea and its school-based voter education programs. From this session, the participants took a closer look at the ongoing efforts in Korea to educate and familiarize the youth on the electoral process. Mr. Kim showed a variety of examples such as mock elections, student debates, and lecture contests that are used to attract young people to take part in political activities.

An emphasis made by Mr. Kim was to not have prejudices of what young students know and not know about the law and political systems. He shared that when carrying out programs for young students, he was surprised to find how insightful

they are on the democratic process of voting. He expressed that providing voter and civic education from an early age is important.

Day 7 - October 29, 2019

For the morning session, Professor Kyung Bae Park visited with each country group to discuss their Action Plan drafts. The participants had a chance to ask any questions they have regarding the content of the presentation materials, and Professor Park gave feedback based on his observations.



In the afternoon, Michelle Malunga from the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) led a case study on Zambia with the topic of "Using Media to Provide Voter Education to Youth." During the session, the participants were encouraged to brainstorm ways to end voter apathy among young people in their own countries and discuss how to encourage them to participate in the political decision-making process based on lessons learned from ongoing projects in Zambia.

Day 8 - October 30, 2019

Commissioner Tito F. Guia from the Commission on Elections Philippines (COMELEC) presented the final case study, which focused on "Electoral Education for First-Time Voters in Remote Communities & Linguistic Minorities." From the lecture, the participants were introduced to the multiple initiatives carried out by the Philippines to reach first-time voters such as leadership camps, "Rock the Vote" concerts, and social media outreach.

Day 9 - October 31, 2019

Each participating country presented their Action Plan, which was moderated by Professor Kyung Bae Park. Starting with Tonga, each country addressed its strengths and weaknesses in

encouraging the political participation of specific target groups and the opportunities and threats they face while meeting their goals. The participants actively listened and asked questions to one another to help each Action Plan to become more efficient, practical, and constructive.



The participants from Jamaica, Paraguay, and Tonga stated their plans to create an official report based on the Action Plans formulated during the CBP for the improvement of election management and voter & civic education in their respective countries.



Day 10 - November 1, 2019

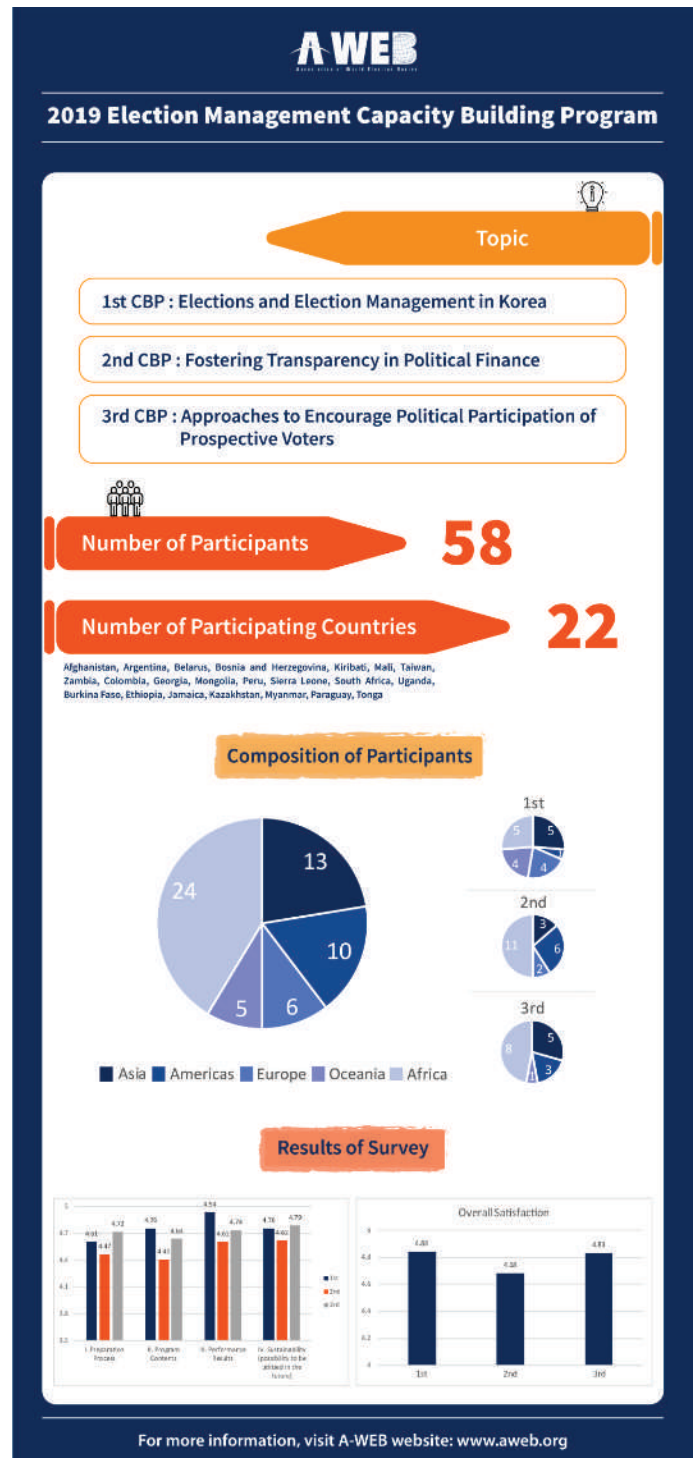
On November 1, a closing ceremony was held to celebrate the completion of the 3rd Election Management Capacity Building Program. Secretary General of A-WEB Secretariat, Jonghyun Choe gave a farewell speech to the participants, where he encouraged each one of them to sustain the network that was created through this program, thanking them for their active contributions to A-WEB activities.

Some final thoughts from the participants on their experience in this program include:

"It was an interesting experience learning about other countries, their challenges and successes in different areas. This has also encouraged me to do further research into other countries and how their EMBs operate."

"I was able to see the importance of sharing knowledge between EMBs and discovered we still have much to learn."

Through the Election Management Capacity Building Program, A-WEB strives to provide an open platform for different EMBs to gain knowledge/information through active learning and hands-on activities like the development of team Action Plans. Since the program started in 2014, 712 election administrators from 227 countries have taken part in the program. The A-WEB Secretariat is in the process of preparing the programs for 2020.



Contributed by: A-WEB Training Centre

International Day of Democracy

Since 2007 when the United Nations General Assembly designated September 15 as the International Day of Democracy, governmental and non governmental organisations – have joined with others to commemorate the importance of promoting and upholding principles of democracy.

The International Day of Democracy is an opportunity to recall that democracy is about people. Democracy is built on inclusion, equal treatment and participation – and it is a fundamental building block for peace, sustainable development and human rights.

Events on the occasion of the First International Day of Democracy 2008

To mark the first International Day of Democracy on September 15, 2008, the IPU held a special event at the House of Parliaments in Geneva and hosted a panel discussion bringing together democracy experts, politicians and practitioners to interact with diplomats, representatives of civil society and the media as well as university students. The panel sought to stimulate debate on the challenges facing democracy today.

In 2008, It was also celebrated in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Greece, Maldives, Mongolia, Namibia, Philippines.

The theme for this year's International Day of Democracy is **"Participation"**. It is known that democracy flourishes only when all groups of society are represented and are freely able to participate. Together with our civil society and national partners, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) works to empower citizens to find their voice and fully participate in all aspects of democratic society. Recent highlights of our efforts to promote full participation by all people include:

- Working to support inclusion of both voters and observers with disabilities. In Guatemala, IFES partners with the national disability council to undertake accessibility observations of polling locations.
- Facilitating trainings with multiple stakeholders to counter disinformation, hate speech and incitement to violence. In Indonesia, IFES supports the election management bodies' efforts to develop a range of strategies to address these critical challenges for safe and equal participation of all people.
- Working to provide voters with the information required to engage in political life. In Tunisia, IFES has joined with the Tunisian Mediterranean Center to train and deploy women ambassadors to encourage women, especially illiterate women living in remote areas, to register and vote.
- Preparing women to take leadership roles in local and national politics. In Myanmar, **"She Leads"** participants gain knowledge and skills to play a leading role in transforming their communities.



The Makerere University Vice Chancellor Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe and the Ambassador of European Union to Uganda, H.E. Attilio Pacific at the press conference held on 16th September 2019; in the Makerere University Council Room.

Makerere, European Union to commemorate the International Democracy Day

KAMPALA — Makerere University in partnership with European Union organized a debate on; the Role of Parliament in shaping representative democracy in Uganda; to commemorate the International Democracy day. Last year's (2019) debates, pondered on several issues such as representativeness in the parliament, the ability of Uganda's representatives to advance gender equality, accessibility of parliament by the average Ugandan and the impact of media coverage on the public's understanding of what parliament does.

Youth Network for Democracy in Asia

In May 2019, The Asia Democracy Network (ADN) welcomed the initiative of the Asian youth to form an alliance in Asia to foster youth engagement in democracy promotion.

Youth has always been at the frontline of human rights and democracy promotion, but unfortunately there has been a lack of programs to motivate youth activists to become empowered to sustain the democracy movement in Asia.



Youth Activists participating in Asia Democracy Youth Network Consultation

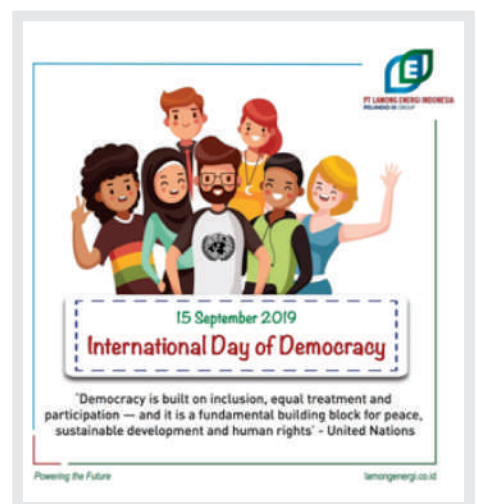
During the annual event, Cultivating Next Generation Democracy Advocates: Asia Democracy Youth Network Consultation co-hosted by ADN and the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) held from 15-19 May 2019 in Gwangju, Korea, 16 youth representatives from various regional democracy and human rights organizations, members of academia, legislators, and democrat stakeholders have agreed to commit in pursuing unity within the youth to establish the **first umbrella youth network** focusing on democracy promotion in the region.

During the Gwangju consultation, youth were committed to pursue the following:

- Recognize the importance of building efforts to connect with other youth leaders in the region in solidarity.
- Enhance engagement and participation of the youth in the political landscape and decision-making processes, disregard of differences in ability, age, gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status/class, and ethnicities.
- Pushing meaningful engagement in pro-democracy movement as part of democracy gatekeeper against the power of authoritarian behavior in Asia.



In **Timor-Leste**, ADN in coordination with CNE, FONGTIL and University of Dili had organized Democratic Consolidation in Asia: The theme was "Renewing Commitment to Uphold and Promote Democracy Together in Timor-Leste." This is the kick-off to our national-level democratic unity program to promote and defend democracy together.



Contributed by: Soniya Sharma & Neha
Consultant, Election Commission of India

International trainings conducted at IIIDEM Center, India

» Capacity Building on Election Planning for UECM Officials:

India International Institute of Democracy and Election management (IIIDEM) organized a five-day Capacity Building on Election Planning for the officials of Union Election Commission of Myanmar (UECM) in Myanmar from June 10 - 14, 2019. It was the 6th programme of the 9-programme series signed with UEC Myanmar under the sponsorship of MEA,

Gol. 4 Resource persons including Vivek Khare, Former Director IIIDEM, S B Joshi, Secretary IIIDEM, N.N. Butolia, Principal Secretary, ECI & Dr. Noor Mohammad, Consultant IIIDEM traveled to Myanmar to conduct the training programme. Twenty-five candidates participated in this training program including Deputy Director, Assistant Directors and staff officers of UECM. The program covered all important elements of elections and the planning strategies at various levels.



» Capacity Building on Electoral Technology for UECM Officials:

India International Institute of Democracy and Election management (IIIDEM) organized a five-day Capacity Building on Electoral Technology for the officials of Union Election Commission of Myanmar (UECM) in Myanmar from June 17 – 21, 2019. It was the 7th programme of the 9-programme series signed with UEC Myanmar. The programme covered the best practices in technology highlighting the types of electoral

technologies - 1. Communications: Telecommunications, Radio, Networks and the Internet, 2. Computer Hardware and Software: Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Database Management systems and 3. Other technologies: Specialized Electronic and mechanical devices, Non-electronic Innovations and materials. Twenty-five candidates participated in this training program including Deputy Director, Assistant Directors and staff officers of UECM. The participants were also addressed by Election Commissioner, Sushil Chandra and Director General, Dharendra Ojha on the extensive use of technology in the conduct of elections to Lok Sabha in 2019 and increased use of social media by various stakeholders in the electoral process.



» **Visit of A-WEB delegation at IIIDEM:**

On July 05, 2019 IIIDEM hosted a delegation of 04 participants from 'A-Web'. The programme included the welcoming of the delegation by the IIIDEM team followed by a formal presentation of IIIDEM by SB Joshi, Secretary IIIDEM. The programme included the tour of the complete facility at IIIDEM with constructive deliberations on the International Training Calendar.



» **Capacity Building on Political Finance for UECM Officials:**

India International Institute of Democracy and Election management (IIIDEM) organized a five-day Capacity Building on Electoral Technology for the officials of Union Election Commission of Myanmar (UECM) in New Delhi at IIIDEM Campus from August 19 – 23, 2019. It was the 8th program of the 9-programme series signed with UEC Myanmar. The program covered the best practices in Election Campaign and

Expenditure Monitoring, complaints management and Election Observation. The program covered highlights and in-depth global strategies in Political party finance, how candidates raise and spend money, Public funding for gender inclusion, Public funding, Candidate's campaign expenditure, maintenance of party accounts, Maintenance of Campaign Expenditure Account with identifying the best Political Party Finance practices for Myanmar. A Joint inaugural programme was organized wherein Election Commissioner, Ashok Lavasa addressed the participants on our relations with Myanmar and Afghanistan.



» **Capacity Building Programme for Officials of Independent Electoral Complaints Commission of Afghanistan:**

India International Institute of Democracy and Election management (IIIDEM) organized a three-day Capacity Building Programme for the officials of Independent Electoral Complaints Commission of Afghanistan in New Delhi at IIIDEM Campus from August 19– 21, 2019. This programme was planned fairly and encompassed training delivery on topics such

as - Engaging with the stakeholders, Grievance redressal mechanism – Pre-poll & during poll period and Election Petitions after poll results, Poll Day Monitoring and Oversight, Capacity development of poll staff to identify and prevent fraudulent activities on polling day, Approaches to adjudication of Complaints, Counting of votes & transmission of results – Principles & Practices. A Joint inaugural programme was organized wherein Election Commissioner, Ashok Lavasa addressed the participants on our relations with Myanmar and Afghanistan.



» **BRIDGE TTF in association with International IDEA:**

India International Institute of Democracy and Election management (IIIDEM) organized a 12-day BRIDGE Training of Trainers and Facilitators Programme for key NLMTs/ECI&IIIDEM staff members at IIIDEM Campus, New Delhi. The programme was conducted by 3 International Resource Persons from International IDEA and immensely applauded by the participants. Beginning from understanding the

BRIDGE methodologies to different trainers conducting sessions on BRIGE techniques, this program was one of a kind experience for the participants. The 12-day programme was conducting from September 16– 27, 2019 with 24 participants. The valedictory event of the programme was attended by Deputy Election Commissioner, Sudeep Jain, who congratulated the participants and the team from International IDEA for successfully completing the BRIDGE TTF.

» **Capacity Building Programme on Voter Registration for ITEC Partner Countries:**

India International Institute of Democracy and Election management (IIIDEM) organized a six-day Capacity Building on Voter Registration for the Election officials of ITEC Partner Countries at IIIDEM Campus, New Delhi from September 22 – 27, 2019. The programme had participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Philippines, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The program provided exposure voter registration so as to equip participants for creating accurate and inclusive Voter register. The topics covered as a part of the programme were - The importance of voter registration, Guiding principles for voter registration, Voter registers, Major operational steps, Registration data and Voter registration process in India.



» **Visit of delegation from Maldives:**

IIIDEM hosted delegation of Civil Servants of Maldives as a part of Training Programme in Filed Observation conducted by National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), Mussoorie on September 26, 2019. NCGG had requested IIIDEM to conduct a session on Electoral Reforms undertaken over the years in India, the New innovations in the field of Elections, Best governance practices adopted & the role of Civil servants in organizing Free and Fair

Elections. The sessions were delivered by Vinod Zutshi (Former Deputy Election Commissioner, ECI), S K Mendiratta (Former Legal Advisor, ECI) and Noor Mohammad (Consultant IIIDEM).

Contributed by: IIIDEM Centre, India

Inclusive Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning: Toward an Integrated Approach



Designing and implementing inclusive monitoring, evaluation, and learning (IMEL) processes is critical to ensuring that all individuals, regardless of identity, are meaningfully represented in democracy and governance programming and able to fully exercise their rights as citizens. The inclusion of traditionally marginalized populations, including women, LGBTI individuals, people with disabilities, youth, and ethnic and religious minorities and indigenous peoples, is one of two foundational pillars of USAID's Global Election and Political Transitions (GEPT) mechanism.

Additionally, it is a cross-cutting priority for Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS) partners National

Democratic Institute (NDI), International Republican Institute (IRI), and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). CEPPS is prioritizing integrated approaches to inclusive MEL practices by developing a coordinated IMEL approach that considers key inclusion questions when designing program indicators, evaluations, reflection sessions, and data collection tools. Such a coordinated approach better positions CEPPS to collect richer, more reliable data that provides insight into program interventions and their interaction with marginalized populations. Join CEPPS to learn more about this integrated approach and about promising practices in conducting inclusive monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

Source: www.ifes.org

Second Electoral Technology and Cyber-Hygiene Course Conducted



Following the success of its pilot course in June 2019, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) welcomed 12 election management body (EMB) representatives to Tallinn, Estonia, for its second iteration of the Electoral Technology and Cyber-Hygiene course. Participants spent four days earlier this month learning the use of technology in elections, how to integrate safe cyber behavior into their work and how to mitigate online harassment and violence against women in elections. The course also included insightful guest presentations and valuable site visits. Upon completion, participants received accreditation from the Tallinn University of Technology (Tal Tech), transferable to any further education degree.

Representatives from EMBs in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia were nominated by their institutions to participate. The course was designed to introduce technologies available in the electoral process and to provide the representatives with cyber security policies, good practices and tools to protect themselves and their organizations when using technology in elections.

In the first part of the course, participants were exposed to a variety of election technologies and asked to critically analyze the benefits and risks involved throughout the electoral process. Through global case studies of technology in elections, participants were able to see the practical application of these technologies and evaluate their use. As the course was held in Estonia, participants particularly studied e-governance in the country. Professor Robert Krimmer of the Ragnar Nurkse Department of Innovation and

Governance at Tal Tech led a presentation on the history of internet voting in Estonia, assessing both its key benefits and current challenges.

To bridge the gap between election technology and cyber security in elections, the national chief cyber risk officer of Estonia, Liisa Past, delivered a presentation on the nexus of the two topics, describing the importance of what's at stake when technology in elections face increasing cyber threats. Participants then transitioned to an in-depth cyber-hygiene awareness training, which included activities such as identifying the characteristics of phishing emails, integrating the use of password managers on their devices and strategizing institutional policies to build stronger cyber safety.



Ana-Marija Lasi of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nikola Mugosa of Montenegro, Kristina Vlaši Krasnec of Croatia and Maili Kark of Estonia work together to identify the characteristics of a phishing email

The course also included an informative visit to the State Electoral Office (SEO) of Estonia, where participants learned the history and context of the electoral and political process in the country. Participants and the current SEO Chief Adviser and former President Priit Vinkel, engaged in a lively question-and-answer session to deliver a comprehensive, practical understanding of technology and cyber security from the perspective of an EMB. While at the SEO, participants also watched as the Estonian Parliament passed new legislation removing all restrictions during electoral campaign periods. Following, participants had the chance to visit the Parliament's home, the Riigikogu, where they learned about the electoral process from yet another point of view.

Finally, the course introduced the pilot “Gender and Online Spaces,” a newly developed IFES course module. First, all participants learned of the various types of online harassment and violence in elections, such as trolling or doxing, and how women might experience it differently. Examples from Europe and Eurasia were discussed, and participants were welcomed to offer their own examples from their respective countries. In the second portion, the women and men were divided into two separate exercises. The women were offered the space to discuss their personal experiences and provided with actions they make take as victims of online harassment or violence. Meanwhile, the men engaged in an interactive male allies’ exercise, where they were tasked with deciding responses to various scenarios in which their female family, friends and colleagues might be victims.



IFES Cybersecurity Expert Thomas Chanussot works with Kristina Vlaši Krasnec of Croatia, Vladimir Dimitrijevi of Serbia, Iva Ivanova of Bulgaria and Diana Daubare of Lithuania to use cyber-hygiene tools.

“I Learned Awareness of Protecting Myself and My Work Through New Tools. There is New Information to Help with Everyday Work.”

Course participants spoke highly of their time in Tallinn and of the skills and tools they left with. Nikola Mugosa of the State Election Commission of Montenegro shared, “I learned awareness of protecting myself and my work through new tools. There is new information to help with everyday work.” Further, course participants expressed their desire to share their learnings widely with their colleagues, which cascades the impact throughout their institution. Ana-Marija Lasia of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina was particularly excited about cyber hygiene in emails, “Cyber-hygiene was definitely the most useful skill from the course, because I can prevent co-workers from opening phishing emails.”

In the months following the course, IFES will roll out a quarterly newsletter to participants from this course and the prior one in June. The newsletter will offer reminders of good cyber-hygiene practices and innovative tools available to build safe online behavior. Next year, IFES plans to widen the scope of the course to also target civil society organizations and information technology users and administrators at EMBs in the region.

The course was part of IFES’ “Regional Elections Administration and Political Process Strengthening (REAPPS)” project in Europe and Eurasia, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented through the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS). REAPPS was designed to address common challenges among Central and Eastern European and Eurasian societies. These include defining the role of government, fostering political pluralism, stimulating civic participation and channeling internal conflict into political institutions to produce democratic outcomes faced by transitioning democracies within Europe and Eurasia.



Course participants pose with their course certificates alongside IFES staff at the Tallinn University of Technology.

Established in 1995, CEPPS pools the expertise of three premier international organizations dedicated to democratic development: IFES, the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute. CEPPS has a 20-year track record of collaboration and leadership in democracy, human rights and governance support, learning from experience, and adopting new approaches and tools based on the ever-evolving technological landscape.

Contributed by: International Foundation for Electoral Systems

Fernández-Fernández sweep

Argentine elections

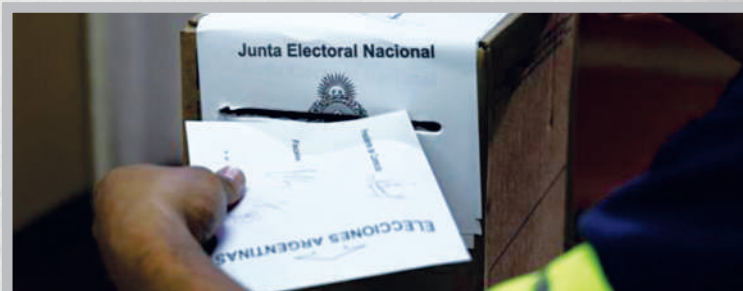


Alberto Angel Fernandez secured 48.1 percent votes in the first round of the presidential elections in Argentina to become the next occupant of Quinta de Olivos. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner is elected on the same ballot as the next Vice President of the republic. She had previously been the President of Argentina between 2007 and 2015, when Alberto Fernández had been her Chief of Staff. The President and Vice President are elected directly by the citizens on the same ballot.

Alberto Fernández represents a broad coalition of Centre-Left parties called Frente de Todos. He unseated Mauricio Macri, the current President of Argentina, who secured 40.4 percent of the votes. According to Section 97 of the Constitution of Argentina (1994) any Presidential candidate winning 45 percent of the votes in the first ballot, shall be declared the winner, failing which the

contest will go into second round. Alternatively, according to Section 98, if a candidate secures 40 percent of affirmative votes, and enjoys a margin of at least ten percent over other candidates, he/she is declared winner.

Fernández-Fernández took office on December 10 the date on which presidency is conventionally inaugurated. The date represents the day of return of democracy in 1983 after almost eight years of army rule (1976-1983).



Source:

1. Constitution of Argentine Nation (1994)
2. Argentina elections: Centre-left Alberto Fernández wins presidency (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-50203727>)
3. CIA World Factbook- Argentina

Conservatives sweep 'early' UK elections



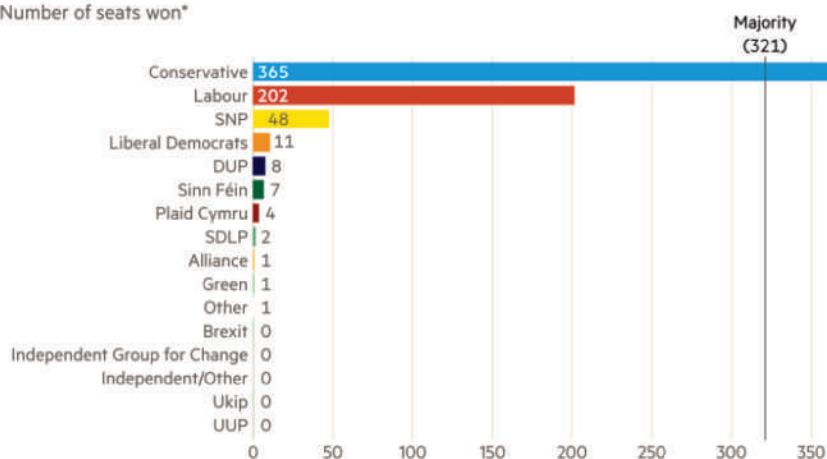
The Conservative Party, led by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, made a clean sweep in the United Kingdom election on December 12, 2019. The party clinched 365 seats in 650 member House of Commons. The Labour Party, led by Jeremy Corbyn, finished a distant second at 203. The Scottish National Party improved its tally to 48 seats, whereas Liberal Democrats slid to 11 seats. The Thursday election, on December 12, 2019, was mid-term poll after the Conservative Party had lost majority in the House of Commons in June 8, 2017 elections thereby making it dependent on Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) of Northern Island for surviving confidence motions.

The latest election was third since May 7, 2015 election in the United Kingdom. The December 12, 2019 election was made possible through a special piece of legislation called Early Parliamentary General Election Act, 2019 that received royal assent on October 31, 2019. It circumvents the Fixed Terms Parliaments Act, 2011 which mandates that parliamentary general elections are to be held on the first Thursday in May in the fifth calendar year of the previous parliamentary general election.

This was United Kingdom's first December election since 1923. The voter turnout figure of 67.2 percent on a wet poll day is being considered impressive. Despite fall of 1.5 percentage since 2017 election, it is higher than other elections in the new millennium.

Seats won: a clear majority for the Conservatives

Number of seats won*



* After all 650 seats declared

Source: PA

© FT

Liberals retain Canada



Justin Trudeau led the Liberal party to a subdued victory in the Canadian federal elections held on October 21, 2019. The party's final tally of 157 seats fell 13 short a clear majority (170) in a 338-member House of Commons. The Conservatives finished at 121 whereas the Bloc Quebecois was placed at 32 and New Democrats at 24. The Greens and independents finished at the bottom of the barrel notching up mere three and one seats respectively. Interestingly, the Conservatives secured 34.4 percent votes as against 33.1 percent of the Liberals though the latter won more number of seats in the Commons.

The Liberals have thus lost 20 seats from the previous (42nd) House of Commons, whereas Conservatives have gained 26. Bloc Quebecois have gained 22 seats whereas New Democrats lost 15 seats. The 42nd House of Commons was in existence from December 3, 2015 to September 11, 2019.

Trudeau, therefore, now leads a minority government. In Canadian democracy a minority government is formed when the largest party in the House of Commons fails to cross the halfway mark in the Commons. It is referred to as plurality. There is a strong tradition of allowing the plurality to rule even if margin is very narrow. Canada is thus an exception to democracies where the largest party, short of clear majority, must form a coalition government enjoying numerical majority. In Canada, the coalition is a controversial idea, which has never been attempted at the national level.

In 2008, when the then Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper formed the minority government for the second time, the leaders of Parliament's three Centre-Left parties got together and argued that they should be allowed to form a coalition government to replace Harper. Harper appealed to the Governor General, whose say was final in such matters, and his appeal was upheld. The Governor General of Canada is the representative of the Canadian Monarch, currently Queen Elizabeth II of Britain.



Source:

1. Canada Elections: PM Trudeau rules out coalition after elections <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-50157893>
2. <https://thecanadaguide.com/government/parliament/>
3. <https://newsinteractives.cbc.ca/elections/federal/2019/results/>

Mozambique's dual elections



Mozambique, the southeast African republic, with a population size of 27.9 million, conducted presidential and legislative elections on October 15, 2019. Under Article 147 (1) of the Constitution of Mozambique, 2004 the President of the Republic shall be elected through direct, universal, equal and periodic suffrage and by personal and secret ballot. The term of the President is five years, and might be re-elected once. The Article 148 directs that the candidate who gains more than half the votes shall be elected the President. If none of the candidates obtains an absolute majority, there shall be a second round between two candidates receiving most votes.

Fillipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic since, was re-elected. He secured 73 percent of the popular votes in the first round itself, with Ossufo Momade of RENAMO and David Singamo of MDM finishing distance second and third with 21.9 percent and 5.1 percent votes respectively. Nyusi represents FRELIMO party, which has ruled Mozambique since its independence in 1975. Most of the 13 million registered voters are born in independent Mozambique.

The elections 250-seat unicameral Assembly of the Republic or Assembleia de Republica as per Article

35 (2) of the Constitution is conducted according to proportional representation. The vote share and seats position in the new assembly are as: FRELIMO 58 percent (144 seats), RENAMO 36 percent (89 seats), MDM 7 percent (17 seats). The assembly enjoys a term of five years.

Mozambique gained independence from Portugal in 1975 after a long armed struggle led by FRELIMO. Within two years of independence the country was plunged into a devastating civil war lasting between 1977 and 1992. Following the UN-aided peace building efforts, the main guerilla group RENAMO renounced violence, and transformed itself into a political party.



Source:

1. The Constitution of the Republic of Mozambique, 2004
2. The CIA World Factbook- Mozambique
3. Mozambique: Politics, Economy, and US Relations (Congressional Research Service Paper, 2019)

Iohannis prevails in Romania



Klaus Werner Iohannis retained his post in the Romanian Presidential election called Referendum. Sixty year old Iohannis, representing National Liberal Party (PNL) outvoted Viorica Dancila of Social Democratic Party (PSD) 66.1 percent to 39.1 percent (of the total valid votes) in the second round held on November 24, 2019. Earlier Iohannis and Dancila had emerged

as the front runners out of 15 candidates in the first round held on November 10, 2019.

Iohannis is the fourth President of Romania since December 1989 when the revolution toppled the 22-year old regime of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. An incumbent can hold the President's post for maximum of two terms as per Article 81 (4) of the Romanian Constitution adopted in 1991.

Source:

1. President of Romania Official Website- <https://www.presidency.ro/en/president/klaus-iohannis>
2. CIA World Factbook – Country Profile Romania
3. Electionguide.org

Sri Lanka elects Rajapaksa



Nandasena Gotabaya Rajapaksa became the 7th Executive President of Sri Lanka after he won 52.2 percent votes in the presidential elections in the island nation held on November 16, 2019.

His nearest rival Sajith Premadasa, put up by New Democratic Front, was the runner's up with 42 percent votes. The rest of the 33 candidates together polled less than six percent votes. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, representing Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLLP), is the younger brother of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa. He had served as the Secretary in the Ministry of Defense between

November, 2005 and January, 2015 during the presidency of his brother. The period had seen the end of civil war led by the LTTE in Sri Lanka, and restoration of unified government for the entire island. Gotabaya Rajapaksa (b. 1949) had earlier

served in Sri Lankan Army between 1971 and 1991.

The President of the republic is the head of the state, head of the Executive, of the Government and Commander-in-Chief of the Army. Under



Article 30 (2) of the Sri Lankan Constitution, the President of the Republic shall be elected by the People, and shall hold the office for a term of five years.

Source: CIA World Fact Book, Country Profile, Sri Lanka | BBC News

Twin elections in Tunisia



Tunisia, the North African nation, with population size of 11.5 million, recently went through twin elections. The Presidential runoffs were held on September 15, 2019 (round one) and October 13, 2019 (round two) under the provisions of Article 75 of the Tunisian Constitution, 2014. Kais Saied was elected the President for a five year term. Saied, an independent candidate, secured 72.7 percent votes against as against 27.3 percent of Nabil Karoui of Heart of Tunisia party in the second round. Saied took oath as President on October 23, 2019.

Meanwhile on October 6, 2019, Tunisians voted in the legislative polls. The unicameral legislature called Assembly of the Representatives of the People (ARP) or Majlis Nuwwab ash-Sha'b (in Arabic) is a body of 217 members. Tunisia uses a proportional representation system, in which a variation of largest remainder method (the Hare quota) is employed to convert vote shares into number of seats. Tunisia follows a closed-list system, under which a voter casts one vote for one list; but can express no preference for individual candidates on the list. Tunisia has 33 electoral constituencies (districts), including six for Tunisians living abroad in designated countries.

The final vote shares/seats tally of the different parties in October 6 election was as: Ennahdha 19.6 percent (52 seats), Heart of Tunisia 14.6 percent (38 seats), Free Destourian Party 6.6 percent (17 seats), Democratic Current 6.4 percent (22 seats), Dignity Coalitions 5.9 percent (22 seats), People's Movement 4.5 percent (16 seats), Tahya Tounes 4.1 percent (14 seats), Others 35.4 percent (25 seats), Independents 2.9 percent (12 seats).

These were the second in the series of free and multi-candidate/party elections since the January 2011 uprising overthrew the dictatorial rule of Zine El Abedin Ben Ali. Prime Minister Ben Ali had



assumed presidential powers on November 7, 1987 by ousting Habib Bourguiba who had ruled the Arab nation since its independence. Tunisia, which gained independence from France in 1956, is a member of League of Arab States since 1958.

On October 6, 2019 Tunisians voted in polls to elect 217 members of Assembly of the Representatives of the People (ARP). This was country's second free and multiparty parliamentary election since the January 2011 uprising that overthrew dictatorial rule of Zine El Abedin Ben Ali.

Source:

1. A Guide to Tunisia's 2019 Parliamentary Elections, POMED (October 2019)
2. CIA Fact Book- Tunisia.
3. A Guide to Tunisia's 2019 Presidential Elections (POMED)
4. A Guide to Tunisia's 2019 Parliamentary Elections (POMED)
5. Safwan M. Marsi, Tunisia: An Arab Anomaly (Columbia University Press, 2017)

Elections to watch in 2020



Over the past year, protests and demonstrations have magnified the frustrations and hopes of people around the world seeking **more responsive democratic institutions**. Popular demand for greater representation, economic prosperity and justice are growing louder and more determined from Santiago to Khartoum and from Quito to Beirut.

Moving from the streets to the ballot box, voters will have the opportunity in the year ahead to channel their popular demands into policies and action on issues ranging from the economy, national security, immigration and corruption. Even in the midst of democratic backsliding in many parts of the world, **the ballot box and elections remain a mechanism to transform societies** through representative, democratic governance.

As an organization that works to build democracies that deliver for all, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems is proud to partner with institutions and organizations to deliver electoral processes with integrity around the world. **We believe in democracy for a better future** and are committed to working in partnership to defend democracy from emerging threats.

Below are the elections to watch in 2020 – processes that will shape local, regional and geopolitical developments in the year to come.



HAITI

Legislative elections did not take place by October 2019 as planned amid ongoing protests and civil unrest focused on forcing the resignation of President Jovenel Moïse. No election date is yet set, but after January 2020 Haiti will lack a Chamber of Deputies and two-thirds of the Senate. Until elections are held, Haiti's political stalemate is likely to continue with President Moïse ruling by decree.

BOLIVIA

A fresh presidential election is expected in this Andean nation of over 11 million following the turbulent resignation of President Evo Morales after allegations of fraud in the October 2019 elections. Under the current electoral law, the president is elected by a modified two-round system that may result in a protracted electoral period, as voters choose a new president capable of unifying a highly polarized nation plagued by instability and division.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Elections to South Korea's National Assembly will be held on April 15. The legislature consists of 253 seats elected from first-past-the-post constituencies and 47 from proportional party lists, with members serving four-year terms. These elections will test the strength of President Moon Jae-in's Democratic Party, which currently holds the most seats in the Assembly, and its strong support for denuclearizing the Korean peninsula.

NORTH MACEDONIA

Early parliamentary elections are planned for April with 123 seats in the national assembly on the ballot, including three seats for North Macedonians living abroad. These polls were called by Prime Minister Zoran Zaev following failed talks on joining the European Union and North Atlantic Treaty Organization. North Macedonia's name change and future Euro-integration will be issues in rival parties' campaigns.

ETHIOPIA

Parliamentary elections are currently planned for May when this nation of 105 million will take part in the first polls since reformist Prime Minister and Nobel prize winner Abiy Ahmed took office in 2018. At stake are 547 seats in the House of People's Representatives for five-year terms. The elections will take place under a new election law, adopted in August 2019 and, given the historic opening ushered in by political liberalization, promise to be the first competitive poll since 1995.

GEORGIA

Parliamentary elections are scheduled to be held by October 2020. Voters will elect 150 members to Georgia's unicameral legislature under the existing mixed electoral system following a failed attempt to adopt a fully proportional electoral system in 2019. The ruling Georgian Dream coalition won 115 seats in the last legislative elections and has sought electoral reforms following weeks of street protests demanding broader political representation.

MYANMAR

General elections are planned for late 2020 with some 1,000 seats in its national, regional and state legislative bodies, including 664 seats in the country's bicameral national parliament, being contested. Twenty-five percent of both houses of parliament will remain reserved for the military. These elections will further test Myanmar's democratic transition following the 2015 transfer of power, when the election of the ruling National League for Democracy won its current super majority.

UNITED STATES

Presidential, legislative and state elections are scheduled for November. The office of the president, one-third of the Senate and all 435 seats in the House of Representatives will be on the ballot. Eleven state governorships and numerous state and local offices will also be contested. The results of state legislature elections will be closely watched given their role in congressional redistricting following the 2020 national census.

EGYPT

Parliamentary elections are expected at the end of 2020 in accordance with the constitutional changes approved in the 2019 constitutional referendum. The Parliament is now a bicameral body with the Senate (Shura Council) consisting of 180 elected members and the House of Representatives made up of 596 seats. These elections will be the first since the approval of a constitutional amendment that allows President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi to remain in power until 2030 and will indicate Egypt's political trajectory.

NEW ZEALAND

General elections are expected in the second half of 2020. Voters will elect 120 members to the House of Representatives under a mixed-member proportional electoral system. The Labour Party-led minority coalition government will be put to the test in what promises to be a highly competitive race. Referendums on marijuana legalization and euthanasia are also planned.

Source: <https://www.ifes.org/>
<https://www.idea.int/>

IFES welcomes Anthony Banbury as new President and CEO

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) welcomes former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) Anthony (Tony) Banbury as its new President and CEO. Banbury brings 30 years of experience in public service to IFES, with previous leadership roles in diplomacy, crisis management and humanitarian assistance.

"After a 30-year career working in peace operations, crisis response and national security for the UN and the U.S. government, I am honored to lead one of the premier organizations in the world in the cause of democracy and human rights," said Banbury. "There has never been a more critical and exciting period to be engaged in IFES' mission of making every voice heard and every vote count."

Banbury served as UN Assistant Secretary-General for Field Support and oversaw UN peace assistance operations around the world. In this capacity he managed operational support for 36 UN peacekeeping and political missions around the world with a combined budget of more than \$9 billion and more than 170,000 deployed personnel. He developed and implemented a new strategic plan and polices as part of a major organizational transformation.

"Banbury will be a dynamic, successful new leader for IFES at this critical moment for the global

democracy movement. His career of commitment to global public institutions and human rights, as well as his exceptional achievements in public management, are the right skills for IFES," said IFES Chairman Ambassador Ken Blackwell. "I thank former President and CEO Bill Sweeney for his service and strong leadership at IFES. He moved the organization forward by diversifying the donor portfolio, strengthening our brand, and solidifying the organization's leadership in the areas of election administration, disability rights, gender equality, and electoral integrity. I am confident that Banbury will continue to move the organization forward and carry on its mission as the new President and CEO."



"We conducted a very thorough executive search that reached out to leaders around the globe. It was an exhaustive process with many truly outstanding candidates," said Board Director Peter McPherson, who was a member of the selection committee. "Banbury's candidacy rose to the top for not only his commitment to democracy building, but his track record for successful negotiation in very tough, politically charged environments. His reputation is all about working extremely well in a bipartisan way, moving the needle and simply getting things done."

Contributed by: International Foundation for Electoral Systems

CNE invites the European Union to observe the **2021 Elections**

After 10 years, the European Union (EU) is invited by the National Electoral Council (CNE) to observe the General Elections of Ecuador in 2021. The Plenary of the CNE unanimously, this December 16 approved the invitation to four international organizations: European Union (EU), the Organization of American States (OAS), the World Association of Electoral Bodies (A-WEB) and the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE).

International bodies are invited as independent missions, that is, they have their own financing to comply with the observation. Likewise, these organizations are invited to participate with Observation Missions and Technical Accompaniment Commissions in the pre-election, electoral and post-election phases.

The invitation is made more than one year in advance in order to comply with international technical and legal procedures. With this decision, the electoral body promotes observation as one of the fundamental pillars of transparency and deepening democracy.



Executive statement ratifies reforms promoted by the **Electoral Function**

The president of the National Electoral Council (CNE), Diana Atamaint, this Saturday, January 4, in a dialogue with the media said that the Executive's veto to the Code of Democracy did not object to the electoral reforms approved by the National Assembly and promoted by the Electoral Function

The first authority of the CNE said that the pronouncement of the President of the Republic leaves intact the change of the method of allocation of seats (Webster in all pluripersonal applications), the political participation of women, sanctions for political violence of gender, mandatory debates, implementation of the passive register and control of electoral spending.

In this regard, he said that with the Executive's pronouncement the rules are ratified in the face of the 2021 Elections. He announced that once the

Code of Democracy reformed in the Official Register has been published, the process of developing regulations and internal regulations will begin. Diana Atamaint invited the academy, civil society, Pichincha Bar Association and political organizations to participate with their contributions in the construction of the internal regulatory body.



The Global State of Democracy 2019

The value, viability and future of democracy are contested now more than ever before in modern history. While the past four decades have seen a remarkable expansion of democracy throughout all regions of the world, recent years have been marked by declines in the fabric of both older and younger democracies. The idea of democracy continues to mobilize people around the world but the practice of existing democracies has disappointed and disillusioned many citizens and democracy advocates.

Democratic erosion is occurring in different settings and contexts. New democracies are often weak and fragile. Older democracies are struggling to guarantee equitable and sustainable economic and social development. The share of high-quality democracies is decreasing and many of them are confronted with populist challengers.

At the same time, democratic transitions occur in political regimes that seemed staunchly undemocratic and popular democratic aspirations continue to be expressed and defended around the world. Despite the challenges, democracy has proven resilient. Democracies have also shown, with some exceptions, to provide better conditions for sustainable development.

This Summary of International IDEA's publication *The Global State of Democracy 2019: Addressing the Ills, Reviving the Promise* outlines the key global and regional findings of the report. The *Global State of Democracy (GSoD) 2019 Report* provides a health check of democracy, identifying encouraging democratic trends as well as the key challenges to democracy. It draws on data from the GSoD indices and lessons learned from International IDEA's on-the ground technical assistance to understand the current democracy landscape. It aims at informing strategies, programmes and policy interventions in support of democracy.



Open Primary Election

Open primary elections are elections within a political party in which it is not only the formal membership that has the right to vote, but non-members also form part of the 'selectorate'.

The structure of open primaries varies from party to party. This Primer explains the key decisions and questions that political parties are most likely to face when considering or conducting open primaries.

International IDEA's Political Party Innovation Primers are designed to explain emerging trends and practices being adopted by political parties worldwide to reconnect with citizens. Each Primer provides guidance to citizens in general, and to members and sympathizers of existing or new parties in particular, on how to introduce innovative ideas and practices in their organizations.

The Primers aim to fill gaps in existing literature on selected topics, and draw on interviews and consultations with party activists and experts who have employed the innovative means in question.

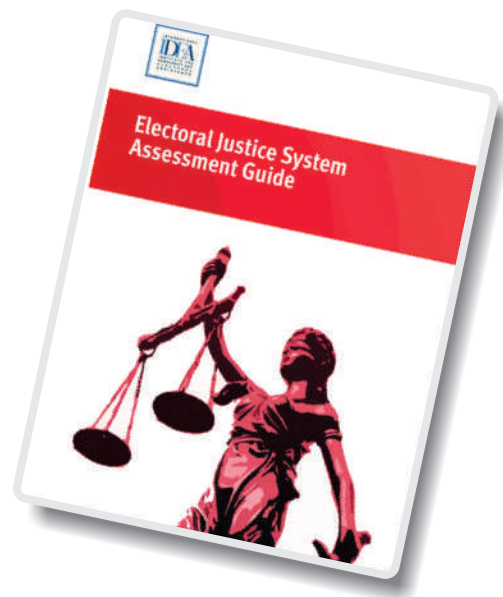


Electoral Justice System Assessment Guide

Free, fair and trusted elections provide legitimacy to governments and ensure the genuine expression of the will of the people. Electoral justice guarantees electoral processes are conducted with integrity and that mechanisms exist to restore electoral integrity when it has been violated.

Intentionally or unintentionally electoral norms may be violated by those who design, administer or participate in an electoral process. The manner in which these violations are addressed can determine the overall legitimacy of an electoral outcome and the level of trust in the electoral process. The realisation of electoral justice requires a set of institutions, practices, norms and mechanisms that culminate in fair and open processes—not simply on election day but throughout the electoral cycle.

The Electoral Justice System Assessment Guide is designed to support users to assess the administration of electoral justice in their country. Inclusivity and accessibility are important elements of electoral justice. The questions in the Assessment Guide reflect key electoral justice principles, drawing on international standards and an analysis of diverse electoral justice practices from many countries around the world.



Electoral Management Design

Electoral management bodies (EMBs) need to become more professional if they are to retain the trust of voters. This Handbook was developed for electoral administrators and those involved in reforming EMBs. It provides comparative experience of and best practices on EMB structures and funding models, as well as means for evaluating performance.

A range of case studies illustrate examples from specific contexts in Afghanistan, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Haiti, India, Kenya, the Republic of Korea, Liberia, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Senegal, Republic of Seychelles, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States.

This new and revised edition of the 2006 International IDEA Handbook includes updated country-level data and case studies and significantly expanded sections on the role of gender, professional development and technology in elections.



New Issue of the VoICE International Launched

T

his issue of VoICE International highlighted the experiences of different EMBs on 'Best Practices, Innovations and Initiatives for Enhancing Voter Participation'.

Universal adult suffrage, inclusion of all categories of voters; free, fair and transparent elections are the basic features that determine the health of a democracy. Expanding democracy through maximization of elector registration, healthy and clean electoral rolls followed by deepening of democracy through informed, inclusive and ethical participation in the poll are the key elements of an electoral process.

Election Management Bodies in different democracies have addressed these challenges through voter education, innovation, new initiatives including integration of state-of-the-art technology, development of tried, tested and accepted 'Best Practices' for enhancing voter participation. International institutions of excellence have supported and strengthened this innovation through continued research and value addition.

The Issue brings to you a very rich experience on the subject from different countries such as Georgia, Russia, IFES (Ukraine), and Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Nepal, Tunisia and other countries. Further, the Issue also brings to you election updates and several other related readings of interest from across the world. I am sure the readers would gain from this experience and knowledge sharing and find them relevant for addressing the issues and challenges in fulfilment of their mandate for free and fair elections.



Online Violence Against Women in Politics in Ukraine: An IFES Assessment

F

ollowing independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Ukrainian women and men alike were eager to exercise newfound political rights. However, while there have been some examples of high-profile Ukrainian women in politics, on the whole women have remained significantly under represented in politics.

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) recognizes that violence against women in elections is a threat to the integrity of the electoral process. A new IFES assessment finds that online abuse and harassment in Ukraine is a pervasive barrier to women's political participation. Online Violence Against Women in Politics in Ukraine: An IFES Assessment provides recommendations for the Central Election Commission, policymakers, political parties, civil society and social media platforms to address this problem.



HANGING CHAD

A hanging chad is a fragment of a punched card ballot paper, which remains attached to it, resulting in an incompletely filled out ballot.

PANACHAGE

Panachage allows voters to allocate their votes to candidates across different party lists.

QUORUM

A quorum is a threshold of votes which has to be crossed in order to have a valid vote or election

HARE-NIEMEYER METHOD

The Hare-Niemeyer method is a mathematical method to calculate the allocation of seats in a proportional representation election.

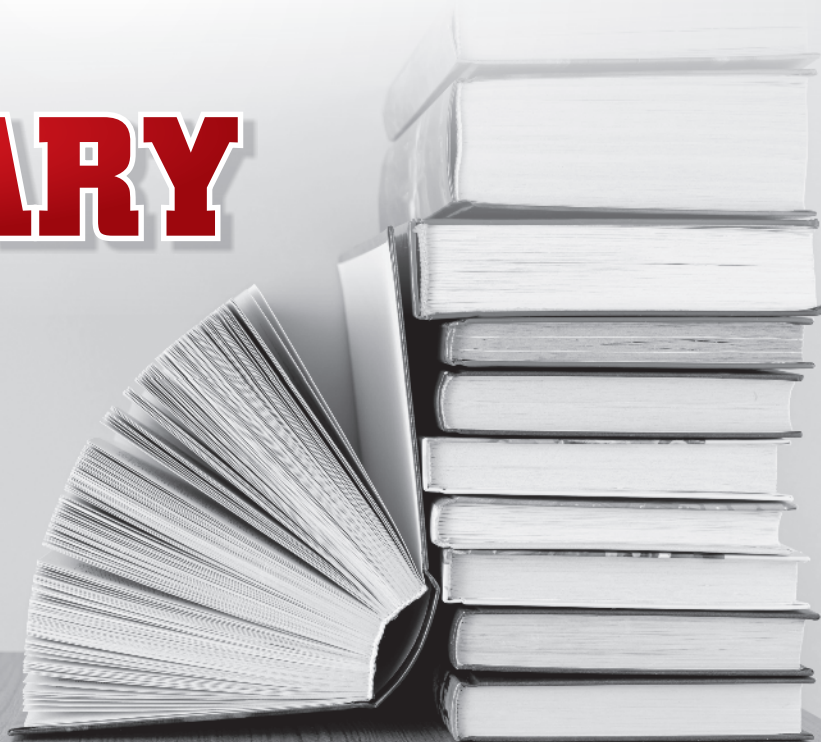
CLOTURE

Cloture is a procedure used in the US Senate to end stalling debates.

PRECINCT

Election administration division corresponding to a geographic area that is the basis for determining which contests the voters legally residing in that area are eligible to vote on

GLOSSARY





①

Argentina, Australia and Brazil are among 22 countries in the world which have one mandatory rule for citizens. Failure to adhere to this can result in a heavy fine. Which rule?

②

In what way did 30% of Estonian citizens cast their vote in the 2015 elections there?

③

What title, used in Britain for the longest serving Member of Parliament, was used for Winston Churchill between 1951-1964, and is currently held by Kenneth Clarke?

④

As the head of the Government of Austria and Germany is not a Prime Minister or President, the countries have another designation. What is this designation?

⑤

A notice to impeach the President may be made by either house. What proportion of members of the house is required to sign the notice for impeachment of the President?

Members & Associates: EMBs and International Organisations



Afghanistan



Australia



Bangladesh



Bhutan



Bosnia and Herzegovina



Brazil



Canada



Ecuador



Fiji



Georgia



India



Indonesia



Iraq



Kenya



Kingdom of Tonga



Kyrgyzstan



Lesotho



Malaysia



Malawi



Maldives



Mauritius



Mexico



Myanmar



Namibia



Nepal



Pakistan



Palestine



Philippines



Russian Federation



Sao Tome and Principe



South Africa



Sri Lanka



Taiwan



Thailand



Tunisia



Uganda



U.S.A



IIDEM



IFES



INTERNATIONAL IDEA

Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre
CAMBRIDGE (ENGLAND)



UNDP



Voter Information, Communication & Education Network

Voter Information, Communication & Education Network (VoICE.NET) is a Global Knowledge Network for sharing knowledge, resources and expertise on Voter Education.

VoICE.NET was launched on October 20, 2016 at the International Conference on Voter Education for Inclusive, Informed and Ethical Participation held at New Delhi. The Global Knowledge Network is a part of the New Delhi Declaration adopted at the Conference by the 25 Election Management Bodies (EMBs) and representatives from UNDP, International IDEA, IFES and Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre. **VoICE.NET** contents are provided by the member EMBs/Organizations and the portal is maintained by Election Commission of India.