

**LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL**  
**HOUSE DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

*February 26, 2009*

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives

Dear Madam Speaker:

On behalf of the House Democracy Assistance Commission, I am transmitting to you the Commission's 2008 annual report, prepared in accordance with section 3(c) of House Resolution 24, passed by the United States House of Representatives during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you this Report and the ongoing activities of the House Democracy Assistance Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Price". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

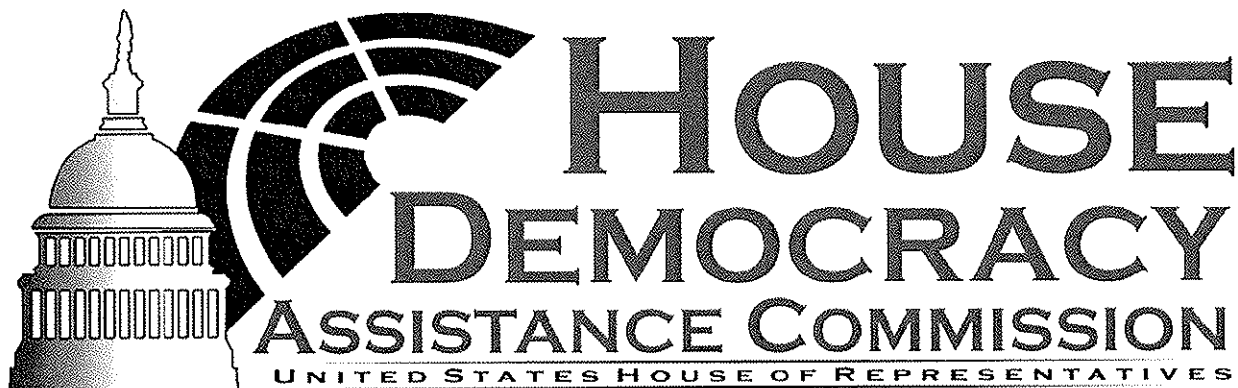
DAVID PRICE

Chairman

House Democracy Assistance Commission

Enclosure

Cc: The Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Howard Berman, Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Ranking Member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
House Office of Interparliamentary Affairs  
The Honorable Alonzo Fulgham, Acting Administrator, United States Agency for  
International Development



DAVID PRICE, CHAIRMAN  
DAVID DREIER, RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

# 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

## COMMISSION MEMBERS

REP. DAVID PRICE (NORTH CAROLINA)  
REP. LOIS CAPPS (CALIFORNIA)  
REP. RUSH HOLT (NEW JERSEY)  
REP. ADAM SCHIFF (CALIFORNIA)  
REP. ALLYSON SCHWARTZ (PENNSYLVANIA)  
REP. DONALD PAYNE (NEW JERSEY)  
REP. EARL POMEROY (NORTH DAKOTA)  
REP. SAM FARR (CALIFORNIA)  
REP. JOHN SALAZAR (COLORADO)  
REP. KEITH ELLISON (MINNESOTA)  
REP. MAZIE HIRONO (HAWAII)

REP. DAVID DREIER (CALIFORNIA)  
REP. JOHN BOOZMAN (ARKANSAS)  
REP. JOE WILSON (SOUTH CAROLINA)  
REP. JEFF FORTENBERRY (NEBRASKA)  
REP. WAYNE GILCHREST (MARYLAND)  
REP. JERRY WELLER (ILLINOIS)  
REP. JUDY BIGGERT (ILLINOIS)  
REP. BILL SHUSTER (PENNSYLVANIA)  
REP. JEFF MILLER (FLORIDA)

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## **Executive Summary**

The House Democracy Assistance Commission (HDAC) had another successful year in 2008, as it continued its work with 12 partner legislatures. HDAC's partnerships focus on strengthening the capacity and effectiveness of institutions, individuals, and infrastructure supporting the work of partner legislatures. It has sought to collaborate with partner legislatures in enhancing core capabilities like budgetary analysis, committee oversight, independent research, and constituent relations.

In 2008, HDAC and partner legislatures saw these collaborative efforts yield significant fruits. For example, the Kenya National Assembly passed landmark legislation to substantially increase its authority to effectively analyze and modify the national budget. If signed by the President, this legislation would legally formalize the Office of Fiscal Analysis, which was established three years ago following extensive conversations between HDAC and Kenyan counterparts regarding the importance of budgetary oversight. HDAC has mobilized key resources from the U.S. Congress, including Congressional Budget Office staff, members and staff of the House Budget Committee, and the Congressional Research Service to collaborate with National Assembly members and staff on enhancing the National Assembly's budget authority and capacity.

In addition, the National Parliament of Timor-Leste opened a new parliamentary library following a major HDAC assistance project. HDAC assistance constructed the library and provided a core catalogue of legislative materials. Moreover, HDAC has partnered with the Library of Congress's Jakarta branch to provide intensive training for library staff. The Commission, in coordination with the Congressional Research Service, has also initiated discussions with the National Parliament regarding the establishment of a research service to pair with the new library in offering National Parliament members top-quality research and timely resources in support of their legislative efforts.

Several HDAC partners experienced significant challenges to their democracies during 2008, reinforcing the importance of HDAC's mission in those nations. The Republic of Georgia faced political turmoil, snap elections, and a military conflict with Russia. A December 2008 delegation of HDAC members led discussions with members of the Georgian Parliament to examine the lessons of these challenges and the Parliament's planned steps to improve the stability and responsiveness of the political system. Likewise, a March 2008 delegation to Ukraine sought to reestablish collaborative efforts with newly elected legislators following the dissolution of the Ukrainian legislature, the Verkhovna Rada, and subsequent elections. As partner legislatures face significant threats to the stability and continuity of their developing democracies, HDAC works to offer timely, targeted support and encouragement to help these democracies weather the storm.

In 2008, the Commission sent Members of Congress on assistance missions to eight partner countries, hosted two seminars in Washington for 40 MPs from eight partner countries, and hosted two legislative staff institutes for 53 staffers from 11 legislatures. In addition, the Commission cooperated with the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) to organize defense oversight seminars for 15 MPs from three countries. The Commission also continued or initiated

material assistance programs in three legislatures, with the cooperation of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and sent several congressional staff assistance delegations to partner countries.

The Commission enters 2009 with partnerships with 12 legislatures, and plans to add as many as three additional partners. The Commission expects to send congressional delegations to the partner countries it did not visit this year and to new partner legislatures; to host at least two seminars for MPs and one for parliamentary staff; to cooperate with the OSD on at least two defense oversight seminars; and to implement material assistance programs for several legislatures. HDAC will continue to increase cooperation between regularly scheduled member and staff programs, including additional staff assistance delegations and possible delegations by former members of Congress and retired staff.

## **Introduction**

First established in March 2005, the House Democracy Assistance Commission was reauthorized for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress by the House of Representatives on January 30, 2007, when the House voted 426-0 to approve H. Res. 24. Section 3(c) of that resolution states that the Commission shall prepare an annual report and submit it to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Affairs and other appropriate House committees, the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

As required by H. Res. 24, this report reviews the activities of the Commission in 2008 and outlines proposed activities of the Commission for 2009.

## **Commission Activities in 2008**

### **Congressional Delegations**

The Commission sponsored five Congressional delegations to eight partner legislatures in 2008. These delegations enabled Members of Congress to engage a significant number of Members of Parliament in each legislature, sharing their experience and offering advice in areas in which it was sought. The format of each program differed depending on the interests of the host legislatures, ranging from informal discussions of common problems to more formal training seminars. Delegations also included congressional staff meetings with their counterparts in partner legislatures, usually focused on the research service and committees.

#### **Indonesia and Georgia: February 15-24, 2008**

The House Democracy Assistance Commission conducted its ninth Member assistance mission in Indonesia from February 15 to 24, 2008. Led by Rep. David Price, the delegation included Reps. John Boozman, Sam Farr, Mazie Hirono, Jim McDermott and Michael Conaway. The delegation met with counterparts from the House of Representatives (DPR) of Indonesia on February 19 and 20. Other meetings included a briefing by the Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait; meetings with provincial officials and visits to USAID tsunami reconstruction sites in Aceh; and meetings with Members of Parliament (MPs) in Thailand and Georgia.

The delegation had planned to visit Timor-Leste, an HDAC partner country, from February 21 to 23; however, the February 11 shooting of President José Ramos-Horta and subsequent state of emergency prompted the Timorese government to request a postponement of the visit. The delegation had planned to dedicate a parliamentary library that the Commission donated to the Timorese parliament and to engage in discussions with Timorese MPs, who had taken office in July 2007 following national elections.

In Indonesia, the delegation met with Speaker Agung Laksono and members of the key reformist committees, including the Legislation Committee (BALEG), House Administration Committee (BURT) and Budget Committee. A key meeting took place with the Speaker and his Implementation Team, which has been formed to implement the key parliamentary reforms. The delegation expressed its support for the parliament's efforts to gain control over its own staff and budget, both of which are currently controlled by the executive branch. The delegation also met with President Yudhoyono and the parliament's foreign affairs committee to discuss a wide range of bilateral issues, including U.S. military assistance, and Indonesia's role in encouraging democracy in Burma. Concurrently, Dick Nanto and Hannah Fischer from the Congressional Research Service (CRS) met with the P3DI, the Indonesian Parliamentary research service.

The delegation conducted meetings with senior officials, including MPs of governing and opposition parties, during a brief stop in Thailand. The delegation sought to examine the state of democracy in Thailand following sustained political turmoil and a 2006 coup d'état.

The Commission had planned to send a delegation to Georgia in May 2008 for a three-day assistance mission; however, a January 2008 referendum determined that early parliamentary elections would be held in May. As a result, the delegation decided to visit Georgia for one day on its way home from Southeast Asia. The delegation met with U.S. Ambassador John Tefft, MPs from the ruling party, and opposition MPs to hear their views and concerns about the political situation in Georgia.

#### Macedonia and Ukraine: March 14-22, 2008

The House Democracy Assistance Commission conducted its 10th Member assistance mission in Macedonia and Ukraine from March 14-22, 2008. Led by Rep. David Price, the delegation included Reps. David Dreier, Lois Capps, Adam Schiff, Wayne Gilchrest, Earl Pomeroy and Judy Biggert. The delegation met with counterparts from the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia on March 16-18 and with MPs from the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on March 19-20. This delegation also included the first congressional visit Kosovo since that country's declaration of independence the previous month, meeting on March 15 with the parliamentary speaker and other MPs, as well as U.S. and international civilian and military officials.

In the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, the delegation focused its work on small group meetings with MPs. Half of the delegation spent the day of March 17 in meetings with the Parliamentary Women's Caucus to discuss effective advocacy and legislative initiatives, while the other half met with parliamentary committee leaders to discuss oversight and committee operations. The delegation also met with Speaker Ljubisha Georgievski and dedicated a \$50,000 computer server suite the Commission had donated with the goal of enhancing the Assembly's information technology capabilities. The previous day, the delegation had visited a USAID-funded constituency office and met with local MPs in the Tikveš region of Macedonia, conducting MP and staff discussions on effective constituent representation. Following vocal advocacy by HDAC, the Macedonian National Assembly has decided to permanently establish constituency offices throughout the country, and HDAC has provided training to constituency office staff. Finally, the delegation met on March 18 with Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski,

Minister of Foreign Affairs Antonio Antonio Miloshoski, and Minister of Defense Lazar Elenovski, in advance of NATO's April Bucharest Summit.

In the Verkhovna Rada, the delegation's meetings focused on MPs who were elected for the first time in the September 2007 elections, a group that was the focus of the USAID-funded Parliamentary Development Program, managed by Indiana University. Members of Congress held four discussions with new members on topics that included constituent relations, committee operations, budgeting, and social policies. The delegation also met with Speaker Arseniy Yatseniuk and with senior members of the foreign affairs and defense committees. Outside of parliament, the delegation met with President Viktor Yushchenko and met with local and regional officials in Lviv, the western Ukrainian city that is a center of Ukrainian political culture.

#### Afghanistan: May 22-30, 2008

The House Democracy Assistance Commission conducted its 11th Member assistance mission in Afghanistan from May 22 to June 1, 2008. Led by Rep. Adam Schiff, the delegation included Reps. Allyson Schwartz and Wayne Gilchrest. In addition to meetings with the Wolesi Jirga, the lower house of the Afghan National Assembly, the delegation met with President Hamid Karzai, with officials in Charikar, the capital of Parwan province, north of Kabul, and with U.S. military leaders in Kabul. The delegation also visited Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Pakistan to meet with government and legislative leaders.

The delegation's meetings in parliament focused on MPs from five committees and provided Members of Congress with the opportunity to share their experience in committee operations with their counterparts in the three-year-old Afghan legislature, with a particular emphasis on issues of oversight. The delegation also met with Speaker Yanus Qanooni and other leaders of the Wolesi Jirga. Outside of parliament, the delegation met with Defense Minister Rahim Wardak and with his officials responsible for working with the parliament, again emphasizing the need for legislative oversight of the executive. On May 29, the delegation participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the Afghan Parliamentary Institute, an annex to the main parliament building that was funded by USAID. Part of the Commission's \$150,000 parliamentary library project included furnishings and materials in the annex.

In Pakistan, the delegation undertook several high-level meetings in the wake of the February 2008 parliamentary elections in that country. The delegation met with then-President Pervez Musharraf; Prime Minister Yousaf Gilani; Speaker Fahmida Mirza; and Asif Zardari, leader of the Pakistan People's Party who was elected president a few months later.

In Azerbaijan, the delegation met with President Ilham Aliyev and reformist MPs. In Armenia, the delegation met with senior officials, including President Serge Sargsyan and Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandyan.



### Liberia and Kenya: June 27-July 7, 2008

The House Democracy Assistance Commission conducted its 12th Member assistance mission from June 27 to July 7, 2008, in Liberia and Kenya. Led by Rep. David Price, the delegation included Reps. Lois Capps, Keith Ellison, Mel Watt, Jim Cooper and Brad Miller. The delegation met with counterparts from the National Legislature of Liberia on June 30 and from the Kenya National Assembly on July 3 and 4. Other meetings included meetings with the president of Ghana; the president of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Congo; members of parliament from Malawi; and the president, prime minister and speaker of parliament from Mauritania.

In Liberia, the delegation met with House Speaker Alex Tyler, Senate President Pro Tempore Isaac Nyenabo, and about half of the 94 legislators. The delegation spent most of its day in the legislature conducting three training seminars for members on rules of procedure and ethical standards, budget analysis, and committee operations, with three concurrent staff training exercises. The delegation also met with Vice President Joseph Boakai. The previous day, the delegation had visited the city of Buchanan, seat of Grand Bassa County, where it had visited USAID-funded development projects and attended a town meeting held by local members of the national legislature.

In Kenya, the delegation met the new speaker, Kenneth Marende, and engaged with MPs from the Party of National Unity and Orange Democratic Movement coalitions, as well as having extended discussions with members of parliament's Liaison Committee, composed of committee chairmen. In addition, staff conducted discussions with key parliamentary staff on budgetary analysis, research, and executive oversight. The delegation also met President Mwai Kibaki, Prime Minister Raila Odinga, and Vice President Kalonzo Musyoka and visited the constituencies of Kibera and Juja.

### Georgia: December 15-20, 2008

The House Democracy Assistance Commission conducted its 13th Member assistance mission, a delegation to Georgia, from December 15 to 20, 2008. Led by Rep. Allyson Schwartz, the delegation included Reps. David Dreier, Donald Payne, Adam Schiff and Bill Shuster. The delegation met with counterparts from the Parliament of Georgia and with President Mikhail Saakashvili on December 18. Other meetings included a lunch with Polish MPs in Warsaw on December 17 to discuss the situation in Georgia and a briefing by the Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Iceland on December 20.

In Georgia, the delegation met on December 18 with Speaker David Bakradze and Members of key parliamentary committees. The delegation had a 90-minute meeting with the select parliamentary committee that had been created to investigate the events surrounding the August 2008 invasion and occupation by Russia, just hours before the commission's findings were released. The delegation also met with the multi-party council created to oversee aid distribution, standing committees responsible for oversight of foreign and defense policy, and opposition leaders. HDAC brought to the discussions a focus on Parliament's role in major

foreign policy decisions, past and future. The day concluded with a meeting with President Saakashvili.

The following day, the delegation drove to the regional capital of Gori, which had been bombed and occupied during the August invasion. The delegation visited emergency housing constructed to shelter Georgians driven from their homes in South Ossetia, was briefed by the head of the European Union monitoring mission, met with the regional governor, and met with Georgians who had been driven from their homes by the conflict and those who had experienced the bombing and occupation of Gori. The delegation also met with the Foreign Minister and Finance Minister to discuss Georgia's current international and economic situation.

### **MP Washington Seminars**

The Commission hosted two weeklong seminars for Members of Parliament that focused on committee operations. HDAC seminars are unique among legislative strengthening programs because they draw upon the expertise of Members of Congress, allowing the visiting MPs to get information from their peers in the House of Representatives.

The first seminar was held from July 26 to August 2, 2008 and included 22 MPs from Indonesia, Kenya, Macedonia and Ukraine. The second was held from September 13 to 20, 2008 and included 18 MPs from Afghanistan, Haiti, Liberia and Timor-Leste. Most participants are committee officers in their parliaments; others serve in leadership positions.

Both seminars were similar in format, beginning with an overview by the Congressional Research Service of the Congress and its committee structure. Committee staff and former members of Congress spoke to participants about various aspects of committee operations, including the role of staff and organizing public hearings. Roughly a dozen Members of Congress spoke to participants in each seminar, offering their personal experience in using committees to advance their own legislative and oversight priorities. Participants were briefed on the organization and conduct of committee hearings and observed a hearing.

To date, HDAC has hosted a total of nine MP delegations involving a total of 125 members from 12 partner legislatures.

### **Defense Oversight Seminars**

In cooperation with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Commission organized two seminars focused on defense oversight for MPs from Indonesia, Mongolia and Afghanistan. The seminars allowed 15 MPs from committees responsible for national defense and internal security to observe the relationship in the United States between the Department of Defense, including the military services, and the Congress, with the aim of strengthening civilian control of the armed forces in countries where this is a fairly recent concept.

The first seminar, from April 22 to May 2, 2008, was developed in close cooperation with the Asia Pacific Center for Strategic Studies in Honolulu. The seminar for six Indonesian and three Mongolian MPs began with a three-day overview of defense oversight conducted in Honolulu by APCSS faculty. Participants then flew to Washington for a weeklong program, featuring meetings at the Pentagon, State Department, and in Congress. The Pentagon meetings included a lunch with Deputy Secretary Gordon England and focused on how the Department of Defense works cooperatively with the Congress. Participants met with Members of Congress on the key oversight and appropriations committees and with senior staff.

The second seminar, from June 14 to 20, 2008, was organized in cooperation with the Center for Near East and South Asian Security Studies in Washington for six Afghan MPs from the committees on national defense and internal security. Following a one-day introductory session at the NESAC Center, the Afghan MPs spent two days on Capitol Hill meeting with Members of committees responsible for authorization and appropriations of defense and homeland security. In addition to meetings at the departments of State and Defense, the MPs also met with Department of Justice and FBI officials.

### **Congressional Staff Delegations**

As noted above, several of the Congressional delegations to partner countries in 2008 included Congressional staff participation. In addition, the Commission organized independent staff delegations to Timor-Leste, Haiti, and Indonesia to work with legislative staff in specific areas of legislative and administrative operations.

The February delegation to Indonesia included Dick Nanto and Hannah Fischer from the Congressional Research Service, who met with the Indonesian Parliamentary research and staff (including bill drafters), on February 19 and 20. Indonesian parliamentary researchers discussed their plans to become an independent unit of the legislature (they currently are part of the executive branch) with the CRS staffers. Mr. Nanto traced the evolution of CRS and highlighted how CRS was organized to meet specific needs of Congress and some pitfalls encountered in the process of development. Ms. Fischer outlined the process by which CRS takes in, distributes, and answers requests.

The delegation to Liberia and Kenya included a three-part staff component: Brad Smith of the Committee on Rules addresses procedural issues; Barbara Chow of the Committee on the Budget discussed budget analysis; and Nic Cook and Lauren Ploch met with research service staff in both countries. The Liberia program was structured as a daylong training seminar on June 30 and generated tremendous interest, with about 150 staff attending one of the three concurrent sessions. The Kenya program was conducted over two morning sessions on July 3 and 4.

The delegation to Georgia included Mr. Smith and Kay King, the director of Interparliamentary Affairs of the House of Representatives, who met with staff of Georgian Speaker David Bakradze to discuss the Parliament's upcoming needs assessment and modernization plan. The meeting laid the groundwork for future staff programs with the new parliament. The delegation also included Jim Nichol of CRS, who met with his Georgian research service counterparts to

discuss the staff structure of the research service and to offer advice on products and services to MPs and other staff.

As part of their ongoing support to the National Parliament of Timor-Leste on behalf of HDAC, staff from the Library of Congress (LOC) office in Jakarta traveled to Dili in May. Will Tuchrello, the director of that office, and his colleague Yadi Yasin oversaw the final installations of the parliamentary library that the Commission funded, and they continued their two-year training program for Timorese staff. Mr. Tuchrello and Mr. Yasin represented the Congress at the May 23 opening of the library (see the “Material Assistance” section below). Their meetings with Timorese staff included discussions with the chief of staff to the speaker that laid the groundwork for creation of a Timorese parliamentary research service, expected to be inaugurated in 2009. The LOC Jakarta office also initiated a series of ongoing consultations with the Indonesian parliamentary library as an outgrowth of HDAC cooperation.

Also in May, three staff from the office of the Chief Administrative Officer traveled to Haiti to assist administrators of the Haitian National Assembly. John Clocker, of the Advanced Business Solutions office; LaShon Bethea, of the Payroll and Benefits office; and Matthew Marco, an Internet system specialist, were in Port-au-Prince from May 27 to 30 to work with their counterparts on technology and personnel issues.

In August, a senior staff delegation traveled to Jakarta to help their Indonesian counterparts prepare to administer an independent legislative staff and budget, functions that have been performed by the executive branch. Tom Coyne, assistant chief administrative officer; Liz Birnbaum, staff director of the Committee on House Administration; and Chuck Turner, professional staff member for the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations, met with Indonesian Speaker Agung Laksono and members of committees responsible for house administration and for drafting the legislation that would give the legislature control of its operations. They also met with senior staff of the parliament, including the Secretary General, to discuss the implications of this change for staff.

### **Legislative Staff Institutes**

From October 20 to 30, 2008, HDAC hosted its second Legislative Staff Institute. The program centered on congressional oversight and budget process. The 25 participants, mainly staff serving in their budget committees, represented 11 parliaments in the program.

The participants were provided with an introduction to the budget process in the U.S. and the structure, organization and services provided by the Congressional Budget Office. The program dealt with key issues such as transparency and disclosure in the U.S. Congress; analyzing and modifying the Executive branch budget request; as well as key public policy issues in the budget process such as health, defense, agriculture, infrastructure, and education. Some other highlights included performance budgeting and taxation, revenue estimation process, and estimation models.

The positive evaluations reflected the overall timeliness of the program. This is particularly true for some legislatures, notably Afghanistan, Georgia and Kenya, that created or developing a budget analysis office to provide independent information to members to more effectively contribute to their oversight function.

In cooperation with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and the International Republican Institute, HDAC hosted its third Legislative Staff Institute from December 1 to 10, 2008. The program focused on strengthening committee operations. The two week program included 28 parliamentary staffers from 10 partner legislatures who serve in key committees and are involved in legislative development efforts.

The program provided the participants with a solid understanding of committee operations in the U.S. Congress and dealt with topics that included staff assignments in the committee and their contribution to committee work; legislative analysis, drafting and research; mark up sessions, legislative-executive relations and committee outreach through the press; as well as the roles played by support agencies such as CRS and the Government Accountability Office. In addition to the national perspective, the participants visited the State Legislature of Maryland to learn about committee staffing and functions from a state perspective.

The program received excellent reviews from the participants. Their comments centered on the program's usefulness and applicability to their current jobs in their legislatures.

### **Material Assistance**

This year marked the culmination of the Commission's largest material assistance project to date: a \$175,000 parliamentary library project in Timor-Leste. The library was to have been dedicated by a Congressional delegation in February, but the state of emergency in Timor-Leste following assassination attempts against the president and prime minister delayed the opening until May. As noted above, Will Tuchrello, the director of the Library of Congress Jakarta office and the lead congressional staffer on the project, represented the Commission at the library's opening.

This library project creates Timor-Leste's first functioning information and research service center intended primarily to serve Members of Parliament. The objective is to develop a sustainable unit to advance the knowledge and expertise of MPs in their role in democratic governance, to enable them to write better legislation, and to provide effective oversight of the government. The Asia Foundation led the program and worked in partnership with the Library of Congress, Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development, and local Timorese institutions. The result is a new library and information facility with basic furniture and equipment, staff internet work stations, and core reference materials in English and Indonesian; training in library management, technical services, and member services was also provided.

The Commission also dedicated a \$150,000 library project in Afghanistan during a Congressional delegation in May. The project includes electronic equipment and furnishings for the main library in the parliament building and the Afghan Parliamentary Institute, an annex, as well as library materials.

Finally, during its December delegation to the Georgian Parliament, the Commission dedicated a \$70,000 information technology (IT) project that included various hardware and software that will significantly upgrade Internet access and IT capability for MPs and staff.

### **Proposed Commission Activities in 2009**

The Commission expects that 2009 will mark the first time in three years that new partner countries are added to the program. In January 2009, the Commission plans to undertake a needs assessment of the Assembly of Kosovo to examine the feasibility of a program in that country, which became independent in 2008. In February 2009, the Commission plans a needs assessment of the Congress of Peru. Other candidate countries will be identified through a series of discussions in January with regional experts, and programs with new countries could begin in 2009.

The Commission also will maintain its established partnerships. The Commission plans to visit the five partner countries that did not host delegations in 2008: Colombia, Haiti, Lebanon, Mongolia and Timor-Leste. It will carry out additional congressional delegations as circumstances warrant. The Commission will also send independent staff assistance delegations to work with the staff of partner legislatures.

Bringing MPs and staff from partner legislatures to the United States will remain a central part of the Commission's work. The Commission plans two MP seminars focusing on committee operations in 2009. At least one staff institute will be organized in the latter part of 2009, with the topic or topics to be selected after consultation with the partner legislatures, USAID, and legislative strengthening program implementers.

Cooperation on defense oversight seminars is expected to continue in 2009 with the Office of the Secretary of Defense and its regional centers for security studies. In addition to two week-long seminars, each with two partner legislatures, the Commission has agreed to help organize a similar seminar for MPs from the defense committee of the National Assembly of Pakistan, which is not currently a partner legislature, at the request of senior U.S. officials.

The Commission is planning to continue its material assistance programs with several partner parliaments. Discussions are continuing with the legislatures of Haiti and Liberia regarding the development in each country of "resource centers" – modern information centers that would house an independent research staff, store archives, and provide library materials and workspaces for MPs and their staffs. The Commission is optimistic that work can begin on these facilities in 2009. The Commission plans to recommend to the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development that adequate funding be allocated for these projects once proposals and cost-estimates are developed.

Examples of proposed 2009 activities

**Afghanistan:** Congressional staff assistance to the parliamentary budget office that was created in 2008 with USAID assistance.

**Georgia:** Focus on committee and budget oversight, with Congressional staff assistance to the research service, budget office, Speaker's office, and committees.

**Haiti:** Development of a resource center and continued administrative assistance.

**Indonesia:** Member and staff assistance in implementing legislation that would shift control of parliament's budget and staff from the executive to the legislative branch.

**Kenya:** Congressional staff assistance to the research service and the parliamentary budget office that was created in 2008. Advice on how to organize public hearings, which were authorized for the first time in December 2008.

**Liberia:** Staff assistance to the research service and administration; development of a resource center and training of library and archives staff.

**Macedonia:** Continued work with committee members and staff on committee hearings and oversight.

**Timor-Leste:** Staff assistance to newly created research service; continued training and assistance to parliamentary library.

## APPENDIX: HDAC ACTIVITIES TO DATE

### Congressional Exchanges

<u>Delegation</u>	<u>Partner Nations Visited</u>	<u>Date</u>
CODEL Kolbe	Indonesia, Timor-Leste	Feb. 2006
CODEL Dreier	Lebanon*, Kenya*, Liberia	July 2006
CODEL Dreier	Macedonia*, Afghanistan*	Nov. 2006
CODEL Price	Haiti*	Feb. 2007
CODEL Price	Ukraine*, Georgia*	Apr. 2007
CODEL Price	Lebanon, Liberia*	May 2007
CODEL Payne	Mongolia*, Indonesia*	July 2007
CODEL Price	Colombia	Aug. 2007
CODEL Price	Indonesia*, Georgia	Feb. 2008
CODEL Price	Macedonia, Ukraine*	Mar. 2008
CODEL Schiff	Afghanistan	May 2008
CODEL Price	Liberia*, Kenya*	July 2008
CODEL Schwartz	Georgia*	Dec. 2008

\* -- included staff-to-staff training component, in addition to Member programs

### Beyond Congressional Exchanges: HDAC Member and Staff Training Programs

#### *Combined Member/Staff Training Programs – Washington, DC*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Partner Nation Participants</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Apr. 2006	Timor-Leste, Georgia, Indonesia, Macedonia	Introduction to Congress
Sept. 2006	Afghanistan, Kenya	Introduction to Congress
Apr. 2007	Colombia, Lebanon	Introduction to Congress

#### *Member Training Programs – Washington, DC*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Partner Nation Participants</u>	<u>Topic</u>
June 2007	Afghanistan	Defense oversight
July 2007	Mongolia, Liberia	Introduction to Congress
Apr. 2008	Indonesia, Mongolia	Defense oversight
June 2008	Afghanistan	Defense oversight
July 2008	Indonesia, Kenya, Macedonia, Ukraine	Committee operations
Sept. 2008	Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, Haiti, Liberia	Committee operations



*Parliamentary Staff Training Programs – Washington, DC*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Partner Nation Participants</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Dec. 2007	Afghanistan, Georgia, Indonesia, Liberia, Kenya, Macedonia, Haiti, Mongolia, Timor-Leste	Research, Parliamentary administration (2 tracks)
Oct. 2008	Afghanistan, Colombia, Timor-Leste, Georgia, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Macedonia, Mongolia, Ukraine	Budget Analysis
Dec. 2008	Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, Georgia, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Macedonia, Mongolia, Ukraine	Committee Operations

*Congressional Staff Training Program for MPs and staff – In-Country*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Partner Nation</u>	<u>Description</u>
Jan. 2006	Georgia	IT needs assessment
Jan. 2006	Macedonia	IT needs assessment and training
Mar. 2006	Georgia	Research Department needs assessment
July 2006	Lebanon	Library of Congress (LoC)-Cairo library Training program
Sept. 2006	Afghanistan	LoC-Islamabad library training program and assessment
Feb. 2007	Kenya	Legislative drafting and parliamentary procedure workshops
June 2007	Haiti	Ethics seminar
Nov. 2007	Haiti	LoC assessment of proposed parliamentary resource center
Nov. 2007	Haiti	Budget analysis training
Nov. 2007	Kenya	Research and budget analysis training
Dec. 2007	Macedonia	Constituent service training
May 2008	Haiti	Personnel administration and website development training
August 2008	Indonesia	Legislative budgeting training
August 2008	Afghanistan	LoC-Islamabad library training program
Multiple visits	Timor-Leste	LoC-Jakarta library training and development

*Material Assistance*

<u>Partner Nation</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Status</u>
Afghanistan	Library development and materials	\$150,000	Ongoing
Georgia	Computer servers and software	\$70,000	Completed
Timor-Leste	Library equipment, materials, training	\$175,000	Completed
Lebanon	Library materials	\$10,000	Ongoing
Macedonia	Computer servers	\$50,000	Completed