

## In this issue

- I. Twentieth Anniversary of the IIHR...Page 1
- II. Presentation of the Electoral Dictionary...Pages 1 and 2
- III. Ceremony at which Vicente Fox was officially declared President-elect of Mexico...Pages 2 and 3
- IV. Vice-presidential Elections in Paraguay...Pages 3 and 4

### I. Twentieth Anniversary of the IIHR

The activities organized to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the IIHR got under way during the inauguration of the *Eighteenth Interdisciplinary Course on Human Rights* on July 31.

In his address during the inaugural ceremony, Executive Director Roberto Cuéllar highlighted the progress that the Institute had made over the last 20 years:

“The IIHR helped establish electoral systems, but also became aware that democratic development was severely limited in most societies in the region. The priorities may have changed, but the challenge of creating truly democratic systems remains.

Faithful to its academic mandate, for the last 20 years the Institute has refrained from activism and the denunciation of human rights violations, focusing instead on education, promotion and training efforts. It has carried out this work with a wide variety of institutional and political actors, ranging from human rights activists to members of the military and police forces; from educators to judges; from legislators, government officials and political leaders to boys and girls... We believe that we have demonstrated the



importance of education to the development of democracy.”

One of the most important commemorative activities during the Course was the official presentation of the Electoral Dictionary, on Thursday, August 3, at the headquarters of the Supreme Elections Tribunal of Costa Rica.

Involved in this activity were Roberto Cuéllar, Executive Director of the IIHR, Carlos Roberto Reina, a member of the IIHR Board of Directors, Víctor Ibáñez Martín-Mellado, Spain’s Ambassador to Costa Rica, Jorge

Mario García Laguardia, a former Director of CAPEL, and Oscar Fernández, a member of the Editorial Committee in charge of the publication.

The twentieth anniversary of the IIHR will also be commemorated at the upcoming Fourteenth Conference of the Tikal Protocol and Fifth Conference of UNIORE, which will be held in Guatemala.

### II. Presentation of the Electoral Dictionary

The first edition of this work was published as long ago as 1989. The IIHR therefore decided that a research



.....

project was needed to adapt it to the new social, political and electoral conditions in the region and incorporate new terms.

Major changes and developments have taken place in political and electoral processes over the last decade. These needed to be reflected in the Electoral Dictionary, a tool that is widely used by academics and political and electoral actors.

The Spanish International Cooperation Agency and Spain's Ministry of the Interior provided funding for the project, which got under way in January 1999. Ninety-nine authors from Latin America, Spain and Germany were invited to take part. An Editorial Committee was set up, composed of leading Hispano-American electoral and academic experts who monitored the entire research process closely, ensuring the academic quality of the texts prepared by the authors. The members of the Committee were:

- Jesús Orozco, a member of the Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Branch of Mexico
- Luis Alberto Cordero, Director of CAPEL at the time
- Oscar Fernández, a sociologist from the University of Costa Rica
- Mariano Fiallos, former President of the Supreme Electoral Council of Nicaragua and a member of the IIHR Board of Directors
- Juan Ignacio García, Director of the Electoral Service of Chile
- Rafael López Pintor, a Spanish political scientist specializing in electoral matters
- José Enrique Molina, a professor of political science at the University of Zulia, Venezuela
- Jorge Rovira, a sociologist from the University of Costa Rica
- Daniel Sabsay, a constitutional lawyer from Argentina
- Félix Ulloa, a former member of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of El Salvador

It took 20 months to conduct the research and produce the publication. The new two-volume edition of the Electoral Dictionary contains 145 commonly used political and electoral terms. In addition to revising the text of the first edition, the authors incorporated 40 new terms that are now widely used in the analysis of political issues, such as *governance, the consolidation of democracy, the quality of democracy, the automation of electoral processes, and overseas electors.*



During his visit to Mexico to attend the ceremony at which Vicente Fox was officially declared President-elect, the Executive Director of the IIHR, Roberto Cuéllar, presented a copy of the Electoral Dictionary to José Woldenberg, the President of IFE and one of the authors of the work.



During the mission carried out by members of UNIORE to observe the vice-presidential elections in Paraguay, the President of the Higher Tribunal of Electoral Justice and of the Quito Protocol, Alberto Ramírez Zambonini, gave the President of Paraguay, Luis Angel González Macchi, a copy of the Electoral Dictionary. It was the first to be presented to a Latin American Head of State.

### III. Ceremony at which Vicente Fox was officially declared President-elect of Mexico

On August 2, in the *Salón de Plenos* of the Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Branch of the Federation of Mexico, a ceremony was held to officially declare Vicente Fox President-elect.

The President of the Electoral Tribunal, José Luis de la Peza, noted that, pursuant to the provisions of the reformed Political Constitution, it was the first time that an organ of the Judicial Branch of the Federation had officially declared the president-elect. He also said that no political system could be said to be truly democratic unless it was characterized by the rule of law.

In his address, President-elect Fox affirmed that the elections in his country had been an example of civic responsibility. The electorate had participated in an enthusiastic but orderly fashion, and both the Federal Electoral Institute and the Electoral Tribunal had carried out faithfully the mission that the country had entrusted to them.



The President of the Electoral Tribunal, Jose Luis de la Peza, presented Vicente Fox with the official documentation confirming him as President-elect.

The Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and its specialized program CAPEL were invited to attend the ceremony. As the IIHR's representative, Executive Director Roberto Cuéllar joined the other 120 guests present. The President of the Electoral Court of Uruguay and of UNIORE, Carlos Urruty, was another of the only three guests invited to attend from overseas.

It is worth pointing out that the Electoral Tribunal, which was established in 1990, is an independent electoral body responsible for ensuring the legality of electoral decisions and acts, and for resolving any disputes that arise in federal elections for deputies and senators and the President of the Republic.



Carlos Urruty and Roberto Cuéllar seated in the front row of the hall during the ceremony at which Vicente Fox was officially declared President-elect of Mexico.

#### IV. Vice-presidential Elections in Paraguay

On August 13, the Paraguayan electorate were asked to elect a new vice-president, following ruling N° 191, of April 27, 1999, of the Supreme Court of Justice of Paraguay, in which the Higher Tribunal of Electoral Justice (TSJE) was instructed to organize the corresponding elections.

As a member of UNIORE, the TSJE invited different electoral bodies in the hemisphere to observe the elections. The observation mission was composed of representatives of: the Federal Electoral Institute of Mexico, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of El Salvador, the Electoral Tribunal of Panama, the Central Electoral Board of the Dominican Republic, the National Electoral Council of Colombia, the National Organization of Electoral Processes and the National Elections Board of Peru, the Electoral Tribunal of Brazil, the Elections Tribunal of Chile, the Electoral Court of Uruguay, and the National Electoral Chamber of Argentina. Other bodies represented included the Provincial Electoral Board of Formosa, Argentina, and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), a non-governmental organization that promotes electoral democracy worldwide. Support was provided by the Technical Secretariats of UNIORE and the Quito Protocol, which are exercised by the Center for Electoral Promotion and Assistance (CAPEL).

The members of the mission met with the President of Paraguay, Luis Angel González Macchi, and other members of the Executive Branch. They also held meetings with the three vice-presidential candidates, Félix Argaña (National Republican Association), Ricardo Buman (Humanist Party) and Julio César Franco (Authentic Radical Liberal Party).

On election day, members of the mission observed the voting in three of Paraguay's 17 electoral departments, namely: Central, Cordillera and Paraguari. A total of 124 polling places were visited.

In a technical report presented at a press conference on Monday, August 14, the mission stated that: "In the

*Continued on page 4*

opinion of the members of the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies, the basic conditions needed to guarantee a free, fair and transparent process were provided in the vice-presidential elections in Paraguay. It is our belief that, according to the variables analyzed in the sample observed, it is fair to say that the 2,059,181 registered voters who had the opportunity to cast their ballots at the 10,312 polling places set up for the purpose were provided with the infrastructure, organization and human resources needed to be able to decide who would be the next Vice-president of the Republic.”

Finally, it is worth highlighting the organization and transparency of the process. The Higher Tribunal of Electoral Justice provided the people of Paraguay with the conditions and guarantees necessary for them to express their will, in the full exercise of their civil and political rights.



The elections were characterized by the public spirit of the Paraguayan electorate.



The mission's spokesman, Manuel Morel Cerda, President of the Central Electoral Board of the Dominican Republic, gave details of UNIORE's report during the press conference.

### Organization of the Fourteenth Conference of the Tikal Protocol and the Fifth Conference of UNIORE

All the members of UNIORE have been notified that the conferences of the Tikal Protocol and UNIORE will be held consecutively, from November 20-22.

The IIHR/CAPEL, in its capacity as the Executive Secretariat, and with the permission of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Guatemala, has consulted the members of both organizations to ascertain whether they will be able to attend the meetings.

Fourteen electoral bodies have so far confirmed they will be attending. We ask that those which have not yet replied let us know as soon as possible whether they will be sending representatives. The electoral body hosting the event needs this information to finalize the details of the organization of these conferences.



### SUGGESTION BOX

Please send your comments and suggestions to:

[capel@iidh.ed.cr](mailto:capel@iidh.ed.cr) or, by fax, to: 234 09 55,

for the attention of

“UNIORE NEWSLETTER”

Inter-American Institute of Human Rights  
Apartado 10081-1000, San Jose, Costa Rica  
Phone: (506) 234-0404

Other issues of this newsletter are to be found on our web site, under Novedades

<http://www.iidh.ed.cr/siii/novedades/novedades.asp?categoria=2>