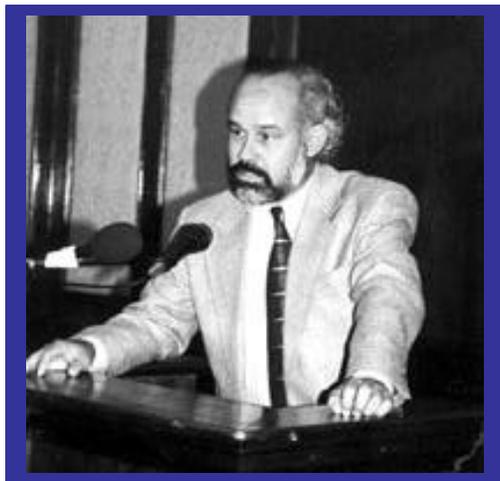

UNIORE NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Number 7

January 2001



From the Technical Secretariat, the Director of IIHR and CAPEL, Roberto Cuéllar

Dear Members of UNIORE:

This month marks the beginning of an era of great importance in our lives. Now, at last, we have reached the end of the 20th century, a period of enormous significance for human rights and democracy in America.

Today, the power of human rights is the ethical cornerstone of our constitutional and democratic life, as we conclude the century of world wars and the “cold war” that had such an impact on life in Latin America. And there is no doubt that the chronological period that has ended will be recognized for the progress made in the field of human rights, especially during the past five decades.

Citizens now enjoy a greater measure of protection from dictatorships and the most radical ideologies have collapsed before the might of the free and secret ballot. And, though there are still residues of violence and authoritarianism in some countries, we in the Americas now live in a freer and more democratic atmosphere and breathe the air of transparent elections, which, despite incidents of electoral fraud and recent events in some of our countries, are the best way to change governments and demand public accountability from public officials.

During the second half of the 20th century, other rights emerged with sufficient moral force to broaden the classical definition of “human rights”. The international movements advocating women’s rights and indigenous people’s rights showed that every citizen –man or woman, whether of

indigenous, black or of mixed race- has equal rights and, by reason of his/her specificity, enjoys additional rights exercised under equal conditions with the rest of humanity.

Meanwhile, the lessons of democratic life were not left behind in the history of human rights. Education spearheaded a dialectical process to value and reaffirm individual freedom and social rights, becoming the integral voice of the human rights doctrine. And the IIHR helped to give a new political dimension to human rights education by preaching the notion of respect for human dignity to everyone, wherever necessary.

The IIHR’s internal history consists of four distinct stages that crystallize its mission during the past 20 years: **a:** the initial phase, from its foundation to 1984, which saw the creation of the Interdisciplinary Course and CAPEL; **b:** the second phase, to 1990, when an applied pedagogy was designed for the protection of basic rights: the rights to life, freedom and physical integrity, plus the defense of the secret vote; **c:** the third phase, up to 1998, when the institution developed a pedagogy applied to the inter-dependence of civil sectors and public institutions in the reaffirmation of democracy and the constitutional embodiment of human rights; and **d:** the present phase, in which our pedagogy focuses on the active promotion and monitoring of the progress of human rights, a process that is inextricably linked with the region’s democratic development: justice, political participation and human rights education. Three rights, three unavoidable milestones of IIHR’s history and three challenges for the future of our region, based on our obligation to comply with the American Convention on Human Rights.

This year, precisely, the spotlight will be on the right to political participation, since this will be the central theme of the Nineteenth Interdisciplinary Course in Human Rights, scheduled to take place in San Jose June 18-29. Similarly, *education for life in democracy* will be the subject under discussion at the Tenth Inter-American Course on Elections and Democracy, an event that will take place in Panama City, with the joint sponsorship of the Electoral Tribunal.

The new millennium also begins with three important electoral processes: the presidential elections in Peru on April 8, where CAPEL will play an important role in the process of electoral monitoring, and the general elections in Honduras and Nicaragua in November. In addition, with your collaboration, we will be holding the Annual Conferences of the *Tikal Protocol* in Santo Domingo, organized jointly with the Electoral Board of the Dominican Republic, and of the *Quito Protocol* in Quito, organized jointly with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Ecuador. We will soon be sending out the details of the resolutions and follow-up activities from the last conferences in Antigua, Guatemala.

Finally, I invite you to continue to making use of this mechanism of cooperation among UNIORE members, to exchange information concerning the political and electoral processes in your countries, and to send us opinion articles or any news that you consider timely, so that this may be shared and disseminated among the Latin American electoral community.

With my best wishes for the New Year, the new century and the new millennium.

Roberto Cuéllar
Executive Director of IIHR
Director of CAPEL



CAPEL



I. Electoral Processes

President George W. Bush takes office

On January 21, George W. Bush became the 43rd President of the United States of America. This is the first time that a son of a former president reaches the White House since John Quincy Adams in 1825. The electoral contest between the Republican former Governor of Texas, and the Democrat candidate, Vice-President Al Gore, was one of the most closely disputed elections in the history of the United States. The results of this electoral contest were not decided until one month after Election Day, with a ruling by the Supreme Court.



President elect George W. Bush with Vice-President elect Dick Cheney and his Secretary of State designate Colin Powell.

For more information on the electoral system of the United States, please refer to the article ‘Elections in the United States’ by Eduardo Valdés Escoffery, a Magistrate of the Electoral Tribunal of Panama, published in the last Uniore Newsletter, No. 6 (November-December 2000).

The Electoral Process in Peru

Monday January 8th marked the official start of the electoral campaign in Peru, with the completion of the registration process by the presidential candidates. The leading contenders for the presidency include Alejandro Toledo, leader of Peru Posible; Lourdes Flores of the conservative Popular Christian Party; Carlos Boloña, a former Finance Minister and Fujimori supporter; and former President Alan Garcia of the Aprista Party.

It is interesting to note that the Peruvian electoral system has undergone some major modifications in the run-up to the elections of April 8. On December 27, the Peruvian Congress approved the creation of the so-called Multiple Electoral District.

According to the Peruvian political analyst, Francisco Miro Quesada, the importance of the multiple district system lies in the fact that it represents the popular will. By contrast, the single-district voting has serious disadvantages and also increases the campaign costs of candidates aspiring to be deputies, because they need to travel around all the country’s departments to make themselves known to voters. Miro Quesada explained that in single-district voting it is difficult to establish real communication between the elected representatives and the citizens who elected them. (*El Comercio* newspaper, digital version. Opinion Section 29/12/2000).



Official Presentation of Costa Rica’s Draft Bill on Electoral Reforms

On Thursday February 1, Costa Rica’s Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) officially presented to the Executive a draft bill on Reforms to the Electoral Code, to be debated during the period of extraordinary sessions in the Legislative Assembly.

President Miguel Angel Rodriguez announced that the bill would be included in the legislative agenda, along with the proposed *Law of Political Parties* that is currently being reviewed by the Legislative Assembly’s Commission on Electoral Reform.

The proposed reforms include an initiative to schedule municipal elections one year after the presidential elections; the elimination of the basic quota for the assignation of seats for deputies and councilors and a new system for electing deputies. Among other changes, the bill proposes that the lists of candidates for national or local elections include equal numbers of men and women.

The complete text of the bill may be read by visiting the following website provided by the Costa Rican daily La Nación :

http://www.nacion.co.cr/ln_ee/ESPECIALES/leyes/proyectos/reformaselectorales/

II. Projects and Activities



Technical Electoral Assistance to the National Elections Board of Peru

Electoral Monitoring Program

In line with the resolution adopted by **Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE)** at its Fifth Conference in Antigua, Guatemala, to provide accompaniment to Peru's new electoral authorities in the different stages of the process leading up to the elections on April 8, 2001, IIHR/CAPEL dispatched two Technical Missions to Peru, between December 10 and 21, to make preliminary contacts with the authorities of the Electoral Bodies, the Executive Power, the Ombudsman's Office, the Civic Association "Transparencia" and with international cooperation agencies.

The second of these Missions resulted from an initiative by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to participate in consensus-building activities with other international technical assistance organizations and to identify areas of the electoral process in which IIHR/CAPEL could provide support to the National Elections Board (JNE).

With the timely participation of the Peruvian Magistrate Ramiro de Valdivia, the IIHR/CAPEL Mission identified Electoral Monitoring as an area that would benefit from technical support. This function is carried out by the JNE, in accordance with its Constitutional mandate.

The plenary of the National Electoral Board approved this initiative and requested technical assistance from the IIHR, to be provided by CAPEL through the Board's Electoral Monitoring Unit.

The Project is being implemented between February 7 and July 15 of 2001, and includes two areas: a) the Electoral Monitoring Program, executed with funds from USAID/Peru and b) the Evaluation of the Electoral Monitoring Program, to be executed with CIDA funds.

The Project will be implemented by IIHR/CAPEL with a team of eight consultants: a Project Director, a Technical Coordinator, an expert in electoral training, an expert in electoral informatics, an expert in electoral cartography and the transmission of electoral results and three technicians specialized in electoral administration and logistics. The technical team will support the Monitoring Unit in overseeing the activities of the electoral process, both in Lima and in the interior of Peru.

It is important to note that, in the context of horizontal cooperation efforts emanating from the Resolutions of the Quito Protocol and UNIORE, some of the specialist consultants participating in this project are officials of the region's Electoral Bodies that are members of these Associations.

Electoral Dictionary will be translated into Portuguese

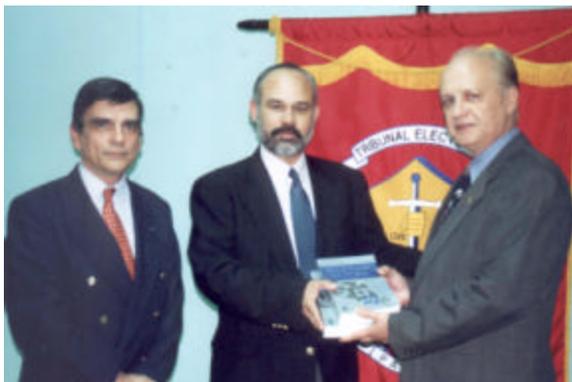
CAPEL warmly welcomed an announcement by the Federal Senate of Brazil that the Electoral Dictionary will be translated into Portuguese, in consideration of the high academic standard and prestige of this publication, which is unique of its kind in the continent. In response to a request by the Minister of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Brazil, Walter Ramos da Costa Porta, who proposed the idea of translating this comprehensive volume into Portuguese, Senator Lucio Alcantara informed the Director of IIHR that the Editorial Board of the Federal Senate of Brazil would be willing to undertake this project, which is of enormous importance for the dissemination and promotion of civil and political rights, through studies and the publication of the academic rigor of the Electoral Dictionary

Presentation of the Electoral Dictionary in Panama

At the invitation of the Electoral Tribunal of Panama, and before a distinguished audience that included representatives of Panama’s political parties, academics, organizations of civil society and officials of the Electoral Tribunal, the Director of CAPEL, Roberto Cuéllar, presented the new edition of the *Electoral Dictionary* on January 25.

This academic event was hosted by the honorable Magistrates Erasmo Pinilla, Eduardo Valdés and Denis Allen, accompanied by the Panamanian Sociologist Dr. Marco Gandásegui, who analyzed Panama’s electoral record, making reference to the concepts contained in the new edition of the *Electoral Dictionary*.

The event in Panama is the fifth presentation of this publication, in association with the members of UNIORE. The Dictionary has already been presented in Costa Rica, Mexico, Paraguay and Guatemala.



Presiding Magistrate Erasmo Pinilla receives copies of the Electoral Dictionary from Roberto Cuéllar. They are accompanied by Marco Gandásegui.

Coordination Meeting with Electoral Tribunal of Panama

A CAPEL delegation consisting of the Executive Secretary of the Tikal Protocol and of UNIORE, Roberto Cuéllar, Jose Thompson, Delegate of the Technical Secretariat of CAPEL and Program Officer Ileana Aguilar, met with the Honorable Magistrates of the Electoral Tribunal of Panama, on January 24, to coordinate joint activities scheduled for 2001, including the First Meeting of

the Training Units of the member organizations of the Tikal Protocol, scheduled in May, and the Tenth Interdisciplinary Course on Elections and Democracy, programmed for October.

Electoral Tribunal of Panama hands over annual quota to the Technical Secretariat of the Association of Central American and Caribbean Electoral Bodies.

On January 25, the Electoral Tribunal of Panama became the first Electoral Body to hand over to the Technical Secretariat of the Association of Central American and Caribbean Electoral Bodies the annual membership quota of US\$5,000 (five thousand USD) approved by members of the Association at the Thirteenth Conference of the Tikal Protocol, held in Nicaragua on July 14-16, 1999.

This quota was approved to enable the Secretariat to implement the Association’s activities, and was ratified at the Association’s Fourteenth Conference in Antigua, Guatemala. It was also agreed that payment of the membership quota should be made effective from the first semester of 2001, and that the Electoral Bodies would notify the Secretariat of the procedure for the transfer of these funds.

The Honorable Presiding Magistrate, Erasmo Pinilla, officially handed over the quota during the ceremony to present the *Electoral Dictionary* in Panama.



Magistrates of the Electoral Tribunal hand over the annual quota to Roberto Cuéllar

In relation to Resolution No.2 of the Fifth Conference of UNIORE in Antigua, Guatemala, reiterating the importance that all members proceed to complete the selection of their **liaison officer**, in order to enhance communications between the Electoral Bodies and the Secretariat, we attach a list of the officials designated so far. We urge all members who do not appear on this list to send this information as soon as possible to:
 Sofía Vincenzi at CAPEL: svincenzi@iidh.ed.cr ...THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Office Richard A. John	
Argentina National Electoral Chamber Rodolfo Emilio Munné	
Bolivia National Electoral Court Carlos Ossio Amatlter	
Brazil Superior Electoral Tribunal Bacharel Wagner Madoz	
Canada Elections Canada France Demianenko	
Colombia National Electoral Council Juan Manuel Ramírez	
Costa Rica Supreme Electoral Tribunal Hector Fernández Masís	
Chile Electoral Tribunal Carmen Gloria Valladares	
Chile Electoral Service Andrés Merino	
Dominican Republic Central Electoral Board Luis Arias Núñez	

Ecuador Supreme Electoral Tribunal José Gabriel Terán	
El Salvador Supreme Electoral Tribunal Ramiro Peña Marín	
United States of America Federal Elections Commission Jim Pehrkon	
Guatemala Supreme Electoral Tribunal Jorge Rosales	
Mexico Electoral Tribunal of the Judicial Power of the Federation Raul Avila	
Mexico Federal Electoral Institute Manuel Carrillo	
Panama Electoral Tribunal Andres Sosa	
Paraguay Superior Tribunal of Electoral Justice Rocío Hermosa	
Peru National Electoral Board Ramiro de Valdivia	
Uruguay Electoral Court Adriana Pozzi	

IBERO-AMERICAN ELECTORAL CALENDAR

January-December 2001

MARCH

Antigua and Barbuda

APRIL

8th

Peru

Presidential and Parliamentary elections

OCTOBER

Argentina

½ national deputies, ½ legislators of the city of Buenos Aires, provincial and municipal authorities, total renovation of the Senate

NOVEMBER

11th

Nicaragua

Presidential and Legislative Elections

18th

Paraguay

Legislative Elections

25th

Honduras

Presidential and Legislative Elections

DECEMBER

9th

Chile

Legislative Elections

Did you forget to give us electoral information ???



Help us to update the
ELECTORAL CALENDAR
by writing to Sofia
Vincenzi at CAPEL:

svincenzi@iidh.ed.cr
THANK YOU!



SUGGESTION BOX

Please send your comments and suggestions to
capel@iidh.ed.cr or fax them to 234-0955, attention of
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