ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Democracy and Governance Processes Project aims to contribute to a better understanding of democratic processes in a selected number of countries, thereby providing support to decision-makers engaged in Canadian foreign policy and development. In this way, the project aims to support informed, evidence-based decision making for Canadian foreign policy and development assistance related to democratization.

The project offers a number of valuable contributions to Canadian development efforts:

- The multi-source data structure enables more robust analysis than any method depending on a single type of information;
- The intensive research focus provides a comprehensive resource for desk and field officers;
- The comparative case study structure ensures that the project’s processes and general research outcomes will be useful to a much broader audience than solely those working in the countries covered in the study;
- Most importantly, collaboration with CIDA officers working in the field ensures that the results of the project are specifically tailored to the policy needs of CIDA and the Canadian government.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation at CIDA - Presentation of research methodology to Canada Corps, Democracy Council</td>
<td>CIDA Building, Ottawa ON</td>
<td>8 March 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>CIGI ’06 – Conference on International Governance Innovation - presentation of research</td>
<td>Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Waterloo ON</td>
<td>15-16 September 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation to Asia Branch—Presentation of governance research project, identification of case study countries</td>
<td>CIDA Building, Ottawa ON</td>
<td>4 October 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation to CIDA Governance Core Group—Presentation of governance research project, identification of case study countries</td>
<td>CIDA Building, Ottawa ON</td>
<td>10 October 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation to Americas Branch - Presentation of governance research project, identification of case study countries</td>
<td>CIDA Building, Ottawa ON</td>
<td>16, 27 November 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Swisspeace - presentation of research, discussion of potential collaboration</td>
<td>Bern, Switzerland</td>
<td>21-23 January, 2007</td>
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</table>
DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

KEY FINDINGS FROM RECENT REPORTS

NI CARAGUA
- Police are judiciary are functional but susceptible to political pressures and corruption
- Civil society is active but with no direct influence on government policies
- Poor government accountability with limited oversight and access to information
- Lack of reliable energy sources hampers industrialization and foreign investment
- Tradition of fund mismanagement by government officials
Events are recorded in a database specifically created for CIFP projects (see image below). The analysis occurs in both aggregate and disaggregate by using quantitative data in two ways.

The summary statistics provide an overview of the average event scores. The second avenue of analysis is via trend lines to observe whether the events demonstrate any positive or negative trend over time. The trend line uses a weekly aggregate in order to account for the change magnitude of events, as well as any increase or decrease in the total number of events. In analysis, both stabilizing and destabilizing trend lines reflect improvements through positive slopes.

**KEY FINDINGS FROM RECENT REPORTS**

**HAITI**
- Insecurity continues to impede development and investment
- Massive poverty and unemployment continue unabated
- An antiquated electoral system has proved complex and difficult to implement
- Parliamentary paralysis and corruption continue to impede social and economic reform

**PAKISTAN**
- Insurgencies in Baluchistan and North West Frontier Province (NWFP) continue to threaten stability
- The government is becoming increasingly autocratic and democratic freedoms are severely limited
- Frustration and discontent with the government is on the rise
- Poverty, inflation, crime, unemployment continue unabated
- Religious radicalism is gaining momentum
- Corruption and disregard for the rule of law

**QUESTIONNAIRE-BASED SURVEYS**

These consultations draw together the experience and knowledge of experts around the world to expand upon, and whenever necessary, modify the assessment arising from structural and events-based analysis.

The survey questionnaire upon which the interviews are based, consists of structured questions based on scale rating, ranking, and level of agreement, as well as a limited number of open-ended questions that allow respondents to offer more detailed answers. Interviews take between one and two hours to complete per person and detailed notes are taken during interviews to augment questionnaire derived information.

Surveys provide nuanced insights into issue areas by tapping into local expertise with high levels of knowledge and experience on governance-related matters (parliamentarians, NGOs, civil society, the private sector).

This nuance is reflected in the results generated from the interview process. The questionnaire results are a general framework that complement CIFP governance monitoring.
There are a number of other agencies and projects that engage in similar governance-based analysis. For instance, POLITY IV, Freedom House, IDEA, and the World Bank all provide global measures of democracy and governance; the Political Instability Task Force and Fund for Peace both provide measures of country stability; and Swisspeace provides event-based monitoring through its FAST methodology. The CIFP methodology provides a competitive analysis based on truly comprehensive, multi-sourced data.

The CIFP project is uniquely positioned to incorporate such information into an analytical framework that explicitly considers both the goals of Canadian foreign policy and the limited means available to achieve those goals. In particular, there is a great potential to align such research with the current work of the Democracy Council (DC), an informal forum established in 2005 to guide the Government’s policy-making related to democratization. The Council is comprised of arm’s length Government-generated organizations such as Elections Canada, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Parliamentary Centre, Right and Democracy, the Forum of Federations and the National Judicial Institute, and is co-chaired by CIDA and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). Its overarching goal is to make the delivery of Canadian programs and policy on democracy more efficient and effective by drawing on the proven expertise of its constituent members. The CIFP approach could be adapted in an innovative fashion to contribute to this work.

**CIFP RESEARCH TEAM**
- David Carment, Principal Investigator
- Stewart Prest, Project Manager and Senior Researcher
- Anemone Fritzen, Liaison Officer
- Martin Fischer, Methodology
- Andrew Harrington and Quillan Nagel, Background Research
- Kevin Wyjad, Ghana and survey methodology
- Muneeba Omar, Pakistan
- Sonia Bouffard, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua
- Katherine Januszewska, Ghana

**KEY FINDINGS FROM RECENT REPORTS**

**GHANA**
- Steady GDP growth over 5% and declining inflation are economic success stories
- Poverty reduction remains a challenge
- Access to secondary and tertiary school is limited
- Gender equality is improving but major gaps persist
- Religious peace and interaction provides important social cohesion
- Civil society organisations and capacity remains underdeveloped but is improving

**GUATEMALA**
- State authority, legitimacy, capacity are weak
- Narco-trafficking and the involvement of the drug trade in politics is highly destabilizing
- High corruption and involvement in criminal activities among the police force
- The government is unable to ensure the security of its citizens and urban violence is common
- Weak and fragmented political system
- Exclusion of indigenous population, women and youth from the political, social and economic realm
- Number of incidences of human rights violations

If you wish to read our reports in their entirety please contact Stewart Prest, Project Manager, at cifp@carleton.ca for full access to www.carleton.ca/cifp.