

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL
HOUSE DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

April 2, 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 2007 annual report, prepared in accordance with section 3(c) of House Resolution 24, passed by the United States House of Representatives during the 110th Congress. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you this Report and the ongoing activities of the House Democracy Assistance Commission.

Sincerely,



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

2007 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 a successful year in 2007, 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 collaborated with partner legislatures in enhancing core capabilities like budgetary analysis, committee oversight, independent research and constituent relations. HDAC has mobilized key resources from the U.S. Congress, including members and staff of House committees, the Congressional Research Service and Congressional Budget Office.

In 2007, the Commission sent Members of Congress on assistance missions to eight partner countries, hosted 24 MPs from four partner countries for programs in the United States, and hosted its inaugural Legislative Staff Institute for 23 staffers from nine legislatures. In addition, the Commission cooperated with the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) to organize a defense oversight seminar for five members of key Afghan security committees. The Commission also continued or initiated material assistance programs in five 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 entered 2008 with partnerships with 12 legislatures. In 2008, HDAC activities will include sending congressional delegations to eight countries; hosting two seminars for legislators and one for legislative staff; cooperating with the OSD in conducting two defense oversight seminars; and implementing material assistance programs for several legislatures.

Introduction

First established in March 2005, the House Democracy Assistance Commission was reauthorized for the 110th 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 2007 and outlines proposed activities of the Commission for 2008.

Commission Activities in 2007

Congressional Delegations

The Commission sponsored five Congressional delegations to eight partner legislatures in 2007. These delegations enabled Members of Congress to engage a significant number of Members of Parliament (MPs) in each legislature, sharing their experiences and offering advice in areas in which it was sought. The format of each program differed depending on the interests of the host legislatures, and ranged 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.

Haiti: February 22-24, 2007

After three successful member assistance missions in 2006, the House Democracy Assistance Commission conducted its fourth overall Member mission in Haiti from February 22 to 24, 2008. Led by Rep. David Price, the delegation included Reps. Bobby Rush and Wayne Gilchrest. The delegation met with counterparts from the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of Haiti on February 20 and 21.

In parliament, the delegation first met with the leadership of both chambers prior to speaking before a plenary sitting of senators and deputies to inaugurate the partnership between the U.S. and Haitian legislatures. Other activities included a meeting with President René Préal and a reception for ministers and MPs. The delegation conducted additional sessions with Haitian MPs focused on parliamentary administration and structure; committee operations; constituent and media relations; parliamentary ethics; the role of parties; and possible Commission assistance to develop a parliamentary documentation center, which would house the parliamentary library, research center, and archives.

Concurrent with the Member meetings, seven congressional staffers conducted twelve meetings with Haitian parliamentary staff. The delegation included staff from the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; the House Judiciary, Foreign Affairs, and Rules Committees; and the Congressional Research Service. Staff sessions addressed issues such as payroll and personnel recordkeeping, committee operations (including organization of hearings), ethics rules and enforcement, and developing a documentation center.

Finally, the delegation visited three health-care sites that receive U.S. assistance through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). These included an initiative to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases among prostitutes and to provide them with economic alternatives so they can leave prostitution; an orphanage for children infected with AIDS; and a hospital that provides anti-retroviral treatments for Haitians infected with HIV.

Ukraine and Georgia: March 29-April 7, 2007

The House Democracy Assistance Commission conducted its fifth Member assistance mission in Ukraine and Georgia from March 29 to April 7, 2008. Led by Rep. David Price, the delegation included Reps. Allyson Schwartz and Bill Shuster. The delegation met with counterparts from the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on April 2-3 and with members of the National Parliament of the Republic of Georgia on April 4-6. This delegation also included a visit to Moldova, which has a State Partnership Program through the U.S. National Guard Bureau, from March 30 to April 1.

In the Verkhovna Rada, the delegation met with Speaker Oleksandr Moroz and with committee on foreign affairs and national defense, to discuss bilateral relations and foreign policy. The delegation also met with numerous committee chairman and committee members to discuss committee relations. Other capacity-building sessions included meetings to discuss ethics, information technology and the role of political parties in the legislature. The delegation's visit came at a challenging time for the Rada, as President Viktor Yushchenko announced on the evening of April 2 that he was dissolving the Rada, a decision that the Rada itself refused to recognize. The delegation also met with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and Foreign Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

In the Georgian parliament, the delegation focused its work on the role of committee and political parties. Members met with committee chairmen and with members of the counterpart committees on which they serve in the House, as well as the foreign affairs, defense and European integration committees. The delegation also met with Speaker Nino Burjanadze, President Mikhail Saakashvili, and U.S. Ambassador John Tefft. After two days in Tbilisi, the delegation visited a local MP office in the nearby town of Mtskheta, and participated in discussions on constituent relations. In addition, staff from the Congressional Research Service and Congressional Budget Office conducted training seminars with their Georgian counterparts.

Lebanon and Liberia: May 25-June 2, 2007

The House Democracy Assistance Commission conducted its sixth Member assistance mission to Lebanon and Liberia from May 25 to June 2, 2007. Led by Rep. David Price, the delegation included Reps. Nick Rahall, Jeff Fortenberry and Gwen Moore. In addition to meetings with the Lebanese National Assembly and the Liberian National Assembly, the delegation met with Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora and Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The delegation also visited Egypt, Israel, and the West Bank to meet with government and legislative leaders.

In Lebanon, the delegation met in parliament with committee chairmen and with MPs from the Budget and Finance, the Justice and Administration, and the Foreign Affairs committees, as well as MP Saad Hariri, leader of pro-government forces in the parliament. The delegation also met with MPs from the reformist March 14 movement that backs Mr. Siniora's government, and from the movement of retired Gen. Michel Aoun, which opposes it. The delegation met Speaker Nabih Berri at his home and also met at the residence of Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir.

In Liberia, the delegation undertook a full day of training for MPs at a local church conference center, chosen because the Capitol building in Monrovia was closed for renovations. Most of the country's senators and representatives attended one or more of the six training sessions held by visiting Members of Congress. The program opened with a plenary session with House Speaker Alex Tyler to inaugurate the partnership, at which the Members of Congress talked about the role of the legislature as an independent, co-equal branch of government. Following the plenary, small-group meetings included sessions on role of staff and staff structure, the importance of research and analysis to the Congress, the roles and responsibilities of Members, constituent relations, executive-legislative relations, and the role of committees and professional staff. The delegation also observed a countywide town hall meeting in Tubmanburg, home of Speaker Tyler, and visited two USAID projects in Bomi County.

In Egypt on May 26 and 27, the delegation had a lengthy meeting with President Hosni Mubarak, and met with parliamentary Speaker Fathi Surour and six other MPs, Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit, and civil society activists. In Israel and the West Bank on May 30, the delegation held meetings with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, members of the Israeli Knesset, and members of the Palestinian Council.

Mongolia and Indonesia: June 29-July 9, 2008

The House Democracy Assistance Commission conducted its seventh Member assistance mission in Mongolia and Indonesia from June 29 to July 9, 2007. Led by Rep. Donald Payne, the delegation included Reps. David Dreier, Jeff Miller, Mazie Hirono and Jim Moran. The delegation met with counterparts from the State Great Hural of Mongolia on July 2 and 3 and from the House of Representatives (DPR) of Indonesia on July 5 and 6. Other meetings included a mission briefing at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska; election observation and a reception

with officials in Papua New Guinea; and meetings with MPs and the foreign minister of the post-coup interim government in Fiji.

In Mongolia, the delegation met with the new Speaker of the State Great Hural, Danzan Lundejantsan, and held a public kickoff event and nine additional meetings with MPs. Anti-corruption and ethics legislations were key subjects, as were bilateral issues, like Mongolian cooperation in Afghanistan and Iraq and the Millennium Challenge Corporation compact. The delegation also met with President Nambaryn Enkhbayar, Prime Minister Miyegombyn Enkhbold, and Defense Minister Mishigiin Sonompil.

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 Finance Committee (Commission XI). A key meeting took place with the Speaker and his Implementation Team, which has been formed to implement the major findings of last year's reform study. 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 Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Defense Minister Juwono Sudarsono to discuss a wide range of bilateral issues, including U.S. military assistance, the war in Iraq, and U.N. sanctions on Iran.

Colombia: August 27-31, 2007

The House Democracy Assistance Commission conducted its eighth Member assistance mission, a delegation to Colombia, from August 27 to 31, 2007. Led by Rep. David Price, the delegation included Reps. David Dreier, Rush Holt, Adam Schiff, Sam Farr, Jeff Miller and Wayne Gilchrest. The delegation met with counterparts from the Colombian Congress and with President Alvaro Uribe in Bogota before traveling to Medellin to meet local officials there.

In the Congress, the delegation focused on the role of political parties, committee operations, and budget analysis. The seven-member delegation split into smaller groups to meet with members of counterpart committees in the Colombian Congress or with various political parties. An important theme in the delegation's meetings was the legislature's need for an independent source of budget information and analysis.

The proposed U.S.-Colombia free trade agreement was a key topic of conversation in all meetings with Colombian MPs, executive branch officials, and civil society. The delegation met with the attorney general, defense minister and trade minister and with leaders for labor unions, journalists and civil society to discuss issues related to the agreement.

In Medellin, the delegation met with Mayor Sergio Fajardo and visited projects aimed at alternative development in the former drug trafficking center, including the local coffee growers cooperative and a flower farm. The delegation also visited a school for demobilized former guerillas that works to teach the teens a trade and to reintegrate them into society.

Member U.S. programs

The Commission hosted two weeklong programs for Members of Parliament that focused on legislative operations and constituent relations. HDAC programs 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 program was held from April 21 to 30, 2007, and included 11 MPs and one staffer from Colombia and Lebanon. The second was held from July 28 to August 7, 2007, and included 13 MPs from Liberia and Mongolia. MPs from Haiti were to have participated in the second seminar but had to remain in Port-au-Prince because of legislative business.

Both seminars were similar in format, beginning with an overview of the Congress by the office of the Clerk and the Congressional Research Service. Participants were then divided into three workshops focusing on the role of politics in the legislature, the importance of a legislative research service, and budget analysis and oversight. A joint workshop on the role of committees was led by Members of Congress, who shared their experiences with their counterparts. Following other meetings in Washington, the MPs travelled to the district of a Member of Congress to spend several days with the Member and discuss constituent relations. MPs from Colombia visited the district of Rep. Sam Farr (D-California); Lebanon, Rep. David Price (D-North Carolina); Liberia, Rep. John Boozman (R-Arkansas); and Mongolia, Rep. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii).

Defense Oversight Seminars

In cooperation with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Commission organized a seminar focused on defense oversight for MPs from Afghanistan. The seminar allowed five 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.

The seminar, from June 16 to 23, 2007, was organized in cooperation with the Center for Near East and South Asian Security Studies in Washington for five Afghan MPs from the committees on national defense and internal security. Following a one-day introductory session at the NESACenter, 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, the MPs also met officials from the departments of State and Defense.

Congressional Staff Delegations

As noted above, congressional staff provided training to parliamentary staff during congressional delegations to six partner countries: Haiti, Ukraine, Georgia, Liberia, Mongolia and Indonesia. In addition, the Commission organized independent staff delegations to Kenya, Haiti, Macedonia and Timor-Leste to work with staff in specific areas of legislative and administrative operations.

House Legislative Counsel Pope Barrow and Charles Johnson, the former House Parliamentarian, traveled to Kenya in February for a weeklong staff training seminar organized by the State University of New York Center for International Development (SUNY/CID). They conducted training on legislative drafting and rules of procedure for Kenyan staff. Later in the year, three staff from the Congressional Research Service and one from the Congressional Budget Office participated in a November training institute in Kenya on budget analysis and parliamentary research, also organized by SUNY/CID.

In June, Ken Kellner, senior counsel on the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, traveled to Haiti to conduct a seminar on parliamentary ethics, in cooperation with the SUNY/CID program there. The Commission sent Barbara Chow from the Committee on the Budget and Ted Zegers from the Committee on Ways and Means to Haiti in November to train Haitian staff on budget analysis. Also in November 2007, HDAC sent a delegation of two former Congressional Research Service (CRS) staff, Francis Miko and Bill Robinson, to Haiti to conduct an assessment of the possibility of a legislative resource center, combining library, archives, and research services, to serve the Haitian Parliament. The delegation yielded a concrete plan, including proposed structural and functional contours, for a legislative resource center to serve both chambers. HDAC hopes to move forward with the implementation of this plan in the near future.

The Commission also sent two staff delegations to Macedonia in 2007. Staff from the Committee on Foreign Affairs and CRS undertook training for Macedonian committee staff in November, while district directors from HDAC Members David Price and John Boozman met with the staff of Macedonian constituent offices in December. Both seminars were organized in cooperation with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Macedonia.

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 and December to train Timorese library staff on cataloging and managing information technology.

Legislative Staff Institutes

From December 2 to 14, 2007, HDAC hosted its inaugural Legislative Staff Institute. The program included two tracks, one for senior parliamentary administrators and the other on research and analysis for the legislature. The 23 participants represented nine legislatures in the program.

The program began with a three-day overview of the U.S. Congress, its structures and its support agencies. Some participants developed ideas for improving their own legislatures from these meetings; most notably, the chief of staff for the Timorese speaker was inspired by the introduction to the Congressional Research Service and developed a plan for a Timorese research service after his return to Dili. Day 4 saw the participants visit the Maryland State Legislature in Annapolis, which offered them a smaller-scale introduction to the themes of administration and research that would be addressed in more detail the next week.

Over the next five days, researchers met with current and retired CRS staff and explored topics such as research, public policy analysis, specialized analysis, and design of informational products for Members and staff. Administrators learned how House Members oversee the administration of the chamber and the roles of various offices in legislation, administration, security and maintenance. CRS, the Office of the Clerk, and the Chief Administrative Officers were particularly integral to the success of the program.

Material Assistance

The Commission undertook three material assistance projects in 2007. Most notably, work continued on the Commission's largest material assistance project to date: a \$175,000 parliamentary library project in Timor-Leste. Work on the library was nearing completion by the end of the year, and the Library was to be formally dedicated by a Congressional delegation in February 2008. Will Tuchrello, the director of the Library of Congress Jakarta office, has served as the lead congressional staffer on the project.

This library project will create 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 enhance legislative drafting capabilities, and to increase the effectiveness of the parliament's oversight of the government. The Asia Foundation has led the program and has worked in partnership with the Library of Congress, the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and local Timorese institutions. The result will be 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 has also been provided under the project.

The Commission also commenced a \$150,000 library project in Afghanistan, under the direction of USAID/Afghanistan, in cooperation with the Afghanistan Parliamentary Assistance Project of the State University of New York/Center for International Development. The project includes electronic equipment and furnishings for the main library in the parliament building and the Afghan Parliamentary Institute annex, as well as library materials.

Finally, during its congressional delegation to Lebanon in May 2007, the Commission donated in person the first installment of a planned \$10,000 contribution of materials to the parliamentary library. The Commission plans further assistance to the library, in cooperation with the Law Library of Congress.

Proposed Commission Activities in 2008

The Commission will visit the four partner countries that did not host delegations in 2007: Afghanistan, Kenya, Macedonia and Timor-Leste, and will combine those visits with stops in nearby partner countries, including Georgia, Liberia, Indonesia and Ukraine. 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 2008. These seminars will be a departure from previous delegations in that they will focus on a single theme and will target committee chairmen and other officers. Two staff institutes will be organized in the latter part of 2008, one focusing on budget analysis and one on committee operations.

Cooperation on defense oversight seminars will continue in 2008 with the Office of the Secretary of Defense and its regional centers for security studies. In addition to another week-long seminar for Afghan MPs, the Commission will organize a similar seminar for MPs from the defense committees of Indonesia and Mongolia in cooperation with the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu.

The Commission will continue its material assistance programs with Timor-Leste, Afghanistan and Lebanon, as described above. The Commission plans to donate computer servers and software to the National Parliament of Georgia, and ultimately hopes to commence projects in Haiti and Liberia to build legislative resource centers, which will combine libraries, archives and research offices in single entities.

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

* -- 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

Parliamentary Staff Training Program – 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)

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

Material Assistance

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