

# HELPING Democracy THRIVE

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■ The rule of law and a strong independent legal infrastructure are vital democratic institutions. To assist emerging democracies in this area, the American Bar Association established the Central and East European Law Initiative (CEELI). IIE, through its Moscow office, helps the ABA administer CEELI's "Legal Reform Assistance to the Russian Federation," a project funded by USAID. For example, IIE administered a workshop for Russian attorneys in Oryol, a small town south of Moscow, where jury trials will be introduced in January 1997. This year more than 700 lawyers received training, both in Russia and in the United States.

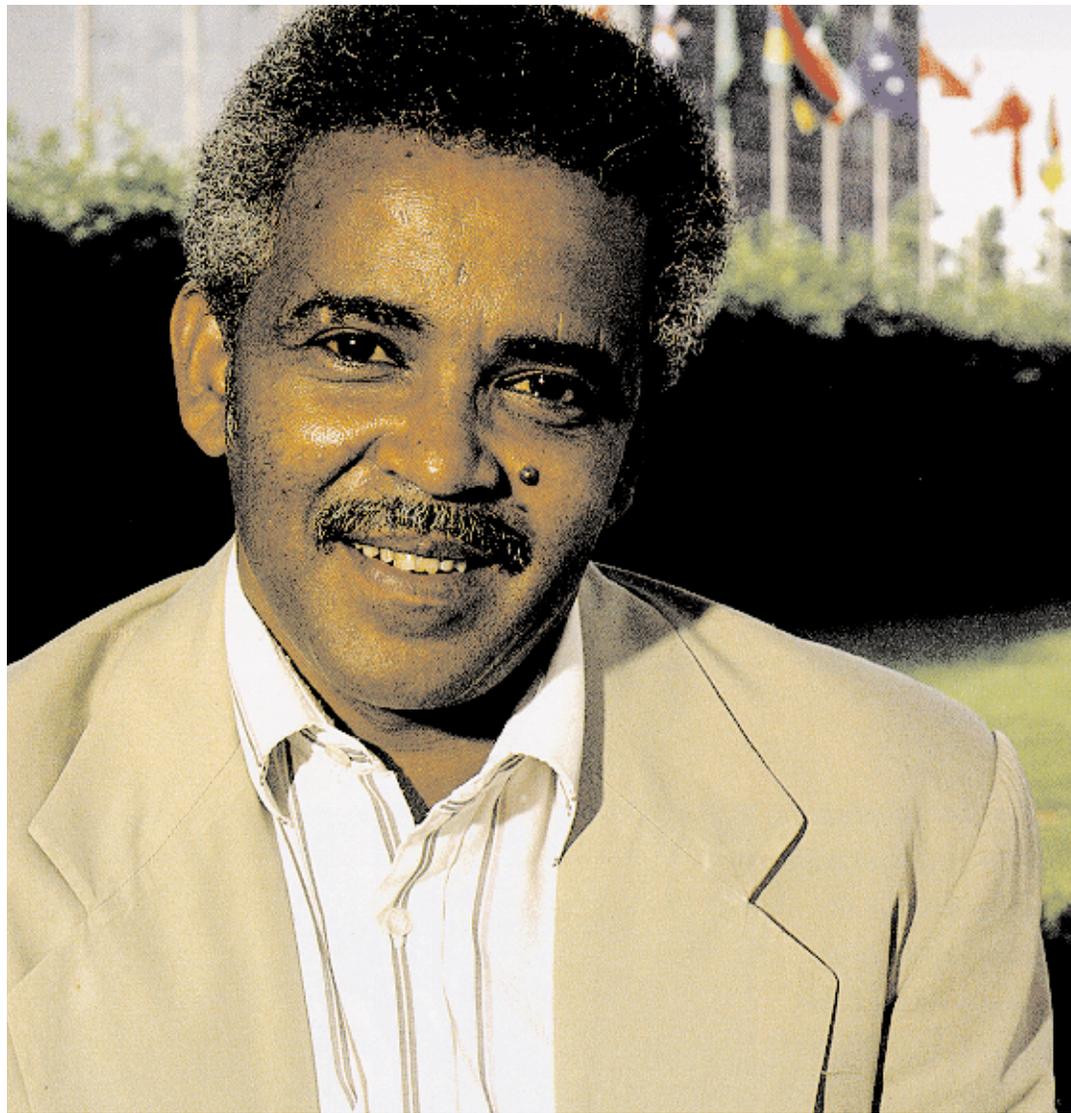
After this most recent U.S. political season — crowded with candidates, primaries, debates, polls, pundits, and finally the voting booth — it is easy to forget that democracy is not nearly so robust in many places around the world. And, elections themselves are often just the most visible and loudest manifestations of a healthy democracy. Crucial too are those quieter mechanisms — information access, a free press and judiciary, a committed public service sector, to name a few — that form the infrastructure of democracy.

IIE well recognizes the need to help support democracy at all levels, and to that end often works in concert with other national and international organizations, the U.S. and foreign governments, and the private donor community. To foster the advent and growth of democratic institutions and governance, IIE provides a wealth of training and educational opportunities, customized orientation and site visits, study tours, internships, and other activities that further the development of a civil society.

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"I learned more about myself and my own country by traveling to the other side of the earth... By engaging in dialogue... I have gained insight into the possibilities for advocacy, collaboration and social change in my own country and community."

Asia Pacific WINGS alumna from the United States



Christina Thomson

#### HUBERT H. HUMPHREY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

## Yemane Dawit

Yemane Dawit smiles often and easily. And for good reason: his country, Eritrea, won its independence in 1991 after a 20-year struggle. For most of that time Mr. Dawit served in the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, first as a soldier, then in the public health and social affairs departments. Having voluntarily interrupted his formal university education, he instead learned in the field, where he and his colleagues faced enormous challenges — a huge refugee population, inadequate medical care, and food and housing shortages. Building on his experience during the war, Mr. Dawit now serves on Eritrea's four-member housing commission. "We inherited a chaotic system with a long history of abuse of power," he says. "An orderly private ownership can be facilitated, given adequate training in administration." As a USA-sponsored Humphrey Fellow, Mr. Dawit spent a year at the University of Texas at Austin studying public administration and then went on to the United Nations for further training. This year there were 166 Fellows in the Humphrey program.

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#### TRILATERAL EXCHANGES

International understanding gained another foothold in the newsroom through the North American Journalist Exchange. This program allows journalists from Canada, Mexico, and the United States to work directly with host publications in each others' countries while reporting on key issues for their home papers. Exchanges last for approximately three months, and the program is supported by the Freedom Forum. Host institutions include *Excelsior* and *El Financiero* in Mexico, *The Toronto Star* in Canada and the *Los Angeles Times*.

JOURNALISM

## Southern African Information Exchange

Among the priorities of IIE's Southern African Information Exchange (SAIE) is to democratize access to information on financial and human resources in the region. Now in its eleventh year, SAIE has produced 32 working papers and developed an unparalleled database containing information on more than 8,000 organizations and 10,000 individuals involved in southern Africa. Recent SAIE publications include a study documenting cooperative relationships between U.S. and southern African higher education institutions, funded by the Rockefeller and W.K. Kellogg foundations, and a study that assesses the current scope of U.S. independent sector involvement in development activities in the region, supported by the Ford, Charles Stewart Mott, W.K. Kellogg, and Henry J. Kaiser Family foundations.

**H**undreds of international leaders and decision-makers working in areas ranging from democratic governance and building civil societies to business and law have benefited from IIE's Professional Exchange Programs (PEP). Every year PEP designs customized programs to meet specific groups' professional development needs. PEP also organizes workshops for several academic exchange programs, including the Fulbright and Muskie fellowships. This year PEP brought 1,025 participants to the United States from 128 countries, most through the USIA-sponsored International Visitor Program (IVP).

■ Legal issues related to domestic violence and sexual assault, the history of the U.S. civil rights movement, efforts to reduce police brutality, and other humanitarian issues comprised the agenda for seven Pakistani human rights activists during their three-week IVP program this summer.



■ Nineteen educators from places as diverse as the West Bank and Papua New Guinea participated in a month-long PEP-administered program, "Civic Education for Participatory Democracy," as part of "Civitas," an international effort co-sponsored by USIA, among others. Participants observed school-based programs and explored ways that government, schools, and NGOs promote civic participation, tolerance for diversity, and responsible citizenship. Pictured above are participants from Armenia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, and Turkey.

■ Habitat for Humanity and Greenpeace were among the presenters at a five-day conference on "Developing a Civil Society," coordinated by PEP for the USIA-sponsored Edmund S. Muskie Fellowship Program. The Muskie Program enables students from the NIS and Baltics to gain first-hand experience of democratic institutions. More than 100 Fellows representing 15 countries attended the conference.

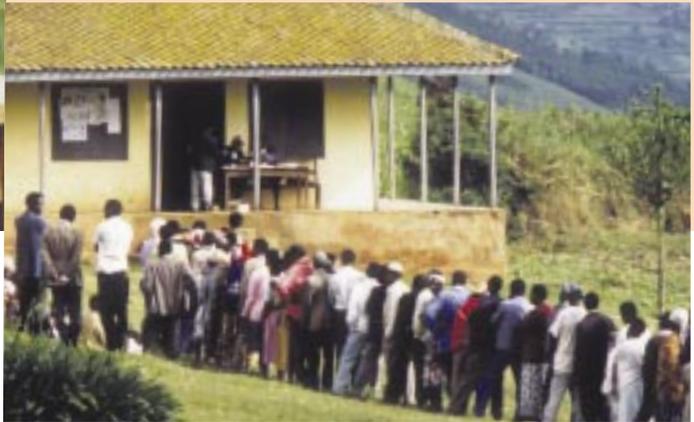


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## Democratic Governance

In Spring 1996 IIE provided technical assistance, with UNDP support, for Uganda's presidential and parliamentary elections, the first under its new constitution. Other IIE democracy and governance projects in the region included training for the country's electoral commission and a U.S. study tour for Ugandan and Ethiopian election officials. Shown here are voters in Western Uganda and a woman inking her finger to prevent double voting.



N. Olsen

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“Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom...of the press...”

Constitutionally-guaranteed press freedom is rare, serving as a cornerstone for U.S.-style democracy. IIE administers several training programs that enable international journalism professionals to observe the U.S. media.



■ This year the Samsung Press Foundation supported year-long U.S. training for ten mid-career Korean journalists. The program included orientation and English-language training, nine months at Syracuse University, and six-week internships at local television stations or newspapers. The journalists focused on their specific areas of reporting, including politics and economics.

■ Developing the local voices of radio was the focus of the South Africa Radio Station Managers training program. Staff from more than 25 newly-licensed rural and urban community radio stations participated in workshops both in the United States and South Africa. Funded by USIA's Office of Citizen Exchanges and the Open Society Foundation of South Africa, this program is designed to develop management skills and help the stations become financially self-sustaining.

■ The 1996 American campaign was the subject of a four-week IIE study tour for Korean editors supported by the Korea Press Center. While studying the U.S. media, the four editors were able to observe and discuss the campaign with American political journalists, pollsters, and policy analysts. To help them experience the media and the election in different contexts, the participants traveled to Washington, North Carolina, Missouri, and California.