

## Annual Conferences Spur Turkish Youth Involvement



*A reporter from Turkey's NTV speaks with Turkish Economic Minister Kemal Dervis after Dervis' speech to more than 1,000 conference attendees.*

Turkish youth are becoming more involved in their country's political and social future after the third annual GencNet Conference at Yeditepe University in Istanbul May 11-12. ("Genc" is the Turkish word for "youth").

More than 1,000 17 to 25-year-old university students from across the country participated in workshops, lectures and general discussions on their role over the next decade in Turkey's emerging political, economic and social environment.

Turkish Economic Minister Kemal Dervis stressed the important role youth will play in the next several years concerning the changing government and how their involvement will be crucial in altering Turkey's future.

Dervis was chosen as the keynote speaker through a poll conducted by IRI on the [www.gencnet.org](http://www.gencnet.org) Web site by several thousand Turkish youth in 80 cities.

Organizers said Dervis' appeal was based on the current social and economic conditions in the country and the tremendous obstacles that the majority of the graduating university students are facing in securing jobs.

The purpose of the conference was to develop goals in the areas of international relations, economics, civil society and politics in a nationwide campaign for youth to participate and create their future.

Participants were split into groups of 25 to discuss ideas for each subject, after which they reassembled into four subject groups to select the best initiative in each area. Leaders from each of the four groups then presented the selected project to all conference attendees as a GencNet goal for the next year.

Hits on the GencNet Web site increased from an average of 6,000 per day to more than 60,000 by May 13. By the week's end, the Web site had more than 100,000 hits per day.

"IRI and its Turkish partners played a strategic role in organizing and conducting this conference for the third straight year," IRI President George A. Folsom said. "When the conference began, we saw only 250 participants. The following year, the numbers increased to 500, and this year we had more than 1,000 in attendance. Those numbers are very significant because they show how young people in Turkey are becoming increasingly aware of the program and also highlight the changes they can make in their future, and that of their country."

## IRI Begins New Program In Afghanistan

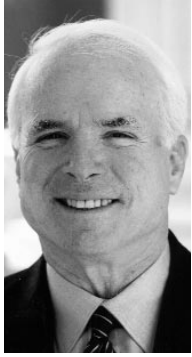
To help establish strong foundations for a stable and democratic government, IRI has begun a program in Afghanistan to encourage greater citizen participation in the country's unfolding political processes and policy debates.

In March, IRI's support to the Afghan NGO Coordination Bureau (ANCB) permitted an important citizen voice to reestablish itself in Kabul after being driven from the country by the Taliban. Now back in Afghanistan, ANCB and its 140-member organizations are advocating for equitable resource distribution and rational development policies using its extensive experience in fields ranging from irrigation and removal of landmines to healthcare and rural education. IRI is supporting ANCB in its efforts to ensure that one of the few links between citizenry and leadership in Afghanistan continues to thrive at a critical time in national development.



IRI is also working with the Afghan Media Resource Center (AMRC) to provide Afghan citizens with up-to-date information, commentary and analysis on the important developments taking place in their country. IRI and AMRC have teamed up to serve the public's "right to know." In June, the IRI-AMRC collaboration will lead to the transformation of AMRC's weekly newspaper, *Erada*, into a

(Continued on Page 2)



## Message from the Chairman

Over the past year, we have seen political conditions around the world change constantly, with democracy's progress alternately surging forward, often with IRI's help, and receding, reminding us of how much work

remains to be done to bring freedom to all corners of the globe. Given this continuing struggle between liberty and repression, the work of organizations like the International Republican Institute to build the foundations of democracy has never

been more important. Election observation missions, youth training, women's programs and communications seminars comprise only a small part of recent IRI activities on every continent.

IRI delegations were on the ground to observe a historic presidential election in East Timor, parliamentary and local elections in Ukraine, and commune elections in Cambodia. IRI has long emphasized the importance of empowering women in emerging democracies, and the centerfold article in this newsletter focuses on exactly that: IRI's efforts to enhance the political leadership and participation of women around the world.

IRI will remain dedicated to democracy's cause by facilitating free and fair elections, working to give voice to the voiceless, and supporting a variety of programs to promote freedom. Your continued support for IRI not only reinforces the Institute's mission, it honors the values we in the United States hold and believe to be the birthright of all peoples.

Freedom's progress remains IRI's calling. With IRI's support, democrats around the world will continue to chart freedom's course.

Senator John McCain  
Chairman, IRI

## New offices, programs

(Continued from Page 1)

daily news publication with circulation throughout Afghanistan. It will be printed in Pushtu and Dari with a weekly English-language supplement.

### New office opens in Kenya

In March, IRI opened a new office in Nairobi to support democracy programs, not only in Kenya, but also in several other East Africa countries, including Somaliland, Burundi and Sudan. IRI's Lauren Ploch is working as the office's program director.

IRI's Regional Democracy Support Program is building upon IRI's extensive work in Kenya and its model regional program in Eastern Europe. Select political and civic officials will be able to share experiences with neighboring officials at a lower stage of democratic development and lend them assistance in generating greater leadership capacity within their respective nations. The program also is helping to prevent political reversals in the region by providing a stimulus for continued education and training.

### Azerbaijan office reopens

IRI's Azerbaijan office was reopened in February after being closed for more

## Three Named to Senior IRI Staff Positions

Quoc-Huy Nguyen was promoted to chief financial officer, Lindsay Lloyd has returned to Washington as the new director for Central and Eastern Europe, and Steve Susens has joined IRI as senior manager for communications.



Nguyen



Lloyd



Susens

### Quoc-Huy Nguyen

When Quoc-Huy Nguyen joined IRI in 1996, it was the beginning of a new life for him, and was the end of his long journey from Vietnam.

Like thousands of other refugees searching for security and freedom, Nguyen fled Vietnam. In 1984, at age 15, Nguyen left his family in Can Tho and ventured to sea on a small cargo boat with several others in hope of gaining political asylum in the United States. For five days, Nguyen floated in the Pacific Ocean wondering whether he would survive.

than a year due to security concerns. IRI's former country director for Nigeria, Mark Foehr, was appointed to run the program and is based in Baku, Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijan program will focus on political party development, particularly at the regional level. IRI will also work to train a corps of election observers in advance of the next presidential election, which is currently scheduled for late 2003.

Miraculously, Nguyen and his group safely reached a refugee camp in Indonesia, where they began the process of applying for asylum. Nguyen spent most of his time studying English and after nine months, he was on his way to an uncle's home in Alexandria, Virginia. After arriving, he attended a public high school, a community college and George Mason University, where he earned a degree in accounting. He joined IRI as a junior accountant in 1996 and in March was named CFO of the organization.

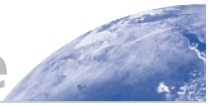
### Lindsay Lloyd

Lindsay Lloyd, who began his IRI career in Slovakia nearly seven years ago, has returned to Washington as IRI's new director for Central and Eastern Europe.

Lloyd, originally from San Diego, worked for several Republican congressmen before joining IRI's Slovakia program in August 1995. Lloyd was instrumental in

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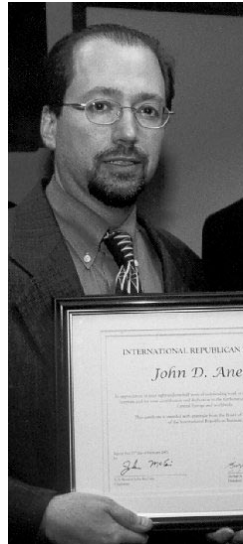




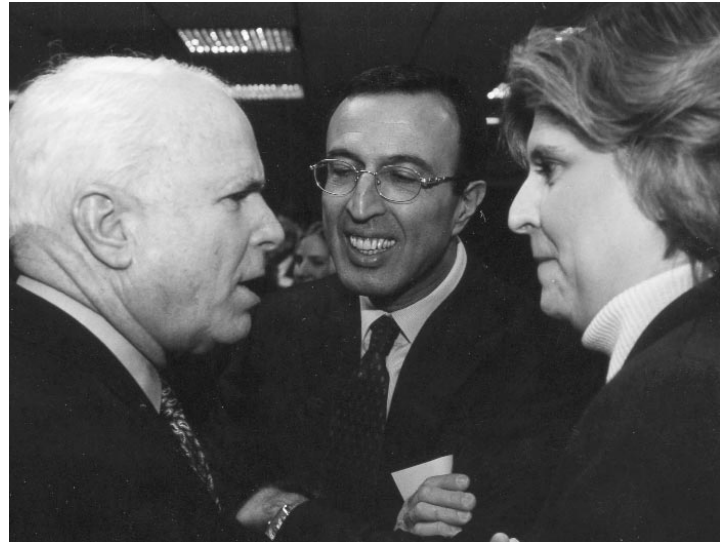
# Festive Reception Opens New IRI Washington Offices



*TOP LEFT—Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., (right) with IRI Board Member Ambassador J. William Middendorf, II.*



*TOP CENTER—Former IRI Central and Eastern Europe Division Director John Anelli receives an award for his service to the institute.*



*TOP RIGHT—IRI Chairman Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., former Bulgarian President Petar Stoyanov and Claire Sechler Merkel, former IRI Central and Eastern Europe director.*

*RIGHT—IRI Board Member Gen. Brent Scowcroft, (left) and former IRI President Lorne Craner.*

*BELOW LEFT—Former IRI CFO Sonya Vekstein receives certificate of appreciation from IRI President George A. Folsom.*



*BOTTOM LEFT—IRI Africa Regional Program Director Jeffrey Krilla, IRI President George A. Folsom, Craig Metz of EMC Corporation and U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-SC.*

*BELOW—Middle East and Northern Africa Division Director Owen Kirby and Khalid Al-Muthen of the Ministry of Information of Kuwait.*

*BOTTOM RIGHT—Former IRI President Lorne Craner, Anne B. Craner and Isabelle Craner.*



## IRI Helps Women Gain Political Involvement, Offices

In many countries, women have been barred or restricted from political involvement by law or culture. IRI is working in many emerging democracies to help women become involved as political activists and candidates for office at every level from the small rural village to the national government. Following are brief articles about IRI initiatives in several countries.

### *Training targets Chinese rural women*

Forty rural women from Mancheng County in China's Hebei Province attended a recent nine-day IRI training seminar on citizenship and political participation.

China Program Officer Christine Beasley and trainer Zulal Kilic, an expert on women's political participation from Turkey, represented IRI. This was the first time the China Program focused specifically on rural women. The training received widespread coverage by China Central Television and print media.

Rural women constitute 75 percent of the female population of China but continue to lag far behind men in their rates of political participation. Women run for positions on village committees far less frequently than do men. As a result, they often find themselves excluded from taking an active part in community decisions that affect their lives.

At the training seminar, rural women analyzed the barriers to women's political participation in Mancheng County.



Foremost among these are traditional concepts of gender roles, which have not been eradicated in the 50 years since the

Communist revolution. Because of cultural, ideological and socioeconomic barriers, women often lack the skills and confidence necessary to participate in politics.

Four more training seminars for rural women from different counties are scheduled this year.

### *IRI launches new women's workshop in Burma*

In April, IRI conducted a women's leadership and organization management workshop for members of the Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS), Burma's second largest political party. The workshop was intended to help the women members of the party launch a new women's organization in the party.

Trainers Mary Schwarz and Delima Seragih of IRI's Indonesia staff, and Asia Deputy Director Kelley Currie took the participants through a series of exercises to help them identify and prioritize their goals, develop programs and activities, create an organizational structure, and communicate their plans to the party leadership.

At the end of the four-day workshop, participants formalized their plans for the DPNS Women's Wing and developed a presentation for the party leadership. This workshop was the latest of IRI's new Women in Politics program for Burmese opposition groups. In November 2001, IRI also held a very successful multi-organization women's empowerment workshop on the Thai-Burma border.

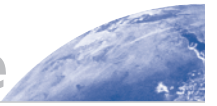
### *Women in the world's newest nation—East Timor*

Increasing women's participation in the political process is key to a nation's democratic development, yet it is often one of the biggest challenges facing newly democratic countries. In East Timor, IRI has worked closely with a number of organizations and has formed a partnership with one group – the Women's Caucus. This non-partisan group of East Timorese women was formed to help increase women's political awareness and skills. IRI supports the caucus through a combination of training, mentoring and technical assistance. The caucus provides political information, skills training and advice to East Timorese women on everything from why it is important to vote to how to run for office.

The caucus held workshops across East Timor to deepen understanding of political developments in advance of the 2001 Constituent Assembly elections and also provided support and training to the six independent women candidates in those elections. Caucus members helped draft the Charter of Women's Rights and carry out a campaign to encourage new lawmakers to address gender-related issues in the country's first constitution. As the constitutional drafting process reached its final stages earlier this year,







caucus members arranged to bring district representatives in the Assembly back to their districts for discussions on the constitution, the first effort of its kind.

With support from IRI, the caucus deployed observers to each of East Timor's 13 districts on election day to monitor the presidential election. The Women's Caucus will continue to advocate for greater participation of women in the political process through skills-building seminars and workshops across the country.

## ***Women's networking stressed in Russia, Ukraine***

Women in the former Soviet republics face great difficulties when seeking leadership positions in a traditionally gender-biased environment. In an effort to assist these women in finding a political voice and taking a more active role in government and the political process, IRI conducts programs specifically geared toward women in Russia and Ukraine.

In Russia, IRI conducts three women's programs: Women's Political Leadership in the 21st Century, the Women's Parliamentary Program, and Women's Political and Leadership Development. The latter includes funding for the League of Women Voters of St. Petersburg. All three focus on women's involvement in the political world.

Women's Political Leadership in the 21st Century was created in response to numerous requests from Russian women to renew IRI's 1996-1997 Women's Leadership Project. The program now centers on developing the Network for the Advancement of Women's Leadership and Partnership. During a national conference of women's non-governmental organizations (NGO) in 2001, participants voted unanimously to form an official association of women's NGOs that would encourage further networking and public advocacy among women. It also was to lobby for women's issues at various bureaucratic and administrative levels. Over the past few months, IRI worked with these representatives to organize

planning meetings and training seminars in their home regions in preparation for the founding of the association. The Network was recently officially registered with the Russian government.

IRI helped establish the League of Women Voters of St. Petersburg in 1996 to involve women in political processes and provide the general public with information on the activities of elected leaders and citizens' rights. The League now includes affiliate organizations in 18 cities.

In Ukraine, IRI's women's program has focused on local activism and developing campaign skills. IRI conducts regular seminars at the regional level, covering topics such as organizational development, lobbying women's issues, communications skills and the role of women in politics.

Women candidates throughout the country have used door-to-door and outreach techniques learned at IRI seminars to successfully win seats on local councils. Young women in Chernihiv Oblast, for example, used lobbying techniques to increase the proportion of the city budget allocated for youth programs.

## ***IRI trains new women legislators in Argentina***

IRI is conducting a short-term legislative training program for women who were newly elected to the Argentine Congress in response to constitutional reforms mandating the direct election of senators and an affirmative action law that increased the number of women in the Senate. The initiative had been passed to increase female membership in the Senate. Female membership had been about five percent and under the new law is now expected to be at least 33 percent.

The first IRI training took place on March 19. Two U.S. volunteer trainers addressed communications and budget analysis issues. Elizabeth Nodal, legislative director for Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., stressed the importance of establishing regular communications with voters and publicizing congressional work. Steve

Klein, fiscal director for the Vermont Legislature, discussed fiscal responsibility, improving technical expertise and the importance of establishing independent mechanisms to oversee the congressional budget analysis process.

Approximately 75 Argentines attended the event, which also included congressional staff, provincial and NGO representatives, officials from the U.S. Embassy and the media. Forming a legislative agenda and communications are the topics of future IRI seminars. In June, IRI will release a publication for the Argentine Congress on the issues addressed in the seminars.

## ***Women build from grassroots in Cambodia***

For the last three decades, Cambodian politics has been characterized by violence, repression and war. After years of violence, 53 percent of adults are women. During years of conflict, Cambodian women have traditionally focused on providing for their families and communities rather than bloody political struggles. IRI believes that women have the potential to change this culture by becoming more politically active.

IRI first began supporting the involvement of Cambodian women in politics in 1995 when it helped establish the Khmer Women in Politics Network (KWPN). This program brought together women from several political parties to develop skills and increase the involvement of women in national politics. Although this program was halted by the July 1997 coup d'etat led by then-Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, many KWPN members have gone on to be key government officials and party organizers.

In 1999, IRI found another opportunity to work with women when the Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) approached IRI for assistance in running a grassroots political education program for women. IRI's Cambodian trainers provided one-third of the training for the nine-day nonpartisan courses and used the opportunity to prepare women to become candidates in Cambodia's

proposed commune elections.

By Spring 2001, IRI had trained more than 3,000 women across Cambodia on local political organization, grassroots advocacy and local campaign techniques. When candidates for Cambodia's first-ever multiparty local elections were announced, the first demonstrable results of IRI's commitment to training women at the local level materialized. The number of women candidates reached 15 percent of the total, including 19 percent of the candidates from SRP. Member of Parliament Tioulong Saumura credits the training program with giving SRP women the confidence and ability to become effective candidates.

In Cambodia's 2002 local elections, more than 12,000 women were candidates or alternates in commune elections. Of these, 920 women were elected to commune councils—about 8.2 percent of council members—and 34 were elected as commune chiefs. Unfortunately, women were not spared the violence of Cambodian politics; three female candidates were murdered in January 2002.

## **Leadership, recruiting, focus in Indonesia**

IRI's year-old "Women in Politics" program in Indonesia is equipping women political activists to assume greater leadership roles in their parties and elected offices. The program also educates political parties on methods of recruiting women candidates and trains participants in citizen advocacy so they can improve their communities, an historical launching point for many women candidates.

Two-day training conferences have taken place in all seven IRI target provinces. IRI also provided one-day communications training to the Women's Caucus, a national organization of women from various Indonesian political parties.

American volunteers, such as Utah Lieutenant Governor Olene Walker, the Hawaiian GOP Gubernatorial candidate Linda Lingle, and communications expert Christine Burt of Colorado conducted the training. Indonesian trainer Lena Mariana, a former IRI seminar participant also conducted training at some seminars.

## **Democracy's People - Naab Mathias Zana**

"Democracy should be the cornerstone of every nation to ensure the freedom and progress of all people," says Naab Mathias Zana, the first Uhuru "Freedom" Research Fellow in IRI's Africa division. As a member of the Africa team, Naab does research and helps draft and edit reports on program activities.

The Uhuru program was created by IRI's Africa division this year to provide an opportunity for graduate level scholars to gain practical administrative experience while conducting research aimed at increasing the scope and effectiveness of the division's democracy-promotion programs.

The oldest of eight, Naab grew up in rural northern Ghana, briefly was a seminarian and then received a B.A. with honors in French and history from the University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana.

He is now a Ph.D candidate at the University of Pittsburgh in international

development and public policy. He previously received a master's degree in economic and social development from the University of Pittsburgh. His experience at IRI will overlap with his prior work at the World Bank.



Naab lived much of his childhood under military regimes, which he says gave him an appreciation for democracy. Naab believes that "in a democracy people have freedom of every sort and are more empowered to use their innate talents to survive."

While attending college, Naab joined the student wing of the Peoples National Convention (PNC), an opposition party. When Naab cast his first-ever vote in the 1996 presidential elections, he was "proud to be Ghanaian and to see democracy at work."

Naab is interested in IRI's work in development issues, particularly its efforts to simultaneously work with governments and grassroots organizations to ensure that democracy takes root.

Participants are recruited through their respective political parties. Often the IRI seminar is the first opportunity they have had to gather as women activists from that community.

IRI-trained women from various parties in South Kalimantan and East Java have formed multi-partisan organizations to promote women in politics.

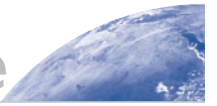
## **Women monitor Mexican officials, educate voters**

The Asociación Nacional Cívica Femenina (ANCIFEM), a nonpartisan women's organization, which is an IRI subgrantee, promotes democratic participation through two projects, Conscience of Government and Civic Brigades.

Conscience of Government monitors and evaluates the performance of city and state officials and through citizen observation

and interaction seeks to hold Mexican elected officials accountable for the ways in which they discharge their public duties. Civic Brigades operate on the principle that accountable government will prevail only when citizens accept their responsibilities to learn about their political system. There are currently 32 Civic Brigades in Mexico.

ANCIFEM has recently begun a Women's Civic Leadership Training program, based partly on the success of its Women's Political Leadership Training Program, developed and implemented during the election cycle leading up to July 2000. The Political Leadership program attracted over 300 participants in seven states and resulted in the election of approximately 30 trainees to office. Women's Civic Leadership Training strives to empower women to take leadership roles in the civic networks and NGO alliances in which they participate.



## Cambodia Vote Fails International Standards

A 17-member election observation mission led by IRI President George A. Folsom and IRI General Counsel Olin L. Wethington observed Cambodia's February 3 commune level elections. These first-ever multiparty local elections took place in Cambodia's 1,621 communes, challenging the 22-year monopoly on local power held by the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP).

Candidates from the CPP, their coalition partner Funcinpec, and the opposition Sam Rainsy Party (SRP) contested the election in nearly every commune. In the year preceding the local elections, 20 Funcinpec and SRP candidates and activists were murdered, while thousands of other activists and ordinary voters faced political intimidation. Even before the first ballot was cast, it was clear that the elections could not be considered fair due to an overtly biased electoral commission, one-sided media coverage, censorship and a violent political climate.

The IRI observation team set the tone for two larger international observer groups from the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) and the European Union. IRI was the first organization to state that the elections were deeply flawed. IRI demanded that Cambodia be judged by international election standards despite the country's genocidal past.

Prior to the election, IRI conducted one of the most far-reaching political party training programs ever held in Cambodia.

From September to December, IRI trained 1,700 candidates from democratic opposition parties. In just six weeks in December and January, IRI staff trained more than 7,000 party election monitors from all of the competing political parties in 80 individual training sessions held in Buddhist pagodas all across Cambodia. IRI also provided 50,000 poll-watcher manuals for training and election day use, enough for each party to have one in each polling station in Cambodia.

In the end, violence, intimidation, electoral manipulation, and a government monopoly on Cambodian broadcast media were obstacles too great for Cambodia's democrats to overcome. The CPP won 60 percent of the total popular vote, and with it the chief position in 1,598 communes. The SRP won 13 commune chief positions and improved on its popular vote showing of 1998 with 17 percent. Funcinpec won in only 10 communes and saw its vote totals plummet to 22 percent.

Cambodia's attention now turns toward parliamentary elections in July 2003. IRI will continue to work closely with Cambodia's democratic opposition to develop strong parties and train local commune leaders.



*Im Soda, an IRI employee since 1995, voting in the Cambodia commune elections*

## Polling witnesses aid peaceful East Timor vote

Political party poll witnesses trained by IRI played an important role in ensuring the transparency and fairness of the 2002 presidential election in the new island nation of East Timor.

Party poll witnesses are the first line of a party's information network on election day. They help to increase both the parties' and the public's confidence in election results.

For the 2002 presidential election, IRI's East Timor program conducted nationwide training of polling witnesses. IRI created a training manual in both Tetum and Bahasa Indonesia that summarized the electoral processes and regulations, and provided witnesses with forms that could be used on election day to record information.

IRI conducted one training session in each of the island country's 13 districts. Trainers emphasized the importance of fully understanding electoral procedures, discussed agent deployment strategies, and suggested how party or candidate coordinators could best use available resources to maximize coverage of polling centers. IRI directly trained 350 party members, who in turn left the training armed with manuals and the knowledge to train other party members. In total, IRI distributed more than 3,000 manuals across the country.

On election day, IRI deployed observation teams to Baucau, Dili, Ainaro, Aileu and Cova Lima to assess the activities of poll witnesses. Overall, balloting passed peacefully. Of the 378,000 people who voted on April 14, nearly 83 percent chose independence leader Xanana Gusmao as the nation's first president.

Post election discussions with domestic and international observer groups confirmed that, on the whole, polling witnesses performed their roles seriously and professionally. Preliminary follow-up with the parties and candidates similarly revealed great confidence in the information provided by their poll witnesses.

## Election workers short of resources in Ukraine

IRI deployed observers to 11 regions in Ukraine to monitor parliamentary elections March 31. For the first time since Ukraine's independence, communists will not have a majority in the parliament.

IRI met with poll workers and watchers, commission chairmen and others involved in the administration of the election and became acutely aware of the lack of resources that most poll workers had to conduct their duties.

The April 1 preliminary statement released by IRI President George A. Folsom, Rep.

Bob Schaffer, R-Colo., and U.S. Federal Judge Bohdan Futey noted that the legal framework for the elections provides a significant number of improvements over the previous election law, including more effective election disputes resolution and a greater role for political parties in the administration of elections. However, the courts and various election commissions must resolve election-day related complaints before it can be determined how well the new law has been implemented and enforced, the IRI observers said.





## Staff changes

(Continued from Page 2)

forming a coalition of several splintered political groups, which defeated then-Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar in 1998.

In 1999, Lloyd helped establish IRI's Bratislava-based Regional Program for Central and Eastern Europe. The program works in 15 countries, helping them share experiences to institutionalize the changes, strengthen democratic political parties, develop governmental institutions, and work with public opinion and communications projects. An annual Conference of the Central European Center Right, which Lloyd organized, brings together political leaders from mainstream conservative parties to deepen cooperation.

## Steve Susens

Steve Susens has joined the IRI family as the new Senior Manager for Communications. Susens has spent a number of years in Washington in a variety of communications related fields.

Upon graduating from the University of Tennessee in 1993, Susens became the White House and congressional correspondent for the *Nashville Banner*. In 1998, Susens left Washington to take the post of chief political writer with the *Banner* until the newspaper's closing.

Susens then returned to Washington as communications director for Rep. Ed Bryant, R-Tenn., for whom he served as chief spokesperson, speechwriter, media strategist and press contact during Bryant's work as a member of the House Judiciary

Committee and House Commerce Committee.

In 2000, Susens joined Hill & Knowlton Public Relations as a senior account executive concentrating on crisis management, public affairs and media strategy.

## Departures

Sonya Vekstein has moved from IRI as chief financial officer (CFO) to become a financial director at the Nuclear Threat Initiative.

John Anelli, formerly director of IRI's Central and Eastern Europe Division, left the Institute to write and compile a photographic book.

Amanda Host left IRI as senior manager for external affairs to be special assistant to the director of the Peace Corps.

International Republican Institute



The International Republican Institute (IRI) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing democracy worldwide.

IRI maintains program offices in a number of countries including: Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, East Timor, Georgia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Macedonia, Mongolia, Nigeria, Peru, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Turkey, Ukraine and Venezuela.

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