Dear Friends of SUNY/CID,

2011 was a particularly dynamic year for SUNY/CID. We were recently awarded our fourth consecutive Legislative Strengthening Indefinite Quantity Contract (IQC) by USAID, a strong vote of confidence in our continuing work on matters involving deliberative bodies. I’m also happy to report that we’ve just become a part of another important and exciting umbrella mechanism with USAID – the Business Environments for Agile Markets (BEAM) project led by CARANA Corporation. On BEAM, we will be supporting USAID’s Bureau of Economic Growth and Trade (EGAT) with research, training, and assessments in a number of areas pertaining to legal and regulatory reform.

Meanwhile, our projects have also achieved many milestones. In May, the Afghan Government issued a decree extending official accreditation to the Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute (API) as an Afghan institution of higher learning. In June, our work on constituency development funds or CDFs was highlighted with a workshop in Jamaica co-sponsored with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). In July, our Program to Strengthen the Lebanese Parliament (PSLP) was instrumental in establishing the Arab Institute for Parliamentary Strengthening and Legislative Studies. We hosted productive study tours from our projects in Uganda, Bangladesh and Kenya with stops in Albany, Wisconsin and Washington, D.C. Our administrative law project in China with The Asia Foundation was extended and expanded to two additional jurisdictions: Shantou Municipality and Shandong Province.

Further, in June, we signed an MOU with the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) for a three-year partnership to develop the East African Parliamentary Institute (EAPI). We co-hosted our fourth consecutive successful summer school on monitoring and evaluation in Italy with the Center for International Development at the University of Bologna. And we hosted scholars from Uganda and Bangladesh concerned with parliamentary development in their countries.

We look forward to another productive and innovative year in 2012 and wish our friends and partners good health and happiness in 2012.

Best regards,

Malcolm Russell-Einhorn

For the latest SUNY/CID news, please go to our website.