

Fri, 2 September 2011

I.O.I. NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2010

EDITORIAL BY I.O.I. PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL

As we begin a new year it is appropriate to look ahead and think about what we want to achieve in the months ahead and to formulate some resolutions in that regard.

This is no less so for Ombudsman offices the world over.

A good starting point is the Resolution of the United Nations of 11 November 2011, the full text of which is found later in this newsletter. The resolution provides a good illustration of the importance of our role nationally and internationally in "maintaining the rule of law and respect for principles of justice and equality". It will help to focus the attention of UN member states on their obligations in this regard and the importance of ensuring that the office of the Ombudsman is well supported by the legislature, properly resourced to carry out its work and is free from partisan pressure.

This is not yet the case in some parts of the world where Ombudsman offices have been left vacant for long periods and citizens' appeals for justice are not being answered. Or where attempts have been made to rewrite legislation to abridge citizens' rights of access to information that they need in order to participate effectively in the democratic process. Or where human rights continue to be ignored at best or, at worst, refused.

All integrity institutions, such as the IOI, Human Rights organisations, organisations concerned with freedom of information and related concerns need to work together to maintain and develop the principles outlined in the UN Resolution. And to assist each other to challenge abuses of these wherever we find them

That is our challenge in the near term.

Beverley A Wakem CBE, President

Dear Colleagues,

The General Secretariat looks back at a very busy and successful first full operational year and will continue to work towards fulfilling its promise of turning the I.O.I. into a more member- and service-oriented association promoting transparent administrative behavior and the protection of human rights.

In strengthening the exchange of information among members the General Secretariat successfully launched the Institute's new website at www.theioi.org. More than 2.000 persons from 78 different states interested in the work of independent ombudsman institutions have ever since accessed the website. The General Secretariat team is currently implementing the French and Spanish version which should go online in the coming weeks. In the meantime the I.O.I. is pleased to provide you with the first "e-newsletter" edition with recent ombudsman news.

Following the success of the first I.O.I. edition of the "Sharpening Your Teeth" training in November 2010, a second SYT training will be held from 5 to 8 June 2011 at the I.O.I. General Secretariat in Vienna, Austria. This high-profile educational program for staff members of ombudsman institutions will be held in English and offers a three day training on systemic investigations. More details on content, registration and scholarships for member institutions with limited resources can be found in the newsletter.

Dr. Peter Kostelka, Secretary General

I.O.I. EVENT: SYT II TRAINING IN VIENNA IN JUNE 2011 - NOW OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

Following the successful first I.O.I. edition of the "Sharpening Your Teeth"-Training that was attended by 38 participants from 17 different states, the I.O.I. is organising a second SYT training which will be held from 5 to 8 June 2011 at the I.O.I. General Secretariat in Vienna, Austria. This three-day training on systemic investigations for staff members of Ombudsman institutions is based on the format "Sharpening Your Teeth" that was successfully invented by the Ontario Ombudsman.

[\[»\] more information](#)

SWEDEN: CHANGES IN THE PARLIAMENTARY OMBUDSMEN INSTITUTION

Ms Cecilia Nordenfelt, former Parliamentary Ombudsman, has succeeded Mr. Mats Melin as Chief Parliamentary Ombudsman as from 3 January 2011.

[\[»\] more information](#)

EUROPE: NEW BOARD MEMBER IRENA LIPOWICZ

The Polish Ombudswoman Irena Lipowicz is now member of the European Board of the I.O.I. She took over from the Swedish Ombudsman Mats Melin.

[\[»\] more information](#)

KOREA: NEW CHAIRPERSON OF THE ACRC

Kim Young Ran is now the new third Chairperson of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission Korea. She has been working as a judge for 30 years, including six years as the first female Justice of the Supreme Court in Korea.

[\[»\] more information](#)

LESOTHO: NEW OMBUDSWOMAN TAKES OFFICE

The newly appointed Ombudsman, Mrs. Matsoana Fanana began her office duties on Wednesday of December 01, 2010. Mrs. Fanana is the first Lesotho female Ombudsman.

[\[»\] more information](#)

UK: PARLIAMENTARY AND HEALTH OMBUDSWOMAN ANNOUNCES PLANS TO RETIRE

Ann Abraham announced on 8 December that she plans to retire as Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman towards the end of 2011.

[\[»\] more information](#)

ARMENIA: OMBUDSMAN BECOMES OHCHR REPRESENTATIVE IN CENTRAL ASIA

On 2 February 2011, the Armenian Ombudsman Armen Harutyunyan announced his resignation. He has accepted the post of Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Central Asia.

[\[»\] more information](#)

AUSTRALIA: NEW QUEENSLAND OMBUDSMAN

Phil Clarke was appointed Queensland Ombudsman in December 2010. Mr Clarke brings a wealth of experience to the role, with a career in the public sector that spans more than 25 years.

[\[»\] more information](#)

UN RESOLUTION ON OMBUDSMAN INSTITUTIONS

On 11 November 2010 the United Nations General Assembly's third commission adopted a resolution on "The role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights".

[\[»\] more information](#)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT PASSES RESOLUTION ON EUROPEAN OMBUDSMAN

Transparency and access to information is doing are vital to maintain citizens' trust in Europe, says a resolution passed by Parliament on Thursday. The European Commission must co-operate fully with the Ombudsman.

[\[»\] more information](#)

MALI: TRAGIC DEATH OF OMBUDSWOMAN

It is with great sadness that the International Institute (I.O.I.) has learned about the tragic death of Ms. M'Bam diatigui Diarra, the Mali Médiateur de la République, who died in a car accident on January 18, 2011.

[\[»\] more information](#)

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