



Session 4 (b) - Parallel Session: Emerging Democracies

Session Aims:

This session is specifically designed by the Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) for delegates from emerging democracies and developing countries that have relative new public accounts committees or that are in the process of developing their committees. In this session, delegates will have an opportunity to discuss common problems, and exchange ideas and experiences of building public accounts committees. This sharing of information and ideas will allow delegates to learn from the successes and failures of other jurisdictions.

Context:

PACs from national and state level parliaments of Australia and New Zealand generally have a long history of operation, but many PAC representatives from Asia, the Pacific and Africa work in very challenging economic and political circumstances and their committees are still in the process of defining their roles.

Discussion Focus:

The focus of the discussion will be on practical issues and on how to improve the operation of PACs as institutions of accountability over public expenditure. Potential discussion topics include:

- Making the best use of the powers and authority of a PAC to build up its profile and reputation in parliament and amongst government ministries.
- How to make the most of PAC meetings with ministers or officials from government agencies.
- Methods for building relationships with partner agencies, especially the Audit Agency, but also bodies such as the Ombudsman and Anti-Corruption Commission. Using information and reports from partner agencies to keep executive government accountable.