The BRIDGE Project partners are:

- United Nations
- UNDP
- IFES
- IDEA
- AEC (Australian Electoral Commission)
So what is the BRIDGE?

- A professional development course in electoral processes because...

  - Capable and professional election administrators are essential for organising elections, and without the skills in place, election processes can be undermined.

  - To achieve effective, sustainable electoral administrations, the development of the capacity of the staff needs to be prioritised.
Potential BRIDGE Target Groups

- Electoral Commissioners
- EMB Staff
- Members of the Media
- Political Parties
- Parliamentarians
- Security Forces
- Civil Society Groups
- Domestic Observers
- Academics and University Students
A Professional Development Tool

Aims

- to strengthen capacity to conduct their work in an effective and efficient manner using best practice
- to enhance electoral administrators professionalism and build confidence
- to build teams and networks
BRIDGE Methodology

- uses content developed by electoral experts from around the world
- is not prescriptive, it encourages participants to develop creative and appropriate solutions to challenges
- is activity-based and focuses on practical issues
- is flexible and adaptable, not designed to be used “off the shelf”
BRIDGE Project statistics

- BRIDGE started in 2000
- To date BRIDGE has been conducted:
  - In about 20 countries
  - For over 2000 people from more than 90 countries
- There are now:
  - Over 400 people who have attended Train the Facilitator programs
  - Over 120 Fully Accredited BRIDGE Facilitators
Tailored to institutional and individual needs

- BRIDGE is carefully tailored to the needs of participants and organisations
- by developing BRIDGE in partnership with local bodies that can contribute and drive the process to ensure ownership
- Case Study: Nepal 2007
  Harmonised approach
  UNDP–IDEA–IFES
  3 year strategy
Quality assurance

- BRIDGE can *only* be conducted by facilitators accredited by the BRIDGE Project partners

- 2 phase of accreditation process:
  - 10-day Train-the-Facilitator Program
  - Final accreditation achieved after running a module in the field and supervised
How/where to run BRIDGE?

- for the national programme
- for a regional network – EMB meetings, ACE Regional Resource Centres
- for development partner/international organisation – dissemination, advocacy, project management
More International Writers and Editors
Implementation Manual and Workshop

- Greater implementation guidance and support for organisations wanting to use and adapt BRIDGE material and courses

- Implementation Workshop (2-day) course to assist implementers, project managers and facilitators (for different courses) to implement BRIDGE in the most effective way
How to include BRIDGE in an electoral assistance programme?

- BRIDGE is best suited to **post-election** or “in between” elections period in the electoral cycle
- **Consultation** with EMB and stakeholders to identify needs and design a project with a BRIDGE expert
- **Showcase** for advocacy and fundraising
- **Translation** (*french, spanish, portuguese, arabic, nepalese, indonesian*) and **Customisation** (*to suit local context – legislation & practice*)
- **Train-the-Facilitator** to create a pool of national facilitators
- **National programme** – locally owned and driven for professional development or induction for new staff
- **Long-term evaluation** – surveys, assessing impact
# Bridge Curriculum

## Foundation Modules

- Introduction to Electoral Administration
- Strategic & Financial Planning

## Electoral Architecture

- Legal Framework
- Boundary Delimitation
- Electoral Systems
- Electoral Management Design
- Electoral Technology

## Working with Electoral Stakeholders

- Access to the Electoral Process
- Voter Information
- Electoral Contestants
- Electoral Observation
- Media & Elections
- Electoral Assistance
- Gender & Elections
- Electoral Dispute Resolution
- Civic Education

## Electoral Operations

- Voter Registration
- Pre-election Activities
- Training of Electoral Officials
- Polling, Counting & Results
- Post-election Activities
- External Voting
- Security
Each Module...

- reiterates elections in the context of **Democratic Governance** and **Development Goals** and is underpinned by Electoral **Standards & Principles**
- is based on **best practice** from experienced practitioners and current **leading publications** *e.g.* ACE Topics and various Handbooks, Guides and Practice notes from IDEA, UNDP, IFES and European Commission
- refers to the **Electoral Cycle** in the context of that module *e.g.* Gender & Elections looks at gender implications throughout the cycle
- includes a **Synopsis, Key Understandings, Case Studies, Glossary & Cross–cutting Considerations:** Access, Gender, Conflict Management, Integrity, Technology, Sustainability, Environment
- encourages **Action/Reform Plans** in the concluding activities
BRIDGE What’s Next?

- BRIDGE made more accessible by translating it into various languages through country projects...
- **ACE Resource Centres** will become regional hubs for BRIDGE as part of fostering EMB networks
- **e-BRIDGE** – development of online learning of all modules, linked and accredited to university courses including selected reading from ACE/IDEA Handbooks, quiz, video, scenarios, interactive classroom, assignments, professional certification
- **Governance BRIDGE** – expanding BRIDGE beyond elections – new pilot project 2008
- “demanding better governance/ civic engagement and participation”
More Information on BRIDGE

BROCHURE:

WEBSITE: www.bridge-project.org
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The BRIDGE Project is fun, whilst
... the hard work is being done
Thank you!