

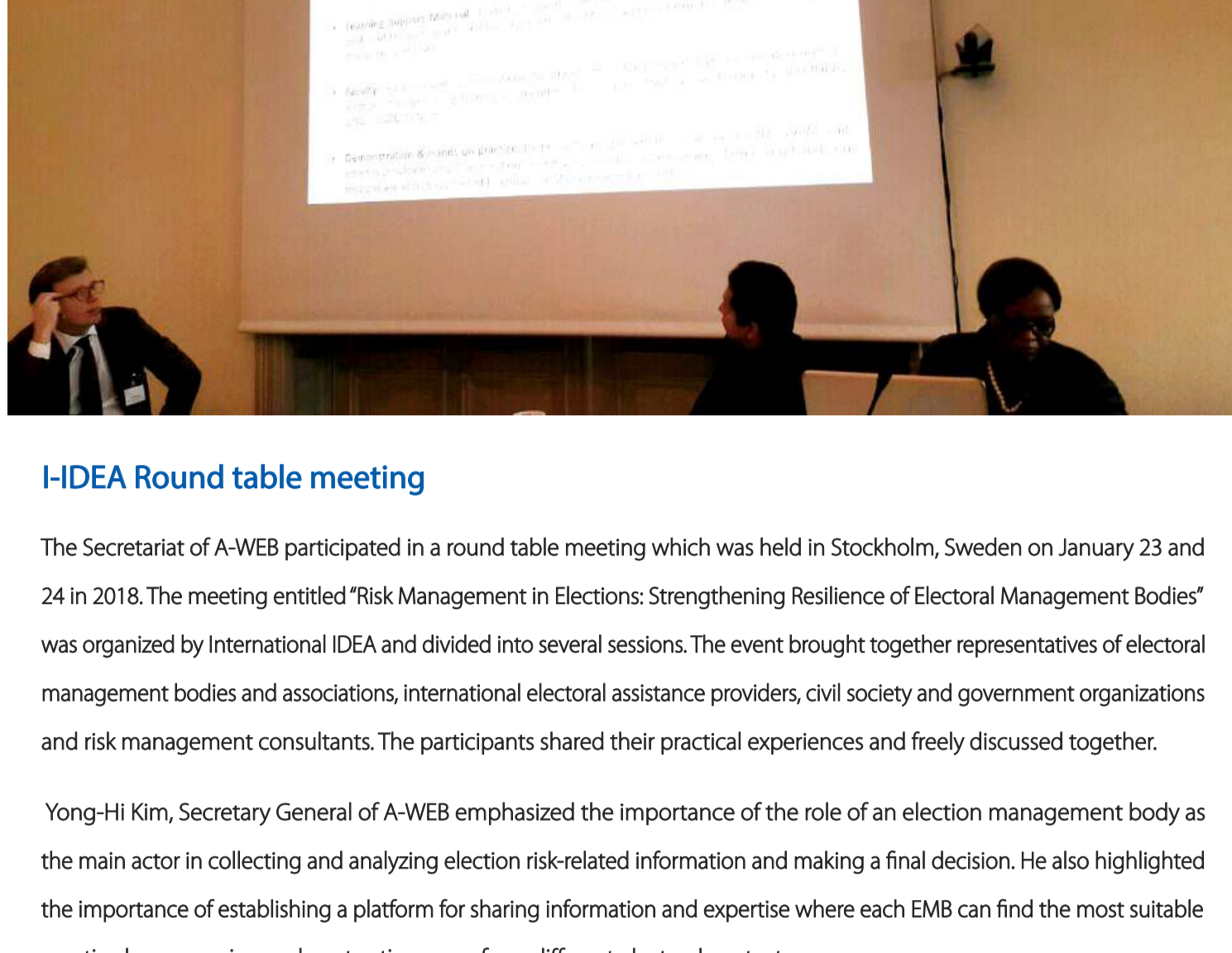
Recruitment of New A-WEB Secretariat Staff

The A-WEB Secretariat conducted recruitment for 2018. For the positions of Deputy Director and Program Officers fluent in English and French, the recruitment announcement was posted and applications were received from December 28 2017 to January 12 2018.

Two rounds – document examining then individual interview – were conducted for the selection, and the competition ratio was high as it recorded 8:1 for Deputy Director, 6.6:1 for Program Officer(English), and 12:1 for Program Officer(French).

The six applicants successfully went through the intense competition and their appointment was made on February 1 2018.

At the welcoming ceremony held on February 1 2018, the certificates of appointment was given by Secretary General Yong-Hi Kim. An orientation program was provided on the same day, then they were assigned to Planning Department, Training department, and Project Department.



I-IDEA Round table meeting

The Secretariat of A-WEB participated in a round table meeting which was held in Stockholm, Sweden on January 23 and 24 in 2018. The meeting entitled "Risk Management in Elections: Strengthening Resilience of Electoral Management Bodies" was organized by International IDEA and divided into several sessions. The event brought together representatives of electoral management bodies and associations, international electoral assistance providers, civil society and government organizations and risk management consultants. The participants shared their practical experiences and freely discussed together.

Yong-Hi Kim, Secretary General of A-WEB emphasized the importance of the role of an election management body as the main actor in collecting and analyzing election risk-related information and making a final decision. He also highlighted the importance of establishing a platform for sharing information and expertise where each EMB can find the most suitable practice by comparing and contrasting cases from different electoral contexts.



2018 Observation of Referendum and Popular Consultation in the Republic of Ecuador

The 2018 Observation of the Referendum and Popular Consultation on February 4 was held from January 31 to February 5 in Ecuador.

A total of 4 participants from 4 countries, headed by Rosa Fabiana Marin Ferreira from the Superior Court of Electoral Justice of Paraguay (Tribunal Superior de Justicia Electoral), participated in this observation program.

The observation program began on January 31 with an event organized by the National Electoral Council of Ecuador (Consejo Nacional Electoral, CNE) for the observers from different organizations. It was an informative event where all the observers were instructed on the Ecuadorian electoral processes, the voting and counting mechanisms, as well as other regulations.

On the following day, February 1, the participants visited a Freedom Deprivation Center (Centro de Privación de la Libertad) where they observed the "Vote for People Deprived of Freedom". One the same day, the observers had meetings with the representatives of the political parties campaigning either for "Yes" or "No".

On February 2, the participants observed the "Vote in Geriatrics" and visited the precinct where the electoral packages were prepared and guarded. There, the company in charge explained the logistics of the electoral packages to the observers.

The day before the Election Day, the observers held an internal Briefing Session where basic knowledge about the generalities of the Ecuadorian political system were provided and where the observers decided the routes and electoral precincts to visit.

On the Election Day, February 4 2018, the participants observed the opening, voting, closing, and counting. They also observed the transmission processes which was done via the RTS-1000 scanners in various precincts of the central and south of Quito, Pichincha province. They, then, visited the Pichincha Provincial Delegation (Delegación Provincial de Pichincha) where the Results Processing Center was located. Additionally, the A-WEB observers, with the permission attained beforehand, visited the Command Center in the CNE Headquarters where the Election Day was being monitored.

At the end of the day, the participants held a Debriefing Session where they discussed the observation results and prepared the preliminary report which was submitted to the CNE during the Ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding taken place on February 5.



Observation of Local Authorities Election in Sri Lanka

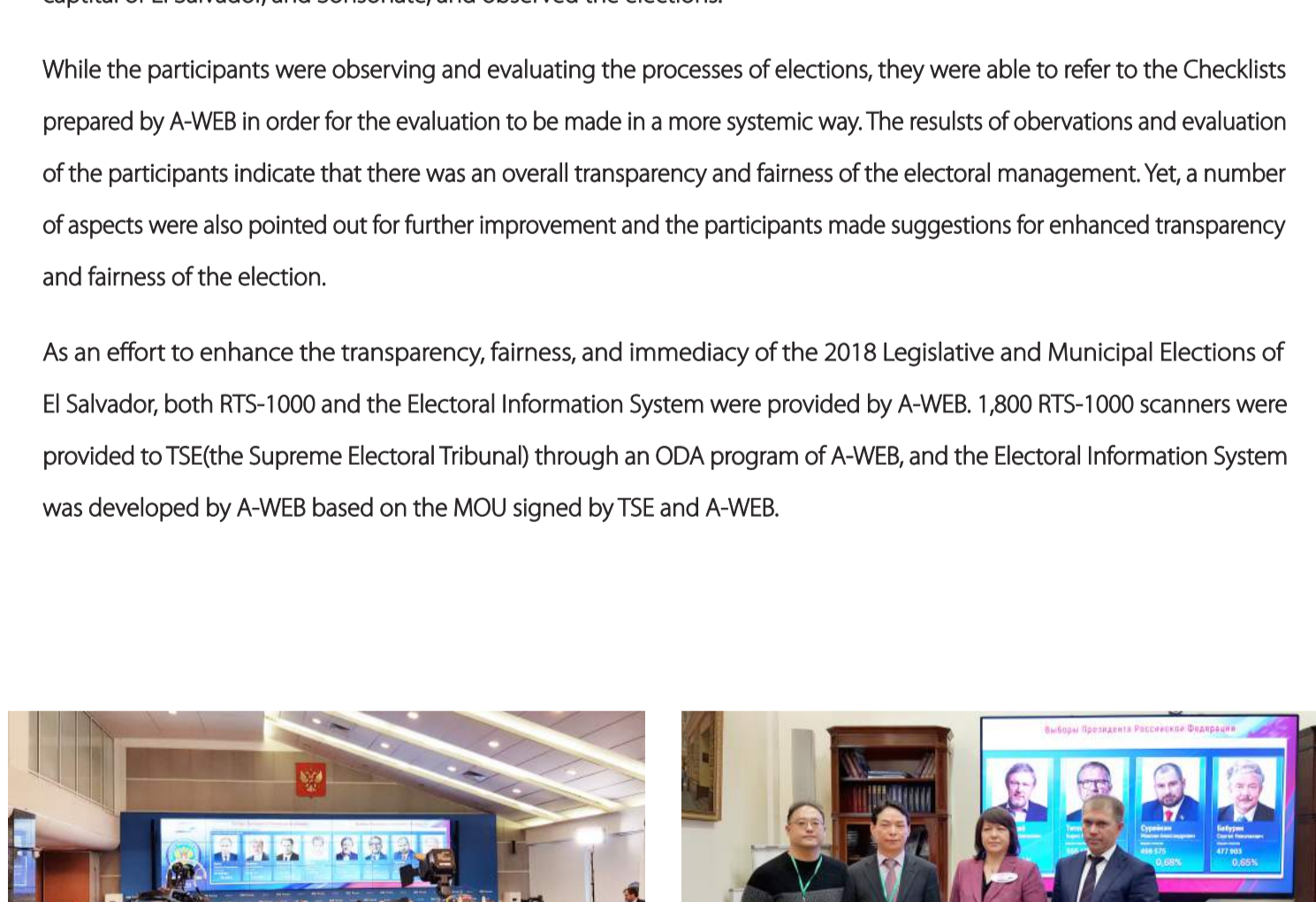
On the 10th of February, the 2018 Local Authorities Elections of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka was held, and two delegates of A-WEB were invited to observe and study its elections.

A particularly significant aspect of this 2018 Local Election for the Sri Lankans was that it was the largest election in its history where members for all of its 341 local authorities were elected on the same day for the first time under the newly adopted mixed electoral system.

The election observation mission consisted of 10 participants from India, Maldives, Indonesia, and A-WEB.

The two delegates of the A-WEB Secretariat observed those elections held in a beautiful city of Anuradhapura, and the elections were conducted without any incidence of violence.

For Anuradhapura, which is a city with one municipal council and 18 local authorities, 372 members were elected from the election. The delegates observed the setup procedure, commencement of voting, counting, and the processing of results, and the elections were held in calm and orderly manner.



A-WEB signed an MOU with Union Election Commission of Myanmar(UEC) and Mitsubishi Research Institute of Japan(MRI)

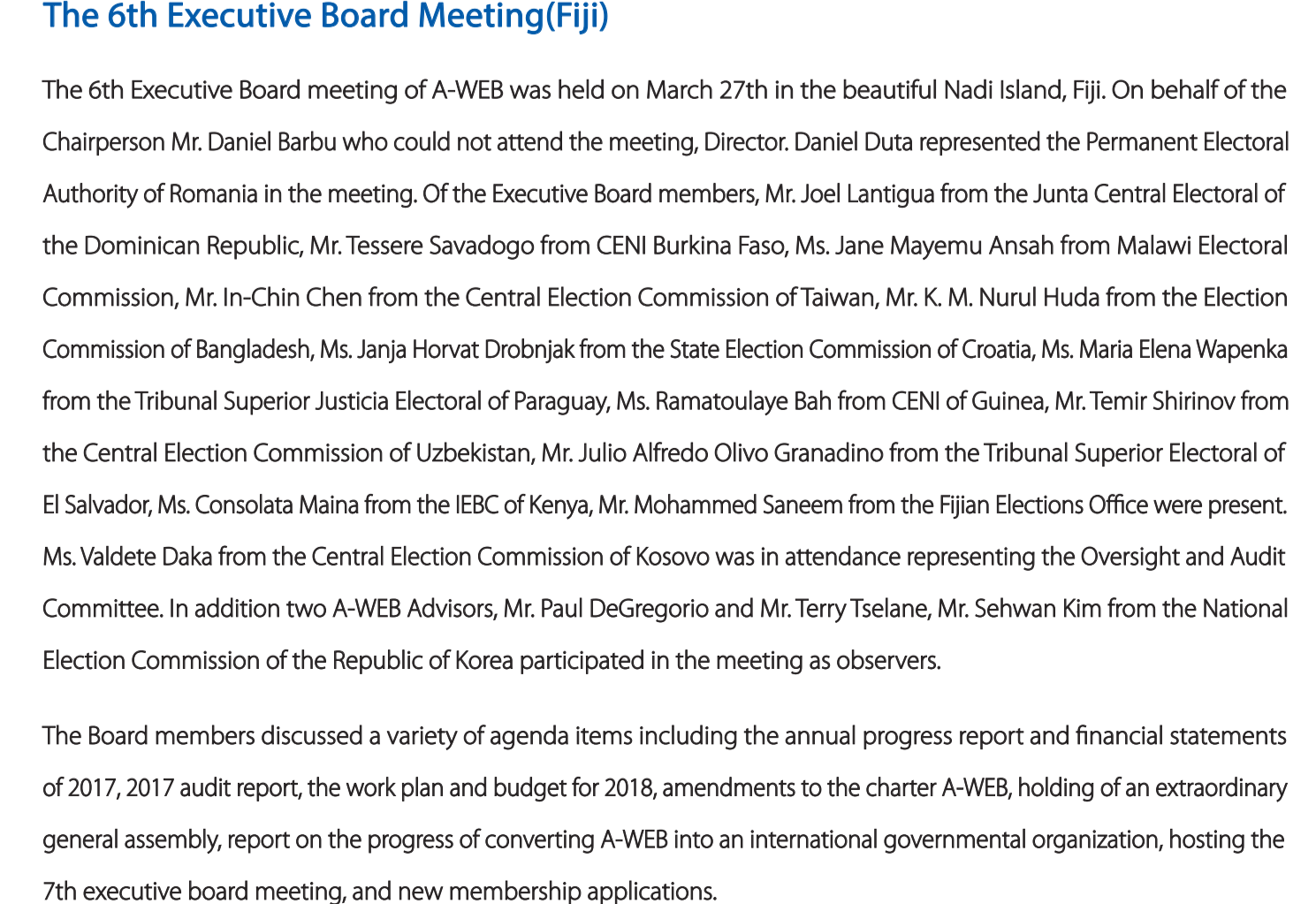
On the 23rd of February, A-WEB, Union Election Commission of Myanmar(UEC), and Mitsubishi Research Institute of Japan(MRI) signed an MOU with the aim to conduct elections in Myanmar in a free and fair manner under the democratic electoral process.

The ceremony of signing the MOU took place in the UEC, Nay Pyi Taw.

Through this mutual partnership, the three organizations will work more closely for the successful conduct and management of 2020 General Election in Myanmar. The Election Management Capacity Building Project, for which the three parties work together, is one endeavor to realize the success of the election.

The Project, which is a part of A-WEB and MRI's joint capacity building program for A-WEB members, aims to establish an ICT-based election management system by introducing ICT into the voter registration process.

The A-WEB Secretariat is working at its full capacity in order for the cooperation with UEC and MRI to flourish, and hopes the Project to further increase the efficiency of election management and voters' convenience in Myanmar.



Election Visitor Program (EVP) in El Salvador for the Legislative and Municipal Elections

The 2018 A-WEB Election Visitor Program (EVP) for the Legislative and Municipal Elections of El Salvador on 4 March 2018 was held from March 1 2018 to 7 March 2018 in El Salvador. The election observation mission, whose Head of Mission was Vice President Ana Marcela Paredes Encalada of the Consejo Nacional Electoral (CNE) of Ecuador, consisted of 30 participants from 15 countries. The participants, divided into 6 different groups, visited the voting centers of San Salvador, which is the capital of El Salvador, and Sonsonate, and observed the elections.

While the participants were observing and evaluating the processes of elections, they were able to refer to the Checklists prepared by A-WEB in order for the evaluation to be made in a more systemic way. The results of observations and evaluation of the participants indicate that there was an overall transparency and fairness of the electoral management. Yet, a number of aspects were also pointed out for further improvement and the participants made suggestions for enhanced transparency and fairness of the election.

As an effort to enhance the transparency, fairness, and immediacy of the 2018 Legislative and Municipal Elections of El Salvador, both RTS-1000 and the Electoral Information System were provided by A-WEB. 1,800 RTS-1000 scanners were provided to TSE(the Supreme Electoral Tribunal) through an ODA program of A-WEB, and the Electoral Information System was developed by A-WEB based on the MOU signed by TSE and A-WEB.

Observation of Presidential Election in Russia

On the 18th of March, the 2018 Presidential Election of Russia was held, and the delegation of A-WEB, invited by CEC (Central Election Commission), observed the election.

The A-WEB delegation headed by Director General Min Shin were able to witness the capacity of ICT implemented in the election by visiting and observing the voting centers and result processing center.

On March 17, the day before the election, the A-WEB delegation was invited by Ms. Maya Grishina, Secretary General of CEC to visit CEC, and had a chance to visit the Data Center and observe other preparations for the election there.

At the meeting with Secretary General Maya Grishina, Director General Min Shin passed along a request for CEC's further participation in various events and programs of A-WEB as well as for CEC's support for the conversion of A-WEB into an intergovernmental international organization. Secretary General Maya Grishina responded that CEC will provide its active participation and cooperation for the different matters and programs of A-WEB.

The 6th Executive Board Meeting(Fiji)

The 6th Executive Board meeting of A-WEB was held on March 27th in the beautiful Nadi Island, Fiji. On behalf of the Chairperson Mr. Daniel Barbu who could not attend the meeting, Director. Daniel Duta represented the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania in the meeting. Of the Executive Board members, Mr. Joel Lantigua from the Junta Central Electoral of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Tessere Savadogo from CENI Burkina Faso, Ms. Jane Mayemu Ansah from Malawi Electoral Commission, Mr. In-Chin Chen from the Central Election Commission of Taiwan, Mr. K. M. Nurul Huda from the Election Commission of Bangladesh, Ms. Janja Horvat Drobnyak from the State Election Commission of Croatia, Ms. Maria Elena Wapenka from the Tribunal Superior Justicia Electoral of Paraguay, Ms. Ramatoulaye Bah from CENI of Guinea, Mr. Temir Shirinov from the Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan, Mr. Julio Alfredo Olivo Granadino from the Tribunal Superior Electoral of El Salvador, Ms. Consolata Maina from the IEBC of Kenya, Mr. Mohammed Saneem from the Fijian Elections Office were present. Ms. Valdete Daka from the Central Election Commission of Kosovo was in attendance representing the Oversight and Audit Committee. In addition two A-WEB Advisors, Mr. Paul DeGregorio and Mr. Terry Tselane, Mr. Sehwan Kim from the National Election Commission of the Republic of Korea participated in the meeting as observers.

The Board members discussed a variety of agenda items including the annual progress report and financial statements of 2017, 2017 audit report, the work plan and budget for 2018, amendments to the charter A-WEB, holding of an extraordinary general assembly, report on the progress of converting A-WEB into an international governmental organization, hosting the 7th executive board meeting, and new membership applications.

All items on the agenda have been approved by the Executive Board members except for the proposal for the Charter Amendments and an Extraordinary General Assembly. A special committee for Charter Amendments, comprised of members representing each continent, has been formed to propose more holistic Charter amendments by the 7th Executive Board meeting.

The Secretariat of A-WEB sincerely thanks everyone who attended the meeting in Fiji and looks forward to meeting everyone again in the near future.