

Decentralization has also had enormous significance for development of electoral democracy, with the early round of elections in April deciding not only the make-up of the national level parliamentary structure but, as well, that of the provincial and *kabupaten* levels, through the Regional People's Representative Assemblies (*Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Daerah*, or DPRD) which were chosen throughout the country. Decentralization over the past few years ensures that these regional assemblies also have new and important powers in comparison to the past.

The recent round of elections also saw the formation of a new national level institution intended to give greater attention to the question of the regions. This is the Regional Representative Council (*Dewan Perwakilan Daerah*, or DPD), a new creature in the institutional landscape of Indonesia with as yet untested powers. And in terms of new institutions, one can also point to the emergence of a party system in Indonesia. Certainly it will take a few more rounds of elections to more fully develop, and no one is sure what the future holds in this regard. Yet the point has been made by a number of observers that there has been a perceptible move away from personality politics toward more issue-based politics in the recent round of elections. Consideration of all of these institutional changes, as well as questions of leadership, shaped the deliberations and discussions of the symposium, and will undoubtedly continue to be of importance in thinking about the future of Indonesia and the nature of Canadian-Indonesian relations.

In the context of the recently completed and intensely complex series of ballots, and the smooth transition in leadership that has resulted from this, there is much hope for the future of democracy in Indonesia today - and looking toward the future was certainly a key concern in organizing this symposium. Overall, the main goal in this undertaking was to facilitate dialogue by discussing what is happening in Indonesia today and by helping inform Canadians about Indonesia's changing political, economic and social landscape. In so doing, it is hoped that this symposium will prompt further discussion regarding ways that Canadians can be engaged with what is happening, both at the governmental level and with respect to Canadian society in general. Building upon this, the second goal in bringing together the symposium has been to utilize these discussions as informed inputs for shaping policy. The Symposium Recommendations, following this introduction, are therefore intended