

A GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON FEDERALISM

A Global Dialogue on Federalism is a program of the Forum of Federations and the International Association of Centers for Federal Studies (IACFS). Its goal is to engage participants in a comparative dialogue about core themes on federalism, with the aims of learning from each other and building an international network. The knowledge and ideas generated from the dialogue are captured in publications on each theme, fostering future learning opportunities.

The program features themes on federalism of contemporary relevance for those with an interest in federal governance. Each theme is examined through a process of country roundtables, an international comparative roundtable, and the production of a booklet and book. The publications synthesize the insights gained from on-going dialogue and from additional primary research.

The first several themes being explored are:

- Constitutional Origins, Structure, and Change in Federal Countries
- Distribution of Powers and Responsibilities in Federal Countries
- Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Governance in Federal Countries
- The Practice of Fiscal Federalism: Comparative Perspectives
- Foreign Relations in Federal Countries
- Local Governments and Metropolitan Regions in Federal Countries

Each theme features the experiences and challenges of approximately twelve federal systems, offering a mix of established and new federal systems. The quality of the program and its products is due in large part to its theoretical method, which rests on the concept of selecting participants to ensure that as many points of view and experiences related to a given topic are represented as possible. By engaging in dialogue from all angles, representatives are able to develop the most possible accurate picture of the subject and project real life trends on the practice of federalism.

The first book, *Constitutional Origins, Structure, and Change in Federal Countries*, Volume 1, was launched in 2005 along with the first two booklets in the series: *Dialogues on Constitutional Origins, Structure, and Change in Federal Countries*, Volume 1 and *Dialogues on Distribution of Powers and Responsibilities in Federal Countries*, Volume 2. Publications for 2006 include the next three booklets in the series: *Dialogues on Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Governance in Federal Countries*, Volume 3; *Dialogues on the Practice of Fiscal Federalism: Comparative Perspectives*, Volume 4, and *Dialogues on Foreign Relations in Federal Countries*, Volume 5, as well as the third book in the series, *Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Governance in Federal Countries*, Volume 3. Corresponding French publications are available for the booklets; a corresponding French translation for the books will be available electronically. If you would like to order any of the Global Dialogue publications, please visit the McGill-Queen's University Press website at: www.mqup.mcgill.ca/ordering.php.

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