

**POLLWATCH MASTER
TRAINER SEMINAR**

**October 30 - November 1, 1998
*PATTAYA, THAILAND***

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE

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I. Introduction

Many changes have taken place over the last two years that have a direct impact on the electoral process in Thailand. A new constitution was promulgated in October 1997 which established an independent election commission and initiated fundamental changes to the electoral system. The new constitution also includes extensive measures to combat corruption, and the Thai parliament passed subsequent laws governing political parties, elections, and the national election commission.

The success of upcoming parliamentary elections, likely to take place in the next year, will be important in advancing the political reforms outlined in the new constitution and in restoring public and international confidence in the Thai government as it rebuilds the economy. For elections to be successful, a comprehensive election monitoring and voter education program is needed to address the significant changes mandated by the new constitution and election laws. Without a pro-active and comprehensive effort to educate voters on and monitor the transition to the new election process, the changes in the electoral system could cause confusion and disruption when elections are called.

Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) at the national, regional, and local levels have traditionally supplemented the election commission in educating voters about their rights and monitoring the electoral process. Because of the history of vote buying and fraud in Thai elections, NGO observers can help increase public confidence in the results of the election by serving as deterrents on election day and by neutrally reporting violations. Because of budget shortfalls and ongoing mistrust of the government during this period of economic and political instability¹, it is more critical than ever for NGOs to assume the responsibilities of educators and monitors.

To help respond to the need for a strong NGO monitoring effort, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) and Pollwatch² organized a Master Trainer Seminar in Pattaya, Thailand from October 30 to November 1, 1998. This seminar launched Pollwatch's election monitoring process for Thailand's next parliamentary elections. Pollwatch identified approximately 30 master trainers from all over the country to attend the seminar and receive training. The seminar prepared these master trainers to conduct subsequent regional and provincial training seminars in election monitoring. Eventually, volunteers at the local level will be trained to monitor the polling on election day.

¹The Chuan administration is undergoing a censure debate due to public (and the opposition coalition's) lack of faith in the economic reform process and to ongoing government corruption scandals.

²Pollwatch Foundation, established in 1992, is the primary independent election monitoring organization in Thailand.

Extensive infrastructure, communication systems, and human resources are necessary to manage a nationwide monitoring and training effort. Thus, in addition to focusing on training, the Pollwatch seminar addressed the administration and management of Pollwatch's monitoring and training programs. The seminar also provided an opportunity for participants to discuss regional monitoring and management needs and challenges and to develop regional action plans.

NDI invited Glenn Cowan, Senior Advisor at NDI, and Telibert Laoc, Executive Director of the Philippines' National Citizens Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL), both of whom have extensive monitoring and training experience, to give presentations on election monitoring and training, to facilitate working group sessions, and to share techniques and experiences from other countries.

Thai Political Context

Thailand is one of Asia's oldest democracies and is a key political and economic leader in the region. However, Thailand has experienced uneven democratic development over the past 50 years. Since its transition from absolute monarchy to a democratic constitutional form of government in 1932, Thailand has alternated between democracy and military authoritarianism. From 1932 to the present, the country has experienced 17 military coups or attempted coups and a series of unstable and short-lived governments. However, after the 1979 elections, participation in politics increased and the parliamentary system became more stable. With the growth of civil society in the late 1980s and early 1990s, elected politicians gained strength over bureaucratic and military elites.

Although there has been expanded political participation, Thailand has witnessed growing public dissatisfaction with the government and politics. In recent years, Thai citizens have felt frustrated by the increasing corruption that dominates the country's political and economic systems. Although patronage and vote buying have marred Thai elections through its history, vote buying has increased dramatically in the past decade. Moreover, with the economic crisis of 1997, public confidence in the Thai government has further suffered.

In response to growing public discontent, Parliament convened last October to draft the 16th constitution in 65 years, and this constitution, unlike past constitutions, is a revolutionary document that places political power in the hands of the people and challenges the system of patronage and bureaucracy that have defined Thai governance for the last 20 years. The 1997 constitution has created a constitutional court independent from the parliament, called for an elected Senate, initiated a process of decentralization of administration to the provincial level, mandated civic participation in public policymaking, and established an independent National Counter-Corruption Commission to promote governmental transparency. Moreover, the new constitution has introduced significant changes in the electoral process and procedures. Thai voters will need to adapt to party list candidates in addition to single-member constituencies, and ballot counting will be conducted in designated places in constituencies rather than at local polling stations.

The 1997 constitution also contains provisions calling for the passage of "organic laws" governing election administration and the establishment of an independent election commission. With the passage of the organic laws, elections can take place at any time. (The Thai parliament could not be dissolved before the organic laws were passed.) In anticipation of the passage of the "organic laws" or "enabling laws," the Election Commission of Thailand (ECT) was established. With the creation of the ECT, an independent body rather than the Ministry of the Interior will administer the elections for the first time.

These reforms, however, are fragile. The Thai public is not accustomed to participating in policymaking or organizing around political issues. In addition, there is a tremendous need for the government to give the public more information on the content of the new constitution, as most Thai citizens are unaware of the changes. Instead, the government has been preoccupied with corruption scandals and coalition politics, placing reform measures secondary. Moreover, a censure motion may induce elections before ECT regulations have been finalized. The ECT has not yet received the full budget it has requested. Upon receiving additional funding, it must issue regulations, set up provincial and regional offices, hire and train personnel, draw up constituencies, prepare voter lists, conduct public relations and awareness campaigns, and produce voter education materials that address technical changes in the voting process, including the switch from multi-member constituencies to single-member constituencies and party lists. Without a proactive and comprehensive effort to educate voters on the new electoral procedures, these new systems could cause confusion and disruption during the next elections.

Background on Pollwatch

Pollwatch was established in January 1992 by then-Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun to monitor the next general elections scheduled for March of that year. Created under the leadership of Dr. Gothom Arya, an academic and civic organizer (who was appointed as a commissioner in the Election Commission of Thailand in 1998), Pollwatch's objectives were to create a free and fair electoral process and to support and expand citizen participation in the 1992 elections. Although other Thai citizens groups had monitored previous elections, they had been limited to certain regions due to organizational and financial constraints. Pollwatch had a mandate and funding by the Thai Government to cover the entire country. Although Pollwatch received its funding from the Thai Government, its volunteers came primarily from the nongovernmental sector. Pollwatch monitored the March 1992, September 1992, July 1995, and November 1996 elections. Pollwatch has operated as an ad-hoc organization, reconstituting itself for each election.

The focus of Pollwatch's first monitoring effort was to combat corruption. For the March 1992 elections, Pollwatch recruited 20,000 volunteers. In July 1992, elections were called again for September, and Pollwatch expanded its effort to address vote buying and other forms of corruption by recruiting more than 60,000 volunteers.

When elections were called again in 1995, Pollwatch was an experienced election

monitoring organization and was publicly perceived as part of the electoral process. For this election, Pollwatch had two distinct tasks: to conduct a voter education program and increase voter participation; and to monitor the polling and receive complaints of violations. Pollwatch engaged in a nationwide voter education campaign that used mass media and education at the local level to encourage voter participation. Pollwatch initiated a democratic forum program through which candidates would meet voters, explain party platforms and positions, and respond to questions. Pollwatch also designed and distributed printed materials with simple and direct messages about voter participation and elections.

Pollwatch mobilized 50,000 volunteers, approximately one volunteer per polling station, in the six weeks between the dissolution of Parliament and the July 1995 elections. Pollwatch was able to mobilize such a large number of volunteers so quickly because it had maintained contacts with other NGOs and grassroots organizations and could draw upon their memberships. In particular, Pollwatch coordinated with the Campaign for Popular Democracy and the Union for Civil Liberty, two NGOs dedicated to democratic reform in Thailand.

During the 1995 elections, Pollwatch received thousands of complaints, of which some 2,000 were substantiated. While Pollwatch did not have arresting or prosecuting powers, it was able to assemble a team of volunteer lawyers and establish a link to the Ministry of the Interior to investigate complaints. Pollwatch coordinated its efforts to curb electoral fraud with the "Anti-Vote Buying Committee" which was established by Prime Minister Chuan. However, the public viewed this committee as largely ineffectual.

During the November 1996 elections, Pollwatch increased its access to the media and used the media to educate Thai citizens about the problem of vote buying. Pollwatch received more than 5,000 complaints about vote buying during the 1996 electoral process, which Pollwatch accounts to an increase in the public's awareness of the problem and an increase in the effectiveness of Pollwatch's campaign.

Pollwatch became an independent organization after the 1997 constitutional reforms and no longer receives support from the Ministry of Interior. Pollwatch will work with the newly created ECT in its efforts to prepare for and administer the next general elections. Pollwatch will supplement the efforts of the ECT with more in-depth and thorough voter education. The ECT's voter education will address the logistics of voting, such as where to vote. Pollwatch and other NGOs will conduct a variety of voter education activities to reach people all over the country, and voter education will address broader issues than logistics by focusing on the importance of voting, the new constitution, and vote buying. In addition, through its strong network of national and local NGOs, Pollwatch will monitor attempts at fraud and vote buying, assist voters in becoming acquainted with the new voting procedures, and monitor election activities. To conduct these activities, Pollwatch requested technical and financial support from NDI.

Pollwatch must develop the infrastructure and staff capacity to manage a nation-wide

monitoring and training effort. To administer this effort, Pollwatch has established the People's Network, or PNET, a network of organizations in all five regions -- the North, the upper Northeast, the lower Northeast, the Central Region, and the South. These regional networks will bring together both state and private institutions and organizations that share the common interest of promoting democracy and monitoring elections. From these organizations, the regional network will recruit volunteers, and the network will organize training seminars. In addition, PNET will facilitate coordination between the core administrative center in Bangkok and each of the different regions.

The Pollwatch Master Trainer Seminar

In response to the radical changes in Thai politics over the past two years and to the challenges facing Pollwatch as a newly independent organization, Pollwatch requested assistance from NDI in training trainers in election monitoring, implementing an administrative structure, and designing a new election monitoring training manual. The Pollwatch Master Trainer Seminar was the first step in this process.

The seminar helped master trainers and PNET coordinators (NCs) define their monitoring goals and objectives based on past and future challenges to fair elections in Thailand. In addition, the seminar provided Pollwatch with the opportunity to strategize about the infrastructure of a nation-wide monitoring and training effort. Much of the seminar focused on the implementation of PNET, and the international trainers discussed information management, staff development, organizational structure and communications, and financial sustainability.

The Master Trainer Seminar also enabled Pollwatch to discuss the new constitution and reflect on the challenges and opportunities the reforms represent. Throughout the seminar, participants reiterated the need for Pollwatch initiatives to respond to the urgency of the political reform process and to reflect the changes outlined in the new constitution and electoral law. Pollwatch must adapt new approaches to voter education, training, and monitoring. Participants discussed how new voter education materials are necessary to help the public understand its new role in governance and policymaking and to encourage popular participation at the local level. In addition, Pollwatch training should reflect the spirit of the new constitution by focusing on participatory methods to engender public involvement, and the seminar emphasized the importance of utilizing a creative and participatory approach to training. Finally, monitoring efforts will have to adjust to the new electoral system and voting processes, and monitors will have to develop relationships with the new ECT.

In sum, the Pollwatch Master Trainer Seminar helped Pollwatch define its monitoring goals and objectives, discuss the challenges and opportunities presented by the changes in Thai politics over the past two years, and strategize about the implementation of a nation-wide monitoring and training effort. Participants also learned about training techniques and successful models of monitoring and training programs elsewhere. Most importantly, the seminar provided the first opportunity for trainers and coordinators from all over Thailand to

come together with Pollwatch headquarters staff and share ideas, concerns, and hopes.

II. Conference Goals and Methodology

Pollwatch and NDI met many times before the conference to discuss the conference objectives. They determined five main objectives for the conference: (1) to define Pollwatch's monitoring goals, look at specific methods of monitoring, and learn about monitoring experiences elsewhere; (2) to discuss past challenges at the national and local levels in administering monitoring and training programs; (3) to design the administration of the monitoring training program and enable trainers to activate the PNET; (4) learn alternative training approaches and techniques; and (5) to develop an outline for a training manual on election monitoring based on the themes of the conference.

To achieve these objectives, the seminar methodology included presentations and general discussions about monitoring, administration, the new constitution, and training as well as working group sessions that focused on specific tasks and regional planning. In addition, throughout the seminar the international facilitators shared lessons learned and best practices from other countries. After each topical presentation, the floor was open for questions and discussion, and the international trainers and Pollwatch Executive Director, Somchai Srisutthiyakorn, moderated discussion. The working group sessions involved brainstorming, planning exercises, and written evaluations. In each working group session a rapporteur and presenter were selected, and after the session, the presenter would summarize the findings and conclusions of the working group in the plenary session. Throughout the program, NDI and Pollwatch encouraged as much open discussion and exchange as possible and demonstrated flexibility with regard to changes in the agenda and objectives of the conference.

The conference opened with introductory remarks by General Saiyud Kerdpol, one of the founders of Pollwatch. Then, Somchai Srisutthiyakorn introduced the concept of the PNET, followed by questions and discussion. Glenn Cowan briefly reviewed the objectives of the conference and responded to questions about the seminar.

The next three sessions focused on defining a monitoring program for Thailand. The first session included a presentation by Glenn Cowan on the task of determining monitoring goals and objectives and a presentation by Nond Gorkeaw-thongdee from the ECT on the new constitution and election procedures. Following these presentations, the participants divided into three randomly mixed groups to discuss the election-related problems facing Thailand and the goals and objectives of a monitoring program. In addition, the groups identified challenges and opportunities presented by the new constitution and election procedures.

After each group summarized their findings to all participants, the same working groups met again to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis of a Pollwatch monitoring effort. The SWOT analyses formed the basis of discussion when

developing a work plan and helped participants organize a program that addressed and found solutions to the weaknesses and threats. Telibert Laoc concluded the day's activities by presenting an overview of NAMFREL's monitoring experience.

The second day of the seminar focused on the creation of a work plan for PNET. Glenn Cowan, Telibert Laoc, and Somchai Srisutthiyakorn each spoke about the development of a work plan and laid out the task for the next working group session. Participants divided into five working groups based on region (North, Central, South, upper Northeast, lower Northeast) to identify criteria for organizations to join PNET, list specific organizations that will be encouraged to join the network, discuss the benefits the network would offer organizations and individuals, determine how training will be organized, and discuss the development of an internal and external communication system. In addition, the groups identified specific considerations and concerns unique to their region. After the working groups presented their regional action plans to the entire group, Glenn Cowan discussed the administration of a monitoring program and the recruitment of volunteers, and Telibert Laoc presented the administrative structure of NAMFREL and described techniques that may be replicated in Thailand.

The trainers and a couple of the participants then shared training techniques and discussed participatory training. The evening session was intended to cover the development of a manual outline. However, participants felt they were not ready yet to develop a manual outline but rather needed further clarification about their role as trainers and about the structure of the PNET. The day ended with a very frank and productive discussion about expectations of the seminar and concerns about next steps.

On the third day, participants decided to break out again into regional working groups to develop further their work plan and discuss how to implement a training program. After meeting for two hours, the regional groups presented careful analyses of how they planned to implement PNET and conduct training in their regions. The seminar closed with a review of the challenges facing the PNET and final words of advice from the international facilitators. A press conference followed the closing of the seminar.

III. Opening Remarks and the People's Network (PNET)

General Saiyud opened the conference with a presentation about democracy in Thailand. He discussed how Thailand's democracy was not responsive enough and how there were difficulties facing the political system. However, General Saiyud said that the new constitution presented a tremendous opportunity for the growth of civil society and Thailand's democracy. He added that it is the public's responsibility to create mechanisms that enable people to have access to political procedures. General Saiyud concluded by praising PNET and briefly discussing the work ahead to establish the network.

Somchai Srisutthiyakorn described the establishment of the Pollwatch Committee. Pollwatch monitored elections in 1992, 1995, and 1996 as a pseudo-independent body that received its funding from the government. Pollwatch was a temporary entity that would function for 45 days around each election. For each election, Pollwatch would re-form and have to recruit and train new volunteers. Pollwatch Committee then decided to create a fully independent and permanent election monitoring organization called Pollwatch Foundation (also known as the Open Forum for Democracy).

The next step in Pollwatch's evolution is the decision to establish PNET, a network of organizations under Pollwatch Foundation. The two main activities of the PNET will be to monitor elections and to conduct voter education initiatives. However, Somchai added that while many organizations are involved in voter education, monitoring will be the exclusive niche of Pollwatch/PNET. PNET will be divided into nine regions: upper North, lower North, lower Northeast, upper Northeast, East, West, Central, upper South, and lower South. The regional networks will then divide into provincial level networks. Network Coordinators (NCs) will be responsible for each regional network, and Central Coordinators (COs) will represent the various regions in Bangkok. Somchai described six steps for the establishment of PNET: (1) select NCs and COs to coordinate PNET activities; (2) hold master trainer seminars; (3) organize regional meetings for the network; (4) organize a seminar for provincial coordinators on provincial recruiting; (5) train volunteers at the provincial level; and (6) train volunteers at the local level.

IV. New Constitution and Election Procedures

Nond Gorkeaw-thongdee from the ECT gave a brief presentation on the new constitution, electoral laws, and the ECT and discussed how these changes may affect Pollwatch's monitoring and voter education initiatives. Nond stressed the importance of greater public understanding of citizens' new roles and responsibilities under the new constitution, and he added that one of the ECT's main goals is to promote popular participation. In addition, the ECT wants to ensure that people understand the party list system, new election counting procedures, and the election of senators. He said that people have very high expectations of the ECT and are relying on the ECT to make the political reforms real.

However, the ECT has a lot of work ahead. It must mobilize resources, encourage NGO participation, and adhere to the principles and rights outlined in the new constitution. Currently the election procedures and regulations are only completed at the regional level and not at the provincial level, and the ECT lacks the financial support it needs. Moreover, many ECT employees lack experience and are still waiting for training and instruction. In addition, the ECT is not the only body involved in authorizing legal procedures for the elections. The Constitutional Judicial Committee must determine certain laws regarding procedures for absentee balloting and punishment of non-voters, and the ECT must coordinate closely with the Committee.

Nond also discussed the role of NGOs. He said that NGOs need to monitor the campaign period, the ECT, elections, and the post-election period. For NGOs to be approved for monitoring, they must have a committee, central body, and financial accounting mechanisms. He stressed that many parties and "illegitimate" NGOs are trying to set themselves up as monitoring groups, and the ECT needs to verify that these groups are credible and impartial.

Nond's presentation was followed by a broad discussion of the new constitution, and participants asked him questions about the ECT and the role of monitors.

V. Defining a Monitoring Program

Following the discussion on the new constitution and election procedures, the seminar participants divided into three randomly mixed working groups to: explore the election-related problems facing Thailand and Thailand's monitoring needs; determine the kind of monitoring that must take place and PNET's monitoring goals; discuss the opportunities and challenges the new constitution and election system present to a monitoring effort; and formulate PNET's monitoring objectives. Each working group selected a rapporteur to take notes and a presenter to summarize the working group results and findings in the plenary session. Sarah Malm, Glenn Cowan, and Telibert Laoc facilitated these working group sessions, and each group had a list of questions to help direct the session.

Team One identified vote buying as the main problem facing Thailand's elections. The laws are not enforced, and political parties are not punished for buying votes. Moreover, officials exploit the rules and are paid to not challenge the violations. In order to address the problem of vote buying, the team determined that there needed to be monitoring and voter education programs. In particular, the team decided that all initiatives should focus on changing behavior, as vote buying is so embedded in the political culture of Thailand. The monitoring must begin early in the election process, and groups should monitor campaigning and candidates' assets. The team also felt that the count needed to be monitored because of manipulation in the past.

The team decided that NGOs are responsible for increasing awareness of the problem and that PNET needs to focus on public relations prior to the elections to let the public know about PNET and the network's goals. Politicians should not be allowed to send representatives to monitor, and PNET must be careful about accepting volunteers.

Team Two identified vote buying and cheating, in a broader sense, as the main barriers to fair elections. The team felt that cheating becomes more prevalent when the constituency is smaller because it is easier for corrupt politicians to enforce vote buying. They can force people to sign contracts and punish constituencies that do not vote "correctly." The team also said that the registration of voters is very easy to manipulate and must be monitored closely. Already, the team claimed, people have been "switching provinces." The team said that the PNET goals

should include monitoring and investigating misconduct, promoting educational campaigns, and setting an "efficient agenda."

The team also expressed concern about the new mechanisms and systems for voting outlined in the new election laws. Many people are not ready to vote and do not understand the new procedures. Further, the team stated that the ECT does not fully understand how to implement the new election system. The team is worried that the ECT is inefficient and will not be able to carry out its duties.

Team Three also identified vote buying as the main problem and believed that politicians, the state, and the people are all responsible. To solve the problem, there must be a monitoring entity to serve as a mechanism to build transparency by reporting violations. PNET should oversee the entire election process and monitor voters, politicians, and candidates. The team feels that the new constitution is a good opportunity for people to become involved in political reform, and people must be encouraged to participate in voter education and monitoring efforts. The team added that the PNET should continue to monitor events after the election.

In sum, all the teams identified vote buying as the main concern facing Thailand's election process. The teams agreed that there must be a broad monitoring effort, and PNET should monitor the campaign period, finances, the polling, the count, and, as one group mentioned, the post-election period. Teams also brought up investigation of abuses and voter education as other PNET objectives.

VI. SWOT Analysis

The three working groups met again to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) of a PNET monitoring program. The results of the SWOT brainstorming exercise formed the basis of discussion when developing a PNET work plan. In addition, the analysis helped participants identify solutions to the weaknesses and threats. All working groups felt that the SWOT analysis was also a good training technique for encouraging brainstorming and participation.

Team One identified strengths to a PNET monitoring program as volunteer spirit, good connections and cooperation among various organizations, and the strong NGO community. The weaknesses are the lack of willing volunteers, an efficient selection process, continuity in Pollwatch activities, and sufficient financial support. Opportunities for PNET include the expansion of the network, support from other local and international organizations, and the media's involvement in exposing corruption. The team identified intervention by political parties, the unclear role of the ECT, and lack of government support as threats facing PNET.

The team also identified solutions to the weaknesses and threats. To address PNET's weaknesses, the team said that PNET needs to select new recruits, utilize diverse training

techniques, strengthen the PNET campaign, and use financial support efficiently. The team determined that greater clarity about the role of PNET and designing effective volunteer selection criteria would help address the threats.

Team Two said that PNET's biggest strength is that it understands its weaknesses well. These weaknesses include a lack of technical knowledge about monitoring and training, Thais' lack of understanding of their own history, a top-down communication process, a small budget, and the absence of PNET handbooks or guidelines. The team said that the new constitution is an opportunity for PNET because it encourages popular participation in the political process but that everyone must study the constitution thoroughly. The team also stated that the economic crisis is an opportunity to motivate people to demand change and reform. The main threat is a "mafia culture" in Thailand.

According to Team Three, the strengths of PNET are its nation-wide network, positive relationship with the ECT, and close association with grassroots groups. The team identified many of the same weaknesses described by the other teams: Pollwatch's lack of continuity, Thais' lack of knowledge about their roles and responsibilities, Pollwatch's elitism and connection with upper classes, lack of management skills and accounting skills, and PNET's susceptibility to party intervention. Opportunities for PNET are the mass media, recent public attention to reform, and the "information age," allowing people to communicate quickly. Threats facing PNET are the lack of cooperation among groups, interference from officials, and the challenge of helping people understand the election process. To address weaknesses, PNET must obtain financial support, effectively tap into existing skills, and learn administration skills. To address threats, PNET must understand better its role and mission and try to influence legal provisions related to the elections.

In sum, all the teams felt that PNET's main strength is its access to a wide range of NGOs and grassroots organizations. Everyone also expressed concern about PNET's lack of organizational direction, finances, and technical skills as well as about the low level of understanding among Thais of political reform and their new constitutional rights. The new constitution and new media culture represent opportunities to the groups. In particular, the media is serving as a watchdog by reporting corruption scandals. Interestingly, the groups all felt threatened by the possible penetration of "unreliable" groups into PNET, suggesting their belief in the vulnerability of every group to corruption in Thailand. Determining a clear role and setting standards for PNET were the most commonly identified solutions to the weaknesses and threats.

VII. NAMFREL: Example of a Successful Monitoring Program

Telibert Laoc opened Friday's evening session with a powerful and moving demonstration. All the lights in the room went out for a few minutes, and people giggled and expressed confusion. Then someone lit a candle. Laoc said, "It is better to light a candle than to

curse the darkness,” meaning that it is easy to focus on all the problems facing a group, but it is more important to focus on solutions.

It is critical that every group create an organizational vision, and Telibert Laoc described NAMFREL’s vision. NAMFREL’s vision is to involve an informed citizenry in the democratic process, help mature parties, and encourage the passage of electoral laws. Based on NAMFREL’s vision, its mission is to help ensure that the will of the voter is respected, the results are accepted, good people choose to run for office, and honesty and integrity prevail in the government.

Laoc then described the election context of the Philippines. The Philippines has a presidential system, seven political parties, 60 million people, and 174,000 polling stations. Under the law, the election commission (COMELEC) must allow accredited field watchers in every precinct to witness the voting and counting. Moreover, observers are entitled to a copy of the official election results.

The main electoral challenges in the Philippines are the difficulty ensuring a valid ballot, a long and tedious counting process, unclear party lines/positions, and parties’ lack of interest in observing one another. To respond to these challenges, NAMFREL has two volunteers per precinct and Operation Quick Count. Laoc then explained Quick Count and the importance of a parallel vote tabulation to enable groups to challenge the government, if necessary, with their own statistically significant election results.

Laoc discussed the contributions of the various sectors in the monitoring and voter education processes and explained that frequently NGOs overlook the value of certain sectors. For example, the business sector can help with the logistics of election monitoring and can be contracted to transport ballots. He also explained that sectors differ in their contributions. Religious groups can provide access to networks and volunteers. Students and youth can provide personpower. Businesspeople can provide funds. Laoc advised the group to tap into all sectors when organizing PNET.

Monitoring organizations also need to consider all phases of the election process. Laoc discussed the four phases and the main criteria for judging each phase. The registration process should be “effective.” The campaign period should ensure that candidates have equal and fair access to media and that voters have access to accurate and balanced information, such as candidate voting records in Congress. The voting phase should allow voters to “express their will.” The counting phase should ensure that the “voter’s will is expressed through the ballot.” In order for groups to observe and make judgements on the four phases, they need information, accreditation, structure, media coverage, competency to make judgments, predesigned evaluation instruments, an understanding of the law and implementing procedures, and a credible election commission.

Telibert Laoc concluded by advising Pollwatch/PNET to find a niche. The participants

have expressed their desire to tackle many different issues, but they will be more effective if they focus on one task. He added that Pollwatch must strengthen its vision and identify and nurture its support base. Moreover, Pollwatch must detail its plan for logistics, financing, recruitment, and organizing. Laoc reminded participants that he is incredibly inspired by their abilities and spirit and that they “should not give up the struggle.”

VIII. Creating a Regional Work Plan for PNET

Glenn Cowan started the second day with a discussion on monitoring. He pointed out that monitors need to serve as detectives and can never accept anything at “face value.” Moreover, the monitor must be respected. Everyone in the polling station needs to be aware that the monitor understands the rules, is well-trained, and is impartial, otherwise the monitor will be ineffective. Cowan also pointed out that the timing of training is critical, particularly when the election day is not determined. For example, Pollwatch might train monitors now under the assumption that elections will be early 1999. However, if the elections actually take place in August, the monitors may have forgotten their training. Cowan stressed the importance of continual communication with and training of observers. Cowan concluded by saying that PNET needs to think about these issues when determining a work plan.

Cowan then discussed the organization of PNET. He emphasized that PNET must start from scratch. PNET coordinators and trainers need to identify and recruit volunteers, conduct training, hold organizational meetings, publicize activities, manage a communication system, manage a budget, etc. In particular, Cowan talked about the importance of creating an “organizational idea” that is understood by everyone and is not threatening. PNET also must develop a communication system and determine to which organization volunteers report – her or his member organization, PNET, or Pollwatch headquarters in Bangkok. Cowan asked that in the working groups participants determine criteria for joining PNET, create a draft list of specific organizations in their region with which PNET can work, discuss the benefits of joining PNET, develop a timeline for training, and figure out a communication plan for PNET.

Telibert Laoc discussed the importance of planning. PNET must determine the “who, what, how, when, and how” of the organization. PNET must decide “who” can join PNET. PNET needs to determine the contents, the “what,” of the agenda of the first meeting. PNET should discuss “how” people are going to become monitors, what the training methodology will be, etc. A timeframe, the “when,” must also be developed. Finally, PNET has to determine “how” it will manage people, money, and materials. Laoc also discussed the importance of avoiding elitism, and he asked that the working groups discuss the option of having people join the PNET on an individual basis instead of only through an organization.

After breaking into regional working groups, the teams presented their conclusions.

The Central region team first discussed criteria for joining PNET. The team stressed the

importance of commitment, or "heart and mind." In addition, members of PNET should be able to tap into resources, both human and financial. The Central team also determined topics for the regional meetings -- the new constitution, monitoring, recruiting, and training. In addition, the first regional meeting will include a SWOT analysis. The team developed a timeline as well. In November and December there will be meetings of the NCs. In January, PNET will sponsor monitoring training sessions at the regional level. In February, PNET will hold provincial-level organizing meetings. Finally, in March and April, provincial and district level training will take place.

The team from the North first discussed the types of organizations that will join PNET. Women's groups, development groups, lawyers associations, Mekhong Sub-Region Group, student organizations, media groups, public health networks, and teachers' organizations will all be encouraged to join. In the regional PNET meeting, topics for discussion will include: Thai legal provisions, training techniques, democratic development, political development, and pollwatching. The regional PNET meeting will take place in November. In December, the master trainers and NCs will conduct training. From January through March, trainings and meetings will take place at the constituency-level.

The Southern team described the criteria for joining PNET in the South. First, the organization must be impartial. Second, the organization must prove continuity of activities, or its long term commitment as an organization, and demonstrate a sound management system. Third, the organization must adhere to a democratic decision-making process. The Southern team also thought it would be appropriate for individuals who are not affiliated with an organization to join PNET. Village headpersons, teachers associations, student unions, associations of housewives, cultural associations, religious groups, women's groups, lawyers associations, fisherpersons associations, rubber plantation associations, and environmental groups, among others, will be encouraged to join PNET. The Southern PNET NCs will approach organizations by visiting organizations and publicizing PNET through various media sources. The Southern team also outlined the benefits of joining PNET -- national interest, training, access to other organizations, recognition, and better future members of parliament. The first regional meeting will be at the end of November, and the agenda will cover the new constitution, the development of a manual, local context, and recruitment.

The lower Northeast team broke down potential member organizations by province and came up with 93 different organizations. On November 8, the lower Northeast will have a conference with representatives from 10 provinces to discuss the organization of PNET and a monitoring plan.

The upper Northeast team came up with a list of 10 organizations and 11 "People Assemblies" at the regional level and 20 organizations at the provincial level. The regional meeting will address the organization of PNET, an action plan, and a communication system.

The international trainers responded by saying that the regional plans were extremely

ambitious and thorough. The trainers stressed again the importance of developing a work plan that responds to local needs and strengths. Glenn Cowan discussed the importance of preparing for the first meeting and making a good first impression. PNET NCs should show up to this meeting with materials, information, and a clear agenda. Telibert Laoc added that PNET must launch an extensive PR campaign, and PNET should use the media to send messages to the community. For example, NAMFREL puts ads in the local newspapers describing NAMFREL and asking people to volunteer. Sarah Malm added that when launching a PR campaign at the local level, the use of "local heroes" -- a local singer, athlete, writer, or religious leader -- can be very effective.

Laoc also described NAMFREL's recruitment strategy and stressed that NAMFREL volunteers were never paid. This fact amazed the Thai participants, and several participants asked Laoc about NAMFREL volunteers. Somchai concluded the session by asking the regions to submit master plans by November 7.

IX. Training Techniques

During the session on training, both participants and the international trainers made presentations. The session stressed the utilization of creative training techniques and the importance of encouraging participation.

Sasithorn Wongsason, from the Asia Foundation, started the session with a brief presentation about the training conducted by the Women's Network for Democracy. Women's Network for Democracy is a network of 36 organizations that promote gender equality, political reform, and women's participation in politics. The Women's Network educates people about the new constitution and has conducted training about legal rights.

The Women's Network utilizes a "participatory approach" in its seminars, and "facilitators," instead of "trainers," lead these seminars. The group believes that the word "facilitator" de-emphasizes the trainer's role as a leader or master. In Thailand, people have a deferential respect for teachers as experts and believe their opinions cannot be challenged. The facilitator focuses the seminar on the contributions of the participants and recognize the participants as the "experts."

In these seminars, the participants do most of the talking. Working groups, role playing, and brainstorming are main facets of Women's Network's seminars. One specific exercise involves having participants write on a card a situation in which their rights have been violated. Then the group discusses each card and the laws that apply. Another exercise, called the "magic ball," involves randomly throwing a ball into the group. The person who catches the ball must discuss a time in her life when politics and "daily life" have overlapped. The facilitators oversee these exercises and summarize the main ideas.

Nond Gorkeaw-thondee from the ECT also spoke briefly about training. He stressed that facilitators cannot monopolize the thinking process, and they must believe that participants have the knowledge in them. He added that change is not sustainable if it is ordered by a "superior" or through propaganda. Change needs to be analyzed and digested by the people, and this is a time-consuming process. Thus, organizations must invest in long-term, participant-driven training.

In his presentation, Glenn Cowan began by emphasizing the difference between changing behavior and giving knowledge. It is critical to give people information before the digestion and discussion process can begin. Cowan then discussed the critical ingredients of training program design. A trainer must know her audience, establish goals, determine objectives, design activities, develop a sequence, test the training, and revise the training. A trainer must know her subject so well that she does not need notes. In addition, a trainer should give a strong opening, have clear points, present a logical flow of ideas, and provide evidence. To ensure "active training," a trainer needs to limit the content, encourage group participation, and use real world examples. Telibert Laoc added that using paraphanelia in training, such as a real ballot box, to encourage simulation is effective.

Cowan also reviewed some training norms and challenges. A trainer must encourage honesty, respect confidentiality, foster risk-taking, involve everyone, provide feedback, and demand questions. Common challenges to training are monopolizing, tangents, private conversations, jokes, distractions, and nonparticipation.

X. Open Discussion

According to the agenda, Saturday evening was dedicated to developing a manual outline. However, at the beginning of this session it was clear that many participants were confused about several aspects of the conference and had questions about the conference objectives. Participants felt that they had not received enough information from Pollwatch prior to the conference. The facilitators and participants agreed to use the evening session to have an open discussion about the conference.

Several Master Trainers (MTs) said that their expectations about the conference were not met. These MTs thought that they would be trained as "master trainers" and would receive a certificate. They said that they still did not feel prepared to train and expressed anxiety about their abilities. It was evident that, despite NDI's understanding that all MTs had extensive training experience, many MTs had not conducted training before.

However, participants felt that the NCs received the training they needed to organize the PNET. One participant explained that the conference was not to train trainers but to train organizers. Both NCs and MTs are planners. The NCs will organize and plan PNET; the MTs will organize and administer training. However, the group concluded that the MTs need

exposure to more “training of trainers” skills in addition to organizational skills. Most participants agreed that the master trainers should undergo another training after the ECT determines regulations.

In addition, some participants were still confused about the role of PNET in relation to Pollwatch. Participants were not sure whether PNET or Pollwatch had executive decision-making power regarding budgets, training, etc. Many participants felt that the regional PNET should have autonomy. The regions all have varying expertise and needs, and the PNET should be developed from the regional-level rather than from Bangkok. Finally, participants expressed the strong desire to receive more information from Bangkok and be more involved in the decision-making processes.

This discussion was incredibly useful. This was the first time the PNET had actually met. The concept of PNET was completely new to most participants, and this conference was the first opportunity they had to ask questions, disagree, and raise concerns about the project. It helped NDI understand better the needs of this group. Moreover, Somchai and Pollwatch staff received their first feedback from the field.

When asked how the group wanted to spend the next morning, participants expressed the desire to break into regional working groups again. These working groups would develop the mission of a regional PNET, create a more specific regional workplan, discuss training needs, and design a timeline for future events.

XI. Finalized Regional Plans and Concluding Remarks

On the final day of the conference, participants spent the morning with their regional teams finalizing a workplan and timeline.

The Northern team determined that PNET will have two meetings with 40 participants each to establish the network and conduct training. Following the meetings, PNET coordinators will work at the regional and provincial level to recruit coordinators and trainers. At the local level, the Northern team will need 15,300 volunteers to monitor 75 constituencies .

The Southern team started by saying that they took a “broader view” in the working group. PNET must develop a clear vision, create continuous activities, establish faith among the public, and ensure quality human resources. The team stressed that PNET activities should be generated locally, and Bangkok should only provide technical assistance. With regard to master trainers, the team felt that recruitment would not be a problem, but a training course needed to be defined.

The Northeastern upper and lower teams met together. The group discussed a training plan for the regional and provincial levels. Master trainers will be trained through a series of

seminars at the regional level and then will go on to train trainers at the provincial level. The training methodology and factual information (the constitution, legal provisions, etc.) used in the seminars will be standardized at the regional level. However, the seminar curriculum and materials will be developed at the provincial level. The team added that the roles of NCs and MTs were very vague at this conference, and the team would like to develop concrete and clear roles.

The Central team emphasized that PNET will be a logistical support mechanism for training activities. The NCs will recruit trainers from network organizations. The training will focus on monitoring, and PNET needs to determine what kind of monitoring should take place. The team is worried about the effectiveness of the NCs and about funding. Moreover, before training and monitoring can begin, the guidelines and policies of the ECT must be finalized.

Telibert Laoc responded to the presentations by discussing the importance of objectives. He said "visibility, credibility, and organizational capability" were critical to PNET. Again, Laoc stressed the use of the media and the importance of a public relations campaign. As part of this campaign, PNET might want to develop a brochure that describes Thai legal provisions, the election environment, and the role of PNET. Laoc suggested coming up with a catchy slogan to encourage people to volunteer.

Glenn Cowan added that PNET must be "credible, consistent, and comprehensive." To ensure credibility, PNET representatives must be nonpartisan. PNET needs to be consistent in its quality of logistics, training, observing, and reporting. PNET must be comprehensive in its coverage by focusing on all regions, provinces, and districts and by conducting activities during all phases of the election process -- before, during, and after.

Sarah Malm made some closing remarks. She said that the conference was the product of continual work and discussion between Pollwatch and NDI. She added that the two groups had worked hard to create an agenda that served participants best. Although the seminar did not meet all the objectives set out in the beginning, it was nonetheless a constructive meeting. Representatives from all over Thailand came together for the first time to share ideas and draft a work plan for the implementation of PNET. Participants also had the opportunity to discuss training and monitoring in greater detail and determine Thailand's monitoring needs and PNET's training needs. Malm concluded by explaining that NDI is a resource for all PNET/Pollwatch representatives, and everyone is encouraged to contact NDI's office in Bangkok and Washington for advice, information, and/or materials. Moreover, NDI would stay in touch with all participants and is interested in learning more about the specific needs of each region.

Somchai officially closed the conference by announcing a press conference at 11:30. Several of the major Thai television stations were there. In the press conference, Somchai announced the establishment of PNET and described the purpose of the conference.

XII. Conclusion

The Pollwatch Master Trainer Seminar provided the necessary forum for Pollwatch/PNET representatives from across the country to launch an election program in Thailand. Participants had the opportunity to discuss Thailand's political context and analyze the election-related problems facing Thailand. In particular, the presentations on the new constitution and electoral commission were helpful, especially given that many of the participants were unfamiliar with this information. Understanding the context in which the elections will take place enabled participants to determine potential objectives of a monitoring program in Thailand and the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of a PNET program. Once the participants discussed a monitoring program for Thailand, they focused on work plans and training.

Although the conference laid the needed groundwork for future activities, it is clear that PNET, as Cowan said, "is starting from scratch." PNET still needs to develop a clear mission and strategy. Although participants were ambitious and enthusiastic, they lacked focus. As Laoc pointed out, it is important for PNET to define its niche. Participants identified a plethora of activities they want PNET to undertake, instead of prioritizing the most important initiatives. Everyone identified vote buying as the biggest problem facing Thailand's elections. PNET now needs to analyze the root of this problem and carefully strategize about the most effective role PNET can play in eradicating it. Once PNET has clearly defined its mission, it can develop its training, organizing, and recruiting accordingly.

Participants left the conference with a clear understanding of the next steps. All participants returned to their regions prepared to organize the regional PNET meetings. In the seminar, the regions had identified potential PNET member organizations, drafted timelines, and even discussed the content of the regional meetings. Developing a "clear mission" was on the agenda of many of the regional groups. By mid-November, all the regional coordinators submitted proposals for the first regional meetings to Pollwatch headquarters in Bangkok.

Since the seminar, NDI has been in close contact with the regional NCs and MTs. NDI Program Officers Laura Thornton and Bee Apirat visited the Southern region to follow up with PNET coordinators and trainers at the regional level and discussed preparations for the establishment of the Southern PNET. NDI learned about specific obstacles facing the PNET in the South and strengthened the Institute's relationship with the PNET at the local level. NDI has also attended several of the regional PNET meetings and has made its staff and resources directly available to the regional coordinators.

NDI has also continued to work closely with Pollwatch in Bangkok. NDI and Pollwatch have discussed the role of Bangkok in the development of the regional networks and have constructed a more decentralized approach to planning. NDI has also advised Pollwatch on

financial management and organization. In addition, NDI has encouraged the PNET Board of Directors to develop a mission statement clarifying its role and relationship with the regional PNETs. NDI will continue to foster its relationship with PNET in Bangkok and in the regions.

XIII. APPENDICES

**APPENDIX ONE:
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**APPENDIX TWO:
BIOGRAPHIES**

struggle for over 15 years during the administration of Mr. Marcos. They grew in number, won a few sympathizers here and there, but did not really achieve much. For us, it wasn't something that guaranteed change. Even if it succeeded, the more difficult task was reconstruction – infrastructure, societal, and even cultural. In other words, it was never an option that NAMFREL considered. Some of the volunteers may have, but they couldn't espouse armed struggle while with NAMFREL because NAMFREL was what armed struggle was not.

I do not know how fighting can contribute or promote democracy.

As I have said, monitoring will allow us to be present in the polling places where most of the cheating occurred. The Filipino psyche generally, or perhaps the Asian culture, shuns confrontation and while we were ready to confront the violators in the precinct, we were also aware of the approaches by which to handle the thugs or (purposely) erring teachers. We had a training on active non-violence, patterned after the acts of Ghandi and Jesus Christ, to call the protest on the violation and still see the violator as a person with dignity and such person did something that he or she was not totally aware of the consequence of the violation committed.

2. *We know that, more than ten years ago, NAMFREL was established in difficult situations. Can you tell me, how did NAMFREL people pass through these difficulties? How did you start working? How did you get many volunteers? How did you convince them to involve (themselves)? How did you organize them? How did you maintain them?*

TL: The major hurdle for NAMFREL was to establish its credibility. We had to prove to the people that we were really non-partisan and worked only for the interest of ensuring a clean and honest elections. Credibility was always the issue thrown at us by those who did not want NAMFREL. They were out to discredit us, so this was their way of telling us how we should strengthen the organization and the volunteer base. They cannot attack us on the basis of irrelevance of the mission of NAMFREL because there was just no way for them to hit us on this front. The mission of NAMFREL to protect and preserve the electoral process, which is the backbone of democracy, was real. People responded to it, including those who were not NAMFREL volunteers. So we set out to establish our credibility. We studied the election laws, we looked at the election environment and proposed changes in the election law to ensure free and fair elections. In other words, we were able to project to the public that we knew what we were doing.

Biographies

Glenn Cowan, Trainer

Glenn Cowan is a Senior Advisor to the National Democratic Institute. Since 1984, Mr. Cowan has participated in NDI programs around the world to assist election monitoring organizations and political party activists. He has served as an elected local official in New Jersey, the US "Garden State," and has directed a leading Washington-based political consulting firm. Mr. Cowan directs NDI's programs in Cambodia and is involved with the Institute's work throughout Asia.

Telibert Laoc, Trainer

Telibert Laoc is the Executive Director of the National Citizen's Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL) based in the Republic of the Philippines. Mr. Laoc has monitored elections worldwide since 1994 and has trained extensively throughout Asia. His work with monitoring organizations include pollwatching, organizing municipal and provincial chapters, and training on the conduct of Operation Quick Count.

Somchai Srisutthiyakorn, Director of Pollwatch and Trainer

Professor Somchai Srisutthiyakorn serves as the Executive Director of the Pollwatch Foundation. He is also the Director of the Institute for Continuing Education and Social Services at Thammasat University, Bangkok Thailand.

Sarah Malm, NDI Staff Member and Trainer

Sarah Malm is a Senior Program Officer at the National Democratic Institute's office in Bangkok. Ms. Malm has served as the Institute's primary representative in Southeast Asia since 1997. She participated in NDI's pre-election assessment missions and election observation program in Cambodia and previously served as NDI's representative in Phnom Penh in 1994. She has also worked for the Institute in Zambia and South Africa.

Laura Thornton, NDI Staff Member and Trainer

Laura Thornton is a Program Officer at the National Democratic Institute in Washington and manages the NDI Thailand and Asian Monitoring Network programs. Ms. Thornton participated in NDI's election observation program in Cambodia. Prior to joining NDI, Ms. Thornton was completing her master's degree at the Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. Ms. Thornton has lived and worked for NGOs in Thailand, Cambodia, and New York.

Bee Apirat, NDI Staff Member and Trainer

Bee Apirat is a Program Assistant for the National Democratic Institute's Office in Bangkok. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Southeast Asian Studies from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Before joining NDI's office in Thailand, Ms. Apirat worked on the Institute's Asia programs in the Washington office.

AGENDA
POLLWATCH MASTER TRAINER SEMINAR
30 OCTOBER-1 NOVEMBER 1998
PATTAYA, THAILAND

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 1998

08:00hrs Meet at Baan Manangkasila

08:30hrs Depart by bus

11:00hrs - 12:00hrs Check-in & Registration at the Central Wong Amat Hotel

12:00hrs - 13:00hrs Lunch in Bamboo Room at hotel

13:00hrs - 13:30hrs Main conference room, next to Sawatdee hotel restaurant

Opening Remarks

13:30hrs - 14:30hrs ***SESSION I (Pollwatch)***

I. What is the People's Network (PNET)

II. The Goals and Objectives of the Training Program:

- 1) to define Pollwatch's monitoring goals, look at specific methods of monitoring, and learn about monitoring experiences elsewhere;
- 2) to discuss past challenges at the national and local levels in administering monitoring and training programs;
- 3) to design the administration of the monitoring training program and enable trainers to activate the PNET;
- 4) to learn alternative training approaches and techniques; and
- 5) to develop an outline for a training manual on election monitoring based on the themes of the conference.

14:30hrs - 16:00 hrs ***SESSION II : Why Monitor?: Defining a Monitoring Program***

- I. **14:30hrs - 15:00 hrs** Presentation by Glenn Cowan
- II. **15:00hrs - 15:30hrs** Presentation on how the new Constitution may affect a monitoring program.
- III. **15:30hrs - 16:30hrs** Working Group Session: participants will break into three

groups and go with their facilitator to their assigned room.

This working group session will lay the foundation for subsequent working group sessions and will help focus the plenary sessions. Each group will discuss the most critical election-related problems facing Thailand (e.g. vote buying). From this discussion, the groups will determine specific goals and objectives of the Pollwatch monitoring program. In addition, the groups will explore what opportunities and challenges the new constitution and the new election system present (two ballots, mandatory participation). Each group will prepare a 10 minute presentation on their findings.

IV 16:30hrs - 17:00hrs Coffee Break in the Bamboo Room

V 17:00hrs - 17:30hrs Group Presentations: Each Group will present a 10 minute summary of their findings and outline specific objectives (expectations) of the Pollwatch program.

17:30hrs - 19:00hrs *SESSION III: Brainstorming/Working Group Discussion on Previous, Current, and Anticipated Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT Analysis)*

Participants will break into three groups and go with their facilitator to their assigned room. Participants will brainstorm about past and anticipated obstacles and challenges in administering a monitoring and training program. The groups will share alternative training styles and techniques that are most appropriate for Thailand and specific localities. The brainstorming session can occur within the framework of a SWOT analysis. That is, group members will be asked to identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats they have perceived in organizing and conducting previous domestic monitoring programs. The discussion will then be directed towards incorporating the techniques and ideas presented by the trainers.

- 1. SWOT Analysis:** Use SWOT hand-outs.
Group 1: SWOT analysis of national administrative and networking issues in the past and future. In particular, think about challenges facing the PNET.
Group 2: SWOT analysis of preparing and conducting training sessions.
Group 3: SWOT analysis of monitoring efforts, past and future.
- 2. Solutions Exercise:** Each group will match identified strengths to identified opportunities from the SWOT exercise. Then the groups will consider the techniques and ideas presented by the trainers to find solutions to threats and weaknesses identified.

19:00hrs - 20:00hrs Group Dinner outside by beach

20:00hrs - 22:00hrs *SESSION IV: Examples of successful monitoring programs*

**APPENDIX THREE:
AGENDA**

The international trainers will present comparative examples of national and local monitoring programs based on their own experiences. This presentation intends to stimulate discussion on innovative techniques that can be applied to Thailand.

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER 1998

Breakfast: A buffet breakfast is served in the Sawatdee hotel restaurant. Please bring coupon.

08:30hrs - 10:00hrs SESSION V: Creating a Work Plan for the Pollwatch Election Monitoring Program

The international trainers will introduce the framework for the monitoring and training program based on the working group summaries and SWOT analysis. The trainers will outline a preliminary plan for a training program including such issues as training and volunteer recruitment schedules, working with other NGOs to activate training networks and coordinate activities, and scheduling for a Parliamentary system. In addition, the trainers will discuss short-term and long-term planning.

10:00hrs - 10:30hrs Break in Bamboo Room

10:30hrs - 12:00hrs SESSION VI: Regional Working Groups

Participants will break into five groups based on region and go with their facilitator to their assigned room. Participants will review the national work plan, critique the national work plan based on regional concerns/context, identify areas where work plan must be changed and/or adjusted, and develop a regional workplan

12:00hrs - 13:30hrs Lunch in Bamboo Room

13:30hrs - 15:30hrs SESSION VII: Administration of a National Training Program

The international trainers will focus on the administrative challenges of establishing and maintaining a training program at the national, regional, and local levels. In particular, the trainers will discuss the organizational structure and management of the training network. Other topics will include the recruitment of trainers, public outreach, financial management, and the development and long-term sustainability of a volunteer network.

15:30hrs - 16:00hrs Break in Bamboo Room

16:00hrs - 18:00hrs SESSION VIII: Training Methodology

- I. The international trainers will discuss methods of training trainers, including effective techniques to convey technical information and activities to promote a participatory training environment. The trainers will draw from their personal experiences when discussing training styles and presentation content. Specific attention will be paid to the role and use of manuals and other teaching tools.
- II. Each international trainer will present successful models of national and local training programs based on their own experiences. The presentation will focus on the use of specific voter education and election monitoring materials. This presentation intends to stimulate discussion on innovative techniques that will assist in developing a specific training methodology for Pollwatch. A representative from the Asia Foundation will discuss training methodology based on the Foundation's participation in recent training seminars across the country.

18:00hrs - 19:30hrs Dinner outside by the beach

19:30hrs - 21:30hrs *SESSION IX: Working Group: Manual Outline Exercise*

- I. The international trainers will discuss the development and contents of successful training manuals. The trainers will share examples of manuals from other countries.
- II. **Working Group:** Participants will break into three groups and go with their facilitator to their assigned room. Each group will brainstorm about potential manual chapter headings/table of contents for the Pollwatch manual (Background, election laws and procedures, code of conduct, methodology, training, reporting, media relations, preelection period, election day activities, post-election activities, etc.) The group will also discuss manual outlines from other countries as presented by the international facilitators. The facilitator will write everything down on a flip chart. Finally, each working group will flush out the different sections and put them in order. The outcome of this session will be a draft outline of a training manual.

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER 1998

08:30hrs - 10:00hrs *SESSION X: Presentation and Open Discussion*

- I. Each working group will present a 15 minute summary of its discussions and conclusions and will share its outline for a training manual.
- II. The international trainers will lead a discussion about the production of a Pollwatch manual. From the draft outlines, the international facilitators will work with the entire group to combine the contents and ideas. This discussion will also

highlight the seminar's sessions and draw conclusions from the working group exercises and discussions. Panelists and participants will be encouraged to ask questions and continue the exchange of ideas.

10:00hrs - 10:30hrs Break in Bamboo Room

10:30hrs - 12:00hrs *SESSION XI: Summary Workshop*

Glenn Cowan and a Thai counterpart will lead the presentation for the final summary that will review the goals and objectives presented on the first day of the seminar. The trainers will examine to what extent the goals and objectives were met. This session will also summarize the major themes of the conference.

12:00hrs - 13:00 hrs *Concluding Remarks*

Each Trainer will speak, and final comments will be made by Pollwatch

13:00hrs - 14:00hrs Lunch in Bamboo Room

14:00hrs - 15:00hrs Check out

15:00hrs Depart Pattaya by bus

18:00hrs Estimated arrival in Bangkok

**APPENDIX FOUR:
WORKING GROUPS AND EXERCISES**

Working Groups

Working Groups Sessions 1, 2, & 4

Randomly mixed groups

- Facilitators:**
- Working group session 1:** Glenn Cowan and Sorat Makboon, Team 1
(Interpreter: Jongjit Arthayukti)
Sarah Malm and Suratsawadee Hoonpayon, Team 2
(Interpreter: Chanet Khumthong)
Telibert Laoc and Sakool Zuesongdham, Team 3
(Interpreter: Bee Apirat)
- Working group session 2:** Telibert Laoc and Suratsawadee Hoonpayon, Tm 1
(Interpreter: Bee Apirat)
Glenn Cowan and Sakool Zuesongdham, Tm 2
(Interpreter: Jongjit Arthayukti)
Sarah Malm and Sorat Makboon, Tm 3
(Interpreter: Chanet Khumthong)
- Working group session 3:** Sarah Malm and Sakool Zuesongdham, Tm 1
(Interpreter: Chanet Khumthong)
Telibert Laoc and Sorat Makboon, Tm 2
(Interpreter: Bee Apirat)
Glenn Cowan and Suratsawadee Hoonpayon, Tm 3
(Interpreter: Jongjit Arthayukti)

Team one: Conference room 1

**Gen Aphisak Saksinchai
Mr. Banjong Juntrasa
Mr. Choochai Rudeesooksakool
Mr. Noi Laikram
Mr. Sompan Thecha-athik
Dr. Chaiyawudh Montrirad
Ms. Vijit Chusakool
Mr. Apinan Kieowkik
Mr. Bumroong Wasantakorn
Ms. Sasithorn Wongsason (TAF)
Ms. Wipa Sookcholtarn**

Team two: Conference room 2

**Ms. Sukalaya Klomsiri
Mr. Jria Chaisiri
Mr. Prapoj Srited
Mr. Siriwat Paholthap
Ms. Suntaree Chengking
Mr. Nirantr Pithakwachara
Mr. Nirantr Kooltanan
Mr. Pairaj Vihakarat
Mr. Chanathip Boonyaket
Mr. Nond Gorkeaw-thongdee (ECT)
Ms. Nalinee Tungsirikool (TAF)**

Team three: Conference room 3

**Mr. Supat Manapaiboon
Mr. Bichai Nuannapasri
Ms. Nuchsurang Worapong
Mr. Decha Premrudeelert
Mr. Songsiri Suwansorn
Mr. Suphan Sakorn
Mr. Pramote Nangarm
Mr. Nikorn Boonyanukul
Mr. Danai Ananthiyo
Mr. Boonthien Kamchoo
Mr. Wanchai Litlikit (ECT)**

Working Group Session One

Activity: Identify Pollwatch's monitoring goals and objectives. The facilitator will lead a discussion based on the following questions:

- **What are the most critical election-related problems facing Thailand?**
- **Is there a need for monitoring in Thailand?**
- **Based on the problems, what kind of monitoring needs to take place? What should Pollwatch's monitoring goals be?**
- **What opportunities do the new constitution and the new election system present?**
- **What challenges do the new constitution and the new election system present?**
- **Where should monitoring take place? Are there priority regions/areas? When should monitoring take place?**
- **Summary: What should be the objectives of Pollwatch's monitoring program?**

Outcome/purpose: Each group will determine specific objectives (expectations) of the Pollwatch monitoring program based on Thailand's monitoring needs and Pollwatch's goals. The groups will also identify concerns and unresolved issues. Each group will present their findings to the group.

Working Group Session Two

Activity: Brainstorming session about past and anticipated obstacles and challenges in administering a monitoring training program. The groups will share alternative training styles and techniques that are most appropriate for Thailand and specific localities.

Exercises:

- 1. SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis. Use SWOT hand-outs.**
Group 1: SWOT analysis of national administrative and networking issues in the past and future. In particular, think about challenges facing the PNET.
Group 2: SWOT analysis of preparing and conducting training sessions.
Group 3: SWOT analysis of monitoring efforts, past and future.
- 2. Solutions Exercise:** Each group will match identified strengths to identified opportunities from the SWOT exercise. Then the groups will consider the techniques and ideas presented by the trainers to find solutions to threats and weaknesses identified. (Use flip chart to write down the 2 categories -- W & T -- and write "solutions" under each category.)

Outcome/purpose: Each group will have a completed SWOT analysis and a solutions sheet which it will present to the other groups. Each group will also summarize lessons learned and best practices from past activities. The summaries of the SWOT analysis will form the basis of discussion when developing a work plan for Pollwatch programs.

FRAMEWORK FOR SWOT ANALYSIS

Indicate in the appropriate box, aspects which you think are relevant

**STRENGTHS
(WITHIN)**

**WEAKNESSES
(WITHIN)**

**OPPORTUNITIES
(EXTERNAL)**

**THREATS
(EXTERNAL)**

Working Group Session 2

WEAKNESSES:

SOLUTIONS:

THREATS:

SOLUTIONS:

Working Group Session Three

Who: Five regional groups.

Group Central: Facilitator: Glenn Cowan

Gen. Aphisak Saksinchai
Ms. Sukalaya Klomsiri
Mr. Bumroong Wasandkorn
Mr. Banjong Juntrasa
Mr. Chin Chaisiri
Mr. Supat Manapaiboon
Mr. Choochai Rudeesooksakool
Ms. Nalinee Tungsirikool (TAF)

Group Isan, upper: Facilitator: Sarah Malm

Mr. Sompan Thechathik
Mr. Decha Premrudeelert
Mr. Songsiri Suwanasorn
Dr. Chaiyawudh Montrirad
Ms. Suntaree Chengking
Ms. Suratsawadee Hoonpayon
Ms. Sasithorn Wongsason (TAF)

Group Isan, lower: Facilitator: Somchai Srisuttiyakorn

Mr. Nirantr Pithakwachara
Mr. Suphan Sakorn
Ms. Vijit Chusakool
Mr. Nirantr Kooltan
Mr. Pramote Nangarm
Mr. Chanathip Boonyaket
Mr. Nond Gorkeaw-thongdee (ECT)

Group South: Facilitator: Laura Thornton

Mr. Sorat Makboon
Mr. Nikorn Boonyanukul
Mr. Pairaj Vihakarat
Mr. Danai Ananthiyo
Mr. Apinan Kieowkik
Mr. Boonthien Kamchoo
Ms. Nataya Tippawan (ECT)

Group North: Facilitator: Glenn Cowan

**Mr. Prapoj Srited
Mr. Noi Laikram
Mr. Bhichai Nuannapasri
Mr. Siriwat Paholthap
Ms. Nujsurang Worapong
Mr. Sakool Zuesongtham**

Activity: To make adjustments to work plan based on regional context.

Exercise: Develop a regional plan of action. Each group will:

- 1) review the national work plan**
- 2) critique the national work plan based on regional concerns/context**
- 3) identify areas where work plan must be changed and/or adjusted**
- 4) develop a regional workplan**

This exercise intends to incorporate local and regional considerations and concerns such as: education level, local economy, ethnic/cultural/language differences, etc.

Outcome: A regional plan of action. The exercise results will be shared with all participants, and each group will justify their amended plan.

5) **Justify amended plan**

Working Group Session Four

Activity: To develop a training manual outline. The international trainers will discuss the development and contents of successful training manuals.

Exercises: Each group will brainstorm about potential manual chapter headings/table of contents for the Pollwatch manual (Background, election laws and procedures, code of conduct, methodology, training, reporting, media relations, preelection period, election day activities, post-election activities, etc.) The group will also discuss manual outlines from other countries as presented by the international facilitators. The facilitator will write everything down on a flip chart. Finally, each working group will flush out the different sections and put them in order.

Outcome: A draft outline of a training manual. Each group will present its outline to other participants. These draft outlines will be combined/condensed into one in an effort to produce a Pollwatch draft manual outline.

TABLE OF CONTENTS/CHAPTER HEADINGS:

**APPENDIX FIVE:
OVERHEADS**

.....

PollWatch Master Trainer Seminar



Goals - Objectives - Tactics
30 October - 1 November 1998

26/10/98

.....

PollWatch Seminar Goals

- 1. Define Monitoring Objectives
- 2. Learn From Our Own Past and From International Experience
- 3. Design a National Monitoring Program
- 4. Learn Various Training Techniques
- 5. Outline a Training Manual

PollWatch Goals

- 1. Organization Development
- 2. Citizen Confidence
- 3. Voter Education
- 4. Government Action
- 5. International Opinion



PollWatch Objectives

- 1. Candidate Selection
- 2. Campaign
- 3. Media
- 4. Government Action
- 5. Election Day
- 6. Counting



PollWatch Challenges

- 1. PNET v PollWatch
- 2. Identify Goals
- 3. Short Term v Long Term Planning
- 4. Code of Conduct
- 5. Observer Tactics

PollWatch Tactics

- 1. Recruit Coalition Members
- 2. Develop Training Materials
- 3. Organize Cadres
- 4. Train Observers
- 5. Observe and Report



Active Training

- 1. Limit Content
- 2. Change Attitudes
- 3. Develop Skills
- 4. Teach Concepts
- 5. Group Participation
- 6. Learn From Experience
- 7. Real World Examples

Training Program Design

- 1. Know Audience
- 2. Establish Goals
- 3. Determine Objectives
- 4. Design Activities
- 5. Sequence
- 6. Test
- 7. Revise



Training Norms

- 1. Encourage Honesty
- 2. Respect Confidentiality
- 3. Foster Risk Taking
- 4. Involve Everyone
- 5. Provide Feedback
- 6. Demand Questions

Training Challenges

- 1. Monopolizing
- 2. Tangents
- 3. Private Conversations
- 4. Jokes
- 5. Disagreeing
- 6. Distractions
- 7. Nonparticipation



Goals & Objectives Working Group

- 1. Discuss and prioritize institutional goals
- 2. Determine objectives to implement goals
- 3. Itemize concerns
- 4. Unresolved issues



SWOT Analysis

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Opportunities
- Threats

26/10/98



Regional Working Groups

- 1. Outline National Work Plan
- 2. Critique National Work Plan
- 3. Adjust National Plan to Region
- 4. Justify Amended Plan



**APPENDIX SIX:
NAMFREL MATERIALS**

E-Mail Interview by Komite Independen Pemantau Pemilu (KIPP, Indonesia) with National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (NAMFREL, Philippines) Executive Director, Telibert Laoc, in December 1996*

1. *What were (NAMFREL's) goals when (it) was first established? Did you think (these) goals would contribute for better democracy in your country?*

Telibert Laoc (TL): When we organized NAMFREL in my province in Cebu (central Philippines) in 1986, the only thing in our minds was to report cheating in the elections and prevent it when we can. Our spiel or script when we approached people, especially the town priests, school heads and informal leaders, was that we must preserve and protect the elections or the electoral process. We did not care who would win as long as the process allowed the people or the voters to express their will truthfully and freely. We knew that the people in power would do everything they could to win in the elections and we knew how the will of the people was subverted by cheating by way of threatening and coercing of voters, vote buying, cheating during the voting, and rigging in the counting. We also knew who the perpetrators were – the politicians and their goons, the police, the government officials, the school teachers who served as administrators of the election at the precinct or polling place level. Some of the cheats included voters and supporters of the candidates.

NAMFREL realized that since the task involved preserving and protecting democracy, it was essential that the people, whether of voting age or not, must be involved and must be persuaded to do their share. Hence the slogan, "All it takes for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

If you say "yes" why the choice was to monitor the election? Why didn't you just (get) involved in arm struggle movement (for instance) – they also said they were fighting and contributing for democracy –?

TL: "The only way to peace is peace." or "Peace by peace." was among the slogans that we always referred to. Even if armed struggle would succeed, we will still have to answer the question of whether it is a justified way for achieving peace. The communist and other radical groups were already engaged in armed

* Komite Independen Pemantau Pemilu is an election monitoring organization in Indonesia. Telibert Laoc, the Executive Director of NAMFREL, has been involved in election monitoring, both domestic and international, since 1986.

struggle for over 15 years during the administration of Mr. Marcos. They grew in number, won a few sympathizers here and there, but did not really achieve much. For us, it wasn't something that guaranteed change. Even if it succeeded, the more difficult task was reconstruction – infrastructure, societal, and even cultural. In other words, it was never an option that NAMFREL considered. Some of the volunteers may have, but they couldn't espouse armed struggle while with NAMFREL because NAMFREL was what armed struggle was not.

I do not know how fighting can contribute or promote democracy.

As I have said, monitoring will allow us to be present in the polling places where most of the cheating occurred. The Filipino psyche generally, or perhaps the Asian culture, shuns confrontation and while we were ready to confront the violators in the precinct, we were also aware of the approaches by which to handle the thugs or (purposely) erring teachers. We had a training on active non-violence, patterned after the acts of Ghandi and Jesus Christ, to call the protest on the violation and still see the violator as a person with dignity and such person did something that he or she was not totally aware of the consequence of the violation committed.

2. We know that, more than ten years ago, NAMFREL was established in difficult situations. Can you tell me, how did NAMFREL people pass through these difficulties? How did you start working? How did you get many volunteers? How did you convince them to involve (themselves)? How did you organize them? How did you maintain them?

TL: The major hurdle for NAMFREL was to establish its credibility. We had to prove to the people that we were really non-partisan and worked only for the interest of ensuring a clean and honest elections. Credibility was always the issue thrown at us by those who did not want NAMFREL. They were out to discredit us, so this was their way of telling us how we should strengthen the organization and the volunteer base. They cannot attack us on the basis of irrelevance of the mission of NAMFREL because there was just no way for them to hit us on this front. The mission of NAMFREL to protect and preserve the electoral process, which is the backbone of democracy, was real. People responded to it, including those who were not NAMFREL volunteers. So we set out to establish our credibility. We studied the election laws, we looked at the election environment and proposed changes in the election law to ensure free and fair elections. In other words, we were able to project to the public that we knew what we were doing.

We got very influential and credible people into the organization. But, they too had to be convinced about what NAMFREL is all about. From the national officers down to the municipal chairman, we had to ensure that we got people of known integrity and were leaders, not in the political scene, but in a community where people would likely go to them if they had a problem, for example.

One of the catch phrases we used to convince people to join NAMFREL was, "*Kung hindi ngayon, kailan pa?*" ("If not now, then when?") This sent the message of urgency in getting involved with NAMFREL, especially in 1986, when there was no other alternative left because if the elections were marred with fraud and violence, then the armed struggle group would surely escalate and it would only be a matter of time when anarchy will rule the country.

We had to organize at the municipal level so that we can send volunteers in every precinct. In 1986 there were about 70,000 precincts all over the country. We sought the help of the Catholic Church because they were present in almost all municipalities in the country, they had the structure and the people listened to them. Most of all, the key leaders of the Church accepted the principles and mission of NAMFREL. We looked for informal leaders, school heads, retired professionals, and other persons of known probity. On the part of the organizers, we talked to organizations which were willing to help in organizing NAMFREL in the municipalities so that we had more people helping us. We appealed for financial contribution from businessmen and individuals. In fact, the Cebu provincial office of NAMFREL was in a church-owned property. We held office there for over three years without or with very minimal rent.

I became an organizer after 1986 and my duty was to maintain the chapters. We provided them constant information on the current affairs of NAMFREL and of the country where NAMFREL should be involved in. Immediately after the 1986 election, a constitutional commission was convened to draft a new charter. NAMFREL, having the network, had to be active and consult the public in what they consider was important and should be contained in the new charter. We held consultations all over Cebu province and people were impressed that NAMFREL contributed to this very important activity. Then there was the referendum on the Constitution. Then came the general registration of voters where NAMFREL was mobilized as if the registration was a real election. The following electoral exercise was the election of senators, congressmen, and other local provincial and

municipal officials. So the chapters had to be prepared and the organization intact for these electoral exercises.

3. *What was the most difficult challenge for NAMFREL to improve at that time?*

TL: Overcome the credibility accusations, and secure, organize and train volunteers. There was also the need for funding. As the elections became more localized, we also lost some of our volunteers. Some of the volunteers had relatives running in the local elections and some of them were forced to resign from NAMFREL in order to prevent any accusations on partisanship.

4. *How did you NAMFREL people keep flaming spirit so you could still believe that your efforts were not in vain? I know, sometime, some people would rather be pessimistic facing desperate circumstances made by authoritarian government. How did you solve these?*

TL: There was no question that the 500,000 volunteers of NAMFREL in 1986 saw the relevance of their involvement and on the value of a group such as NAMFREL which provided them the alternative to participate in politics, but not in a partisan way. Events later provided that the efforts of the volunteers were not in vain.

In the NAMFREL counting or parallel vote count, the people saw that NAMFREL did a good job in reporting the true results of the election. The public believed that Mr. Marcos lost in 1986 and immediately after the elections, people joined peaceful protest actions against the government of Mr. Marcos. Civil disobedience and boycott of the products of the cronies of Mr. Marcos' was in full swing. Then came the EDSA revolution. We believe that NAMFREL was one of the major catalysts of the People Power Revolution in EDSA.

Lastly, NAMFREL was organized to be inclusive as opposed to exclusive. The public and the volunteers knew that what they did was a contribution for the country and that everyone willing to do the same was welcome to join NAMFREL. There was no elite group or clique in NAMFREL, just like the "one person, one vote" principle, the volunteers knew that when they joined NAMFREL, their contribution counted as much as the other volunteers.

5. Some pro-democracy activists might think election monitoring is just a vain effort. They said, 'under authoritarian government, even "the election law" could not conduct fair election, because the law was made by the government. Don't you think that election monitoring results might even (legitimize) the old regime's power'. What is your opinion (on) this statement? Did you use to face similar situation?

TI: Election monitoring is a sound proposition because the purpose was not to overthrow or change the government. As I have stated earlier, it was to ensure that people are free to decide as to who they want to lead them. An authoritarian government ceases to be authoritarian if it has popular support that is expressed by the people through the ballot. If the government chooses to subvert the people's expression by rigging the balloting, then certainly preventing this rigging becomes a very worthy effort. Also, protecting the electoral process means a great and grave concern for the welfare of the country and the people.

As long as the monitors are credible, they know what they are doing, are ready to expose election fraud and report objectively as to be able also to praise a good election administration or conduct when they see one, then I do not see any reason why such effort will "rubber stamp" the existing regime.

This was an argument tossed to NAMFREL from those who decided to boycott the elections because they saw that no matter what NAMFREL does, it still cannot prevent the cheating the political machinerics were ready to conduct. But, again, if the people, in a free voting environment, will cast their vote in favor of the existing regime, then the people's will have to be respected.

6. *The facts that happened in your country were, people power's risen, Marcos's gone and democracy's increased. What do you think the most significant contribution given by election monitoring activities to those two facts?*

TL: First, it showed the people that they could make things happen if they want to. Since they have sworn to protect democracy in the country, then they have proven that they can do it. This is a realization borne out of people's involvement in critical-national affairs through election monitoring. Second, election monitoring showed the public that it is a sound alternative to partisan politics. This means that people, as I have said earlier, can participate in non-partisan politics, but still get to contribute as much as someone involved in campaigning for a candidate. Third, monitoring showed elected officials that the people can exercise not just their right to vote, while also ensuring that they vote in a free atmosphere and that their votes are properly counted. Fourth, election monitoring makes people more conscious of the performance of elected candidates – i.e. they want to find out how elected officials perform and whether they have fulfilled their

election promises.

7. *What is NAMFREL doing now? What is NAMFREL's new challenge now?*

TL: At present, we are working on the passage of crucial electoral reforms which will assist in achieving clean and honest elections. The most important activity this day is to ensure that the election process is modernized by using automatic ballot counting machines and computers. Legislation is needed and NAMFREL needs to contribute to the passage of the appropriate law.

We are also looking at pushing for the entrenchment of qualified Filipinos abroad, as mandated by our Constitution. There is also a coming general registration of voters nation-wide since our old list of voters is replaced every 12 years.

The most pressing challenge now is to ensure that people continue to have confidence in the electoral process. Our objective for this is to encourage good people to serve the people and run in the elections. The other objective is for the voters to be involved in the affairs of their respective local governments and extract accountability of their elected officials. All these will pave the way for critical voting by the electorate – voting based on the performance and/or probity of candidates.

8. *You have already known – more or less – about KIPP and our situations here. What is your comment? What is your suggestion?*

TL: Continue with what you are doing. You need this to show to your people that you are concerned of the welfare of your country. Establish credibility, this is first and foremost. Be ready to accept criticisms and learn from them. Get good people to volunteer under KIPP. Promote "peace by peace" approach. This effort, like that of NAMFREL's is not an easy one. Things are going to get worse for KIPP before they are going to get better, again like in the experience of NAMFREL. Do not be victimized of the labelling tactic, i.e. if you are pro-democracy, you are against the government. You must disabuse yourselves, the opposition, the ruling party, the media, and the public and show that pro-democracy, more than anything, is pro-people and pro-Indonesia.

###

**I HEREBY COMMIT MYSELF TO UPHOLD THE OBJECTIVES OF
NAMFREL TO SAFEGUARD THE INTEGRITY OF THE BALLOT.**

**I FURTHER COMMIT TO REMAIN STRONG AND CONSTANT IN
MY VIGILANCE TO PROTECT, PRESERVE, AND ENHANCE THE
PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF DEMOCRACY AND TO OFFER
MYSELF, MY TALENT, MY TIME, AND MY TREASURE IN
PURSUIT OF THESE GOALS.**

**I PLEDGE TO PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN THE PROCESS OF
FREE, HONEST, AND MEANINGFUL ELECTIONS, WITHOUT
FEAR OR FAVOR IN A NON-PARTISAN MANNER, IN THE
SERVICE OF GOD, COUNTRY, AND COMMUNITY.**

SO HELP ME GOD



NAMFREL MANUAL NO. 2

POLLWATCHING

**INCLUDING INSTRUCTIONS TO
OPERATION QUICK COUNT
PRECINCT CANVASSERS AND
COURIERS**

SUMMARY OF POLLWATCHING ACTIVITIES

POLLWATCHING AS THE ACCREDITED CITIZENS ARM OF COMELEC WILL BE EFFECTIVE IF WE CAN

AT THE LOCAL LEVEL:

- Participate as Citizens Arm in Comelec Special Action Teams
- Post at least one volunteer in every precinct throughout election day
- Get a certified copy of the Election Returns from the Board of Election Inspectors at each precinct
- Transmit on time the information required by the OQC
- Escort the ballot boxes to the Municipal/City Treasurer's office, and guard the room where ballot boxes are stored;
- Accompany the transmission of election returns to the Municipal or City Election Registrar.
- Escort the special ballot box containing all election returns from the office of the Election Registrar to the Provincial Election Supervisor
- Post an accredited watcher throughout the Canvassing process at the provincial and city levels
- Secure a Certified Copy of the Certificate of Canvass from each Board of Canvassers chairman

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL:

- Ensure the safe delivery of the Certificate of Canvass to the Speaker of the Batasan Pambansa
- Help mobilize at least 500,000 concerned citizens who will keep vigil at the Batasan Pambansa throughout the final canvassing and proclamation.

INTRODUCTION



Purpose and Scope

01. The purpose of this manual is to provide NAMFREL volunteers with a practical guide for pollwatching.
02. NAMFREL believes that vigilant citizens' action is vital to achieve meaningful elections. All NAMFREL volunteers, therefore, should try to encourage as many citizens as possible to be involved in pollwatching. Relevant information in this manual should be shared with the public. *Remember, volunteers cannot guard the polls alone. There is strength and safety in numbers.*

03. All volunteers must adhere to the basic tenet of non-partisanship. Although NAMFREL is engaged in political activity, political activity may either be partisan or non-partisan. It is partisan if it is directed toward the advancement of a particular party or candidate. Voting for a candidate of your choice without campaigning is *not* a partisan act but a mere exercise of everyone's right to vote. On the other hand, an activity is non-partisan if it is *addressed to the protection of the process itself. NAMFREL is concerned about the integrity of elections, regardless of who wins.*

IMPORTANT

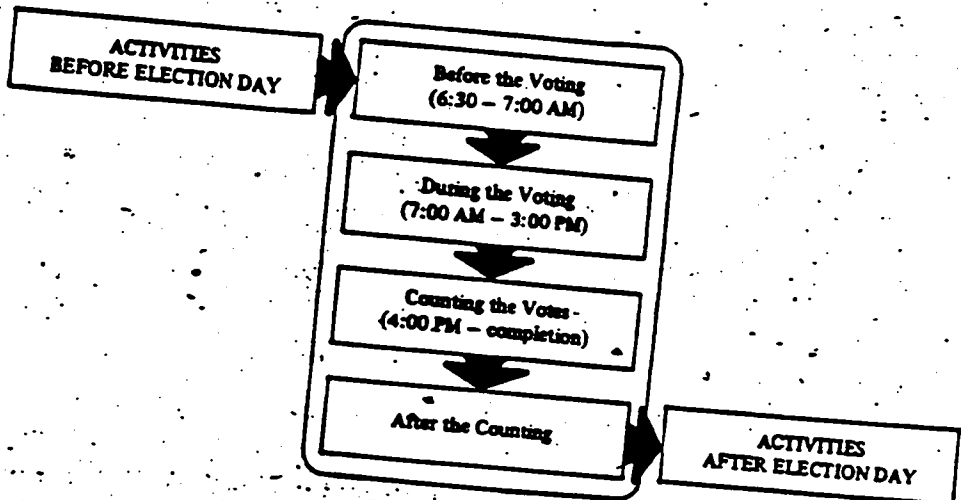
Keep in mind that people respond favorably to a positive approach and that there are many decent people who share the objective of clean and orderly elections. Don't pre-judge. Reach out to all sectors especially to public schoolteachers, COMELEC Registrars and other public officials. You can be firm in your convictions without being self-righteous and disagreeable.

PHASES OF POLLWATCHING

The task of pollwatching may be easier to understand if we break down the activities into three phases.

- o Before election day
- o During Election Day (Feb. 7, 1986)
 - before the voting (6:30 - 7:00 am)
 - during the voting (7:00 AM - 3:00 P.M.)
 - counting of votes (3:00 PM - completion)
 - after the counting
- o After Election Day

In Diagram form, the phases can be seen as:



ACTIVITIES BEFORE ELECTION DAY

It is important that NAMFREL poll-watchers be vigilant in all the phases.

01. The authorized NAMFREL officers must submit before election day the names of the volunteers to the local registrar for the issuance of the appropriate COMELEC PASS for pollwatchers.
02. The first task of a pollwatcher is to encourage as many citizens as possible to guard the polls with him. The key message is that guarding the polls is the responsibility of all citizens and not just of NAMFREL alone.
03. Attend the briefing to be conducted by your Namfrel School Chairman before election day.
04. If possible, visit your polling place and specific election precinct assignment to familiarize yourself with your work area.
05. If possible, familiarize yourself with the following articles of the 1985

Omnibus Election Code:

Article XIII - Precincts and Polling Places

Article XIV - Board of Election Inspectors (BEI)

Article XV - Watchers

Article XVII - Casting of Votes

Article XVIII - Counting of Votes

Article XXII - Election Offenses, Section 261-Z. 1-24

06. Study "How Cheating is Done" which is found in Appendix B of this manual.
07. If you are also assigned to participate in the "Operation Quick Count" (OQC), get from your NAMFREL Chairman the report form for the OQC which you will fill up and submit after the counting of votes. Familiarize yourself with the Instructions to the OQC Precinct Canvasses and Couriers in Appendix D (pages 16 and 17) of this manual.

For NAMFREL Volunteers outside of the Polling Place

Assign mobile units to watch out for and listen to reports concerning voters being unloaded by jeeps, trucks and/or buses within or nearby the polling place. This may be an indication of the presence of flying voters. Usually, they are unloaded several meters away from the polling place to make it appear that they just "walked" to the polling place.

THE ONLY INSTANCE where a voter may be accompanied by another inside the voting booth is when the voter is *illiterate to disabled*. In this case, the voter is to be accompanied only by any of the following persons:

- 1) a relative (but only up to a FIRST COUSIN) of the voter;
- 2) if there is no relative, any member of the same household or either the chairman of the BEI or the poll clerk (BUT NEVER THE PARTY MEMBERS WHO ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE BEI).

ACTIVITIES DURING ELECTION DAY

BEFORE THE VOTING

01. Report to your post at 6:30 a.m. wearing a white shirt or tops, your COMELEC POLLWATCHER PASS, "Bantay ng Bayan" badge and chaleco (if available). Check that you have with you the following forms and supplies:
 - a. This Pollwatching Manual
 - b. Ballpen
 - c. Notebook or paper
 - d. Camera with film and flashbulb (if available)
 - e. Flashlight or candles (for afternoon/evening shift)
02. Present yourself to the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) chairman. No watcher is allowed inside the voting center unless he first presents his credentials to the BEI chairman. Stay in the space reserved for watchers. Do not talk with any BEI member (unless making a protest or challenge), nor with any other watcher or voter, in a manner that may disturb the proceedings.

03. Verify the quantity and serial numbers of the official ballots, election returns and the supply of indelible ink in the possession of the Board of Election Inspectors.

Bring to the attention of the BEI if:

- any election material is destroyed, substituted or taken away
- propaganda or campaign materials are inside the polling place within 30 meters. Even party watchers are not allowed to wear or display campaign materials
- the ballot box is not opened and turned upside down to show that its two compartments are empty before being locked with three (3) padlocks.
- the official ballots are not wrapped and sealed, and contain writings or marks
- the physical layout of the polling place does not allow voters to vote in privacy.

PERSONS PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING OR BEING NEAR THE POLLING PLACE.

- a. No barangay official (captain, councilman, tanod, etc.) is allowed inside the polling place or be within 50 meters of the polling place, except to vote (but he should leave immediately after voting) and except when appointed as a watcher or as a member of the BEI appointed by a political party. However, when appointed as a member of the BEI, such barangay officials are prohibited from campaigning.
- b. No soldier, policeman, peace officer, member of any strike force or CHDF and such personnel is allowed to enter or stay inside the polling place or within 50 meters of such room except to vote (but they should leave immediately after voting). *But*, by a majority vote (3 out of 4) and for the protection of the BEI or of the election materials, the BEI may request in writing for a policeman detail who shall not be nearer than be **WITHIN 30 METERS FROM THE POLLING PLACE**. Take note that such policeman on detail cannot talk with any voter nor obstruct the free access of voters to the polling place.
- c. No firearm or any other deadly weapon is allowed inside the polling place or within 100 meters of the room, except those of officers specifically authorized by COMELEC.

NOTE: If you are any such activity taking place within the 50 meter radius, file a protest immediately with the BEI Chairman, inform your local NAMFREL chapter and the mass media.

DURING THE VOTING

Bring to the attention of the BEI when:

- electioneering, campaigning or influencing of voters takes place inside the polling place or within 50 meters
- voters whose names do not appear in the certified list of voters (except those with court inclusion orders) are allowed to vote
- Persons use the name of other persons in the list of voters
- A person whose finger is already stained with indelible ink is allowed to vote
- A voter is allowed to leave the polling place without his finger stained with indelible ink
- You have a reasonable ground to

believe that a certain person is a flying voter.

In this case, you may:

Request the Board of Election Inspector Chairman to require the challenged voter to present his voter's I.D. or voter's affidavit. Make sure that serial numbers of the IDs and affidavit are in order.

- request the chairman to verify the voter's signature through the records
- make sure that the challenge is recorded regardless of what happens to the challenge. Get a certificate of challenge from the poll clerk.

Challenge Flying Voters

Do not hesitate to challenge flying voters, but do so in a manner that is not offensive. The main purpose in challenging is to *DISCOURAGE FLYING VOTERS FROM VOTING.*

Watch out for Lanzadera

Watch out for the practice of *LANZADERA*. This is done by a voter who first secures a blank ballot from another precinct or a fake ballot and then gets his assigned ballot. The voter then puts his fake or illegally procured ballot in the ballot box and gives his assigned ballot (still blank) to another captive voter outside the polling place who in turn fills it up with the names of the candidates of his choice. The next voter goes into the polling place with the filled ballot and gets the ballot assigned to him but drops into the ballot box the ballot previously filled up. He then passes to the next voters his own blank ballot. The purpose of this practice is to assure the "buyer" of the ballot that it is filled up accordingly.

NOTE: To guard against this practice and to prevent any fake or false ballots from being placed in the ballot box, check that the serial number of the ballot is the same as the one listed in the voting record under the name of that voter. You can do this because the voter, after voting, gives his ballot to the BEI Chairman who is duty-bound to verify the number of the ballot with that listed in the voting record. If there is a *DISCREPANCY*, the ballot should be declared a *SPOILED BALLOT*.

CLOSING OF VOTING

Be exceptionally vigilant when closing time is near because it is usually during this period when many flying voters will try to vote.

Call the attention of the BEI when:

- Voting is not stopped at exactly 3:00 p.m. except for voters within 30 meters who can still cast their votes after the poll clerk has listed

down their names and secured their signatures.

- If the chairman of the BEI does not publicly tear in half all unused ballots immediately after the close of voting. These unused form ballots should not be thrown but kept later in the ballot box.

COUNTING OF VOTES

What Should Happen

A. PRELIMINARIES TO ACTUAL COUNTING

1. Drawing out of the EXCESS VOTES. Before counting, the BEI shall make sure that the number of ballots in the box is EQUAL to the number of voters as shown in the voting record. If there is an EXCESS, the POLL CLERK shall, without looking, publicly draw out as many ballots from the box as are in excess. These excess ballots are then placed in an envelope which is signed and sealed. Make sure that this step is taken.

2. Inspection for MARKED BALLOTS. Before counting, the BEI shall unfold and inspect each ballot to determine whether they are marked.

QUESTION: What is a marked ballot?
ANSWER: IT IS A BALLOT WHICH HAS AN INTENTIONAL MARK OR ANY OTHER MEANS TO IDENTIFY THE VOTER.

B. COUNTING OF VOTES

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE A CAMERA, TAKE PHOTOS OF THE TALLY BOARD, ELECTION RETURNS AND INCIDENTS DURING THE COUNTING (IF ANY).

1. The counting of the votes should be in PUBLIC and done WITHIN THE POLLING PLACE except upon order of the COMELEC. But the order of transfer of venue for counting can only locate the place of counting in a PUBLIC BUILDING which should not be the within premises of or within a military or police camp.

NOTE: When the ballots are transported pursuant to such order, you have the right to ACCOMPANY THE BALLOT BOX AT ALL TIMES.

2. The Tally Board must be located in plain view of the watchers.

3. The Chairman must position himself in such a way that all watchers are able to read the names.

4. Make sure that only the ballots in

the COMPARTMENT FOR VALID BALLOTS shall be read. (See Appendix C - Appreciation of Ballots)

5. The Chairman must read aloud the ballot as written. AFTER READING, see to it that the Chairman signs and affixes his right hand thumbmark at the back of the ballot.

Call the attention of the BEI when:

- a vote written on the ballot is not read
- a vote other than what is written is read
- a ballot which contains the name of a party is counted. Block voting is no longer allowed.
- ballots for counting are substituted
- Omissions, substitutions, and additions in the recording of Votes on the tally board and the election returns occur.

- There is a deliberate misrecording in the tally sheet as the votes are read.
- Votes reflected in the tally sheet are miscopied in the election returns.
- Votes credited to a candidate in the election returns are substituted with the votes of another candidate.
- There is deliberate distortion of the entries in the election returns by creating a variance in the words and figures entered thereat.
- There is destruction, theft, or substitution of election returns after the counting.
- There is insertion in any of the election returns a blank sheet of paper. This is done so that one or some of the election returns will be left blank or inaccurately reflected the tally. Inconsistent tallies confuse the totals and the blanks can be improperly filled in later.

AFTER THE COUNTING

This is a crucial stage in the election. DO NOT LEAVE the premises until you have done the following:

1. Make sure that no alterations are made on the election returns after the results are proclaimed. Corrections or alterations made before the proclamations should be initialled by all the members of the BEI.

2. Make sure that after the election returns are signed and thumbmarked in full view of the public by the members of the Board all of the six copies are sealed in your presence, placed in separate envelopes which are again sealed.

3. Observe how the envelopes containing the election returns are distributed. The six copies are supposed to be distributed and designated as follows:

- 1) one copy - to be deposited in the ballot box for valid ballots
- 2) two copies go to the Election Registrar.
- 3) one copy to the KBL representative.
- 4) one copy to the Dominant Opposition Party representative (UNIDO)
- 5) The law is silent on where the sixth copy goes. If this is not given to NAMFREL, note down to whom this is given.

4. When all the votes are counted, check the addition of votes. In the election return, the grand totals for each candidate must be written in figures, which must match each other.

After all votes are read, the ballots are then placed in an envelope which is then signed, closed and deposited in the compartment for valid ballots

5. Make sure that the information in the election returns are correct.

6. FILL UP THE OQC FORMS (sample on pages 18 and 19 in this manual) PER INSTRUCTIONS (Appendix D) MAKING SURE THAT THE BEI MEMBERS SIGN THE CERTIFIED COPY (Copy No. 1).

7. Thank the BEI for their cooperation.

8. SUBMIT IMMEDIATELY YOUR POLL WATCHERS/OQC REPORT TO YOUR SCHOOL CHAIRMAN

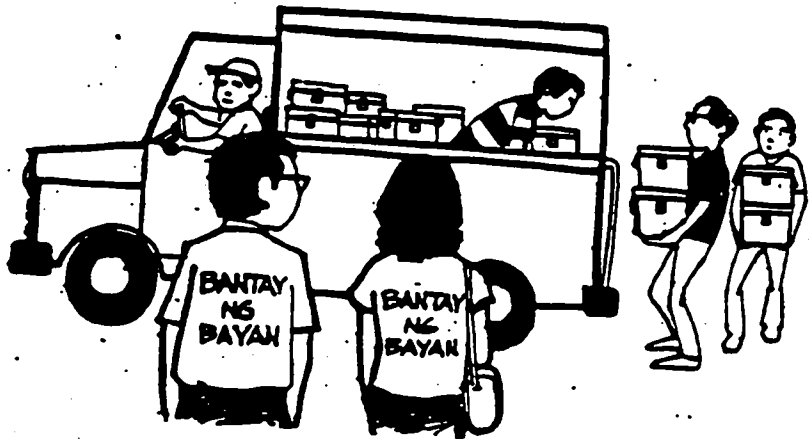
When you have done the above:

01. Accompany the two copies of election returns intended for the municipal or city Election Registrar until they reach the proper office. Be on

the lookout for attempts to substitute or steal the return. This is the most efficient way of cheating because in one stroke many votes can be changed.

02. Watch carefully when the Election Registrar puts the election returns from various polling places in a special ballot box intended for delivery to the Provincial Election Supervisor. **MAKE SURE THE BALLOT BOX IS EMPTY** before any return is placed therein. Do not lose sight of that ballot box.

03. Accompany the ballot box containing the election returns as it is transported from the office of the Election Registrar to the office of the Provincial Election Supervisor. This is also a right. To the extent possible plan out in advance and in cooperation with the school chairman and the municipal treasurer the vehicle and routes to be used. Assign specific watchers for specific boxes to watch the returns which in transit.



ACTIVITIES AFTER ELECTION DAY

01. Watch the room of the Provincial Election Supervisor where the election returns are kept and guard against any suspicious entry and exits.
02. Attend the canvassing. NAMFREL is entitled to a watcher during the canvassing at the provincial or city level. The NAMFREL watcher assigned to this critical phase of the process (preferably the NAMFREL provincial or city chairman himself) must make *prior arrangements* to secure copies of certified election returns from *all* precincts in the province/city to enable him to verify the canvassing. During the canvassing, make sure that the election returns are read properly and conform to your certified copies of the election returns. It should start and go on continuously.
03. After the returns have been canvassed, secure a certified copy of the certificate of canvass from the Board of Canvassers. The certificate of canvass for the provincial and city totals are delivered personally by the chairman of canvassers to the Speaker of the Batasan.
04. Send by courier to the NAMFREL national office the complete file of certified copies of election returns and certified copy of certificate of canvass.
05. Within one (1) week of election day the provincial/city chairman should submit a closing report on the results and the conduct of elections for the province or city.



Appendix B

HOW CHEATING IS DONE DURING ELECTION

I. FRAUD BEFORE VOTING

1. Bribery
 - a. vote buying
 - b. buying abstentions - registered voters are paid not to vote
 - c. promise of jobs, loans, promotion
 - d. buying members of the board of election inspectors to abstain from performing their functions
2. Intimidation
 - a. direct threats to voters identified with a party not to vote
 - b. threats to the family of the voter
 - c. threats to business property
 - d. threatening members of the board of election inspectors not to assume their functions.
3. Use of indelible ink
 - a. to prevent a registered voter from voting. The indelible ink is applied to the right forefinger of the voter before he can vote so that he will not be allowed to vote
4. kidnapping of voters and holding them in a place so that they cannot vote
5. assigning registered voters identified with a party to places where they cannot vote or far from their place of registration
6. Disrupting means of transportation to the polling places.
7. Sowing fear and unrest to discourage voters to vote.
8. Spreading false reports about the withdrawal or disqualification of a

- candidate to discourage voters to vote for a certain candidate.
9. By changing the numbering of polling places to confuse the voters.
10. By changing the location of polling places without notice to confuse the voters.
11. By marking the ballots so that it will be considered spoiled ballots.

VARIOUS TYPES OF ELECTION CHEATING

II. FRAUD DURING VOTING:

1. Assuming identity of another voter and voting in his name.
2. Accompanying a voter to the voting booth to influence a voter in casting his vote for a particular candidate.
3. "Lanzadera" - this is done by a voter first securing a blank ballot from another precinct or a fake ballot then getting his assigned ballot. The voter then puts in the ballot box his fake or illegally procured ballot and then passes his genuine ballot to another captive voter who fills it up outside the polling booth with the names of the candidates of his choice. The next voter gets into the polling place with the filled ballot and gets the ballot assigned to him but drops into the ballot box the ballot previously filled up. He then passes to the next voter his own ballot.

4. The use of carbon or paraffin or duplicating device to disclose the content of his ballot to the "buyer" the "intimidator" or the "leader".
5. By delaying delivery of the official ballots and other election paraphernalia to discourage voters.
6. Disrupting the means of transportation of voters on election day to discourage voters from voting.
7. By delisting or transferring voters from the voters list.
8. By accompanying illiterate or disabled voters and voting for them irrespective of their choice.
9. By forcibly taking or snatching the ballot boxes in polling places identified as a bailwick of a political party.
10. By stealthily or surreptitiously substituting the ballots with fake or previously prepared ballots during recess or brownouts or during a simulated disorder designed to create confusion in the polling place.
11. Theft or destruction of ballots, election returns and other vital election paraphernalia
12. Bribery or intimidation of the members of the board of election inspectors to influence their decision on challenges and protests made during the voting.
13. Stealing, tearing, smudging or defacing the list of voters posted outside the polling place to discourage voters to vote.
14. Delivery of official ballots in excess of authorized quantities to facilitate manufacturing of votes.

III. FRAUD DURING THE COUNTING:

1. Misreading the contents of the ballots.
2. Deliberate misrecording in the tally

sheet as the votes are read.

3. Substitution of ballots filled for counting
4. Miscopying of the votes reflected in the tally sheet to the election returns.
5. Substitution of the votes credited to a candidate in the election returns with the votes of another candidate.
6. Deliberate distortion of the entries in the election returns by creating a variance in the words and figures entered thereat.
7. Destruction, theft or substitution of election returns after the counting.

IV. FRAUD DURING TRANSIT FROM POLLING PLACE TO ELECTION REGISTRAR:

1. Theft or destruction of election returns during transit from polling place to the office of Election Registrar in places where a candidate lost.
2. Substitution of Election Returns thru coercion or bribery.
3. Reporting misleading reports of the media to distort the actual results.

V. FRAUD DURING THE CANVASSING:

1. Substitution of the Election Returns copy for the Provincial or City Board of Canvassers.
2. Misreading the contents of the election return.
3. Deliberate misrecording in the tally sheet as the returns are read.
4. Miscopying the votes reflected in the tally sheet to the Certificate of Canvass.
5. Substitution of the votes credited to a candidate in the certificate of canvass with the votes of another candidate.

6. Deliberate distortion of entries in the Certificate of canvass by creating a variance on the words and figures entered thereat
7. Distorting the collation and addition of votes obtained thereby increasing or decreasing the total votes obtained by a candidate.
8. In the communication to be furnished the Commission, during the adjournments of the board of canvassers, deliberate transposition,

ommissions or additions in the reflected total votes cast for each candidate may be committed by the person responsible for such transmittal or the same may be tampered with the connivance of the employees of the medium used in the course of such transmittal or providing the media with such false or misleading totals during such adjournments.

Appendix C

Appreciation of Ballots

Be familiar with the rules regarding the appreciation of ballots

- a. A vote for the President is also a vote for the Vice-President running under the same ticket, UNLESS the voter votes for a Vice-President who does not belong to such party.
- b. Only the candidate's first name or surname is written — the vote is VALID PROVIDED no other candidate has the same first name or surname.
- c. A name or a surname INCORRECTLY WRITTEN which, when read, has a sound similar to the name or surname of a candidate when correctly written shall be counted in his favor.
- d. When the name of a candidate appears in the space for the office for which he/she is running and also in the space for an office for which he is not running, it should still be counted in his favor and the latter vote shall be considered stray EXCEPT when it is used to MARK THE BALLOT. When a vote is stray only that vote is not counted, the rest of the votes are counted.
- e. When in one space, there appears the name of a candidate that is erased and another clearly written, THE VOTE IS VALID FOR THE LATTER.
- f. An erroneous initial accompanying the first name or the surname name of a candidate DOES NOT ANNUL THE VOTE.
- g. The use of a nickname unaccompanied by the name or surname of a candidate IS VALID PROVIDED it is the one by which the candidate is popularly known in the locality and there is no other candidate for the same office with the same nickname.
- h. ANY VOTE CONTAINING THE INITIALS ONLY IS A STRAY VOTE BUT DOES NOT INVALIDATE THE WHOLE BALLOT.
- i. If the surname of a candidate is correctly written but the first name is wrong, or if the first name is correct but the surname is wrong, THEN THE VOTE IS NOT COUNTED IN FAVOR OF THAT CANDIDATE BUT THE BALLOTS IS VALID AS TO THE OTHER CANDIDATES.
- j. When the name of a candidate is printed, pasted or typed, THE WHOLE BALLOT IS NOT VALID.
- k. Circles, crosses or lines put on the spaces on which the voter has not voted SHALL NOT INVALIDATE THE BALLOT.

INSTRUCTIONS TO OPERATION QUICK COUNT PRECINCT CANVASSERS AND COURIERS

OQC PRECINCT CANVASSER

Today, throughout the Philippines, OQC volunteers like you will be depended upon by NAMFREL to record what is happening in each and every precinct all over the country. What you write down will be collected and will be the instrument that will protect the sanctity of the ballot.

1. An hour before elections, get from your OQC School Chairman your precinct assignments and the required forms (refer to sample forms in loose-leaf insert).
2. Review the forms and make sure you understand them so you can fill them out properly. For any question ask your School Chairman.
3. Monitor the events. Proceed to your assigned precinct.
4. At 12:00 noon, fill out and submit Form NS to your OQC School Chairman. Go back to your assigned precinct.

5. When the counting is over, copy the election results into Form PT in three (3) copies. Summarize the conduct of elections in your area by encircling A, B, C, or D.
6. Sign and submit the complete set of Form PT to your OQC School Chairman.
7. Return to your assigned precinct and have Copy 1 (Certification Copy) certified by the Board of Election Inspectors.
8. Resubmit Copy 1 to OQC School Chairman as soon as possible.

OQC COURIER

Pre-election

1. Find out from your OQC Municipal Coordinator your school assignment and the name of your contact person.

2. Make sure you have met the OQC School Chairman and OQC Municipal Coordinator personally.
3. Make sure you know what to do. Your OQC Municipal Coordinator will brief you about your work.

On election day

4. Go to your school assignment and report to the OQC School Chairman.
5. After 12:00 noon, receive Form NSs from the OQC School Chairman and deliver them to the OQC Municipal Coordinator.
6. You must be back with the OQC School Chairman by 4 p.m. wait for Copy 2 of Form PT from the OQC School Chairman and deliver them to OQC Municipal Coordinator.
7. Report to OQC Municipal Coordinator for further instructions.

MUNICIPAL COURIER

Pre-election

1. Find out from the Municipal Chairman your school assignment and the name of your contact person.
2. Make sure you have met the OQC School Chairman personally.
3. Make sure you know what to do. Your Municipal Chairman will brief you about your work.

On election day

4. No later than 4 p.m., go to the school you are assigned, and report to the OQC School Chairman. Wait for Copies 1 and 3 of Form PT from the OQC School Chairman and deliver them to the Municipal Chairman.
5. Report to the Municipal Chairman for further instructions.

Form NS

Form NS

NOON SITUATION REPORT

Region or Highly
Urbanised City
City, Municipality or
District
School

Precinct Number

Indicate on this form the
conduct of election as of
12 noon of election day.

CONDUCT OF ELECTION	Encircle one	Please explain why C or D
Valid	A	
Valid with some problems	B	
Questionable validity	C	
Failure of election	D	
OQC Precinct Convener	OQC School Chairman	OQC Municipal Coordinator
(Print Name and Sign)	(Print Name and Sign)	(Print Name and Sign)

NOTES:

1. These two pages show a sample of the Noon Situation Report (Form NS) and the Precinct Tally Sheet (Form PT).
2. Form PT at the back page shows only the Certification Copy (Copy 1) Copies 2 & 3 look almost the same as Copy 1. The only significant difference between them is that instead of the signature area for the Board of Election Inspectors, they show the Conduct of Election block similar to Form NS above.

Form PT

PRECINCT TALLY SHEET

Province or Highly
Urbanized City
City, Municipality or
District
School
Precinct Number
Number of Votes Cast

Form PT
Copy 1 - Certification Copy
Barangay
Number of Precincts
in the School

RESULT OF COUNT	Votes in Figures	Votes in Words
For President		
1. MARCOS		
2. AQUINO		
For Vice-President		
1. TOLENTINO		
2. LAUREL		
3. KALAW		

WE HEREBY CERTIFY that the candidates above have obtained in this precinct the votes set opposite their respective names:

BOARD OF ELECTION INSPECTORS

Chairman
Opposition
NAMFREL

Time	OCIC Precinct Canvasser	OCIC School Chairman	Municipal Chairman
	(Print Name and Sign)	(Print Name and Sign)	(Print Name and Sign)
Date			

TO OIC SCHOOL CHAIRMAN:
PLEASE DETACH THIS PAGE AND OBTAIN CERTIFICATION OF BOARD OF ELECTION INSPECTORS.

**APPENDIX SEVEN:
PRESS RELEASE**

PRESS RELEASE
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PNET

Central Wong Amat Beach Resort Hotel, Pattaya 30 October - 1 November 1998

Pollwatch Foundation with the support of NDI, a US based organization that supports democracy worldwide, has organized a seminar to prepare individuals to establish a people's network to monitor elections and prepare individuals who will serve as Master Trainers in training volunteers for the network in the future.

The 40 participants in this seminar are made up people who have been involved with Pollwatch activities in the past and leaders of various networks and organizations from different regions throughout Thailand. The main theme of the seminar is to identify the role of the network in supporting elections, preparing the organization to investigate election fraud as a non-governmental organization which is in accordance with the organic laws relating to the Election Commission of Thailand (ECT) that gives NGOs the opportunity to monitor elections organized by the ECT.

International trainers who played helped clarify these matters are Mr. Glenn Cowan, Senior Advisor at NDI, Mr. Telibert Laoc, Executive Director of NAMFREL, the strongest civic organization in The Philippines, and Sarah Malm, NDI's representative in Thailand. The 3 trainers offered administrative and training techniques and had an opportunity to share their experiences and work closely with the Thai participants.

This seminar marks an important starting point in the creation of PNET in Thailand. This network will bring together NGOs tha share the common objective of promoting democracy and enable them to work together as volunteers to monitor the election process organized by the ECT, monitor campaign activities by various candidates and political parties during the election period, and serve as the eyes and ears in investigating cases of voter fraud that may occur during elections in Thailand in the future.