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Three attend women in politics training at Aussie university

THREE Papua New Guinean women were among 18 participants from the Asia-Pacific region who attended a women in politics train-the-trainer course at the Australian National University's centre for democratic institutions (CDI).

Maria Hayes, Dorothy Tekwie and Keke Loa Reva were among those from the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tonga, Timor Leste and Indonesia who attended.

Ms Tekwie said the course was very intensive.

"The training helped participants focus on areas where women political candidates can increase their chances for election," she said.

"It was different from other training courses we have had in the past and we have recommended for CDI to bring these courses to the country level where more women and men can attend."

Resource persons

sourced for the course included women senators and MPs from the Australian Labor, Liberal and the Greens.

Some of them included deputy leader of the Greens senator Christine Milne, senator Claire Moore (ALP), deputy speaker Anna Burke (ALP) and the Liberal's Marise Payne.

Course participants also had the privilege to observe question time at the Canberra parliament house.

"The course focused on areas where women could improve their chances for election such as working with political parties on getting women elected through political party systems."

The PNG participants were also invited by the Federal member for Canberra Annette Ellis to visit her office to discuss ways of networking with Australian women MPs for PNGWIP's programme towards 2012.