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ASH INSTITUTE LAUNCHES ITS “INNOVATIONS IN GOVERNANCE IN THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY” BOOK SERIES

Cambridge, Mass., – July 5, 2007 – At the Seventh Global Forum for Reinventing Government held at the UN headquarters in Vienna on June 26-29, 2007, the Ash Institute announced the publication of the first book, *Decentralizing Governance: Emerging Concepts and Practices*, in its new series on innovations in governance published in collaboration with the Brookings Institution. In *Decentralizing Governance*, experts in government and public management trace the evolution and performance of decentralization concepts from the transfer of authority from the central government to the sharing of power, authority, and responsibility among subnational and civil society institutions. They assess concepts such as devolution, deconcentration, and capacity building, and provide case studies of the benefits and difficulties that result. The book was edited by Shabbir Cheema, principal advisor on governance, Division for Public Administration and Development Management, United Nations and the late Dennis A. Rondinelli.

The book was released at the Global Forum by Fernando Henrique Cardoso, President of Brazil from 1995 through 2002. In thanking President Cardoso for releasing the book, Ash Institute Director, Gowher Rizvi noted that "Government Innovation has caught the imagination of government and citizens alike around the world" and that the Ash Institute's "Innovations in Government" program has offered some important learning and insights for public policy. One of the most important lessons, as was pointed to earlier, is that those who are dealing with the problems are also usually best placed to provide the solution. One size does not fit all; and distant policy makers have neither the appreciation nor the knowledge of local complexities to attempt long

distance problem solving. Both the scholarly and policy communities will be grateful to Shabbir and Dennis for their efforts."

For the complete text of Gowher Rizvi's Global Forum remarks, please visit:

<http://www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu/Ash/BookLaunchCommentsViennaGlobalForum.pdf>

About the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation

The Roy and Lila Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation advances excellence in governance and strengthens democratic institutions worldwide. Through its research, publications, leadership training, global network and awards program – developed in collaboration with a diverse, engaged community of scholars and practitioners - the Ash Institute fosters creative and effective government problem-solving and serves as a catalyst for addressing many of the most pressing needs of the world's citizens. The Ford Foundation is a founding donor of the Institute. Additional information about the Ash Institute is available at www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu. Organizations are encouraged to apply to the 2008 Innovations in American Government Awards by October 15, 2007 at www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu.

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