



GLIN GLOBAL JOURNAL

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NEWS AND EVENTS ...

USIP/INPROL

GLIN Central is pleased to announce that numerous discussions, started in November 2007, have culminated in a partnership between INPROL (International Network to Promote the Rule of Law) and GLIN through which INPROL has joined GLIN as an Associate Member. INPROL is an internet-based knowledge network that provides those serving in the field the ability to exchange information with other experienced practitioners and experts, and to access relevant documents, best practices, and related materials to assist international rule of law specialists in their efforts to prevent conflict and stabilize war-torn societies. With many common interests such as information-sharing among varied and multinational members of the legal community, and a common commitment to promoting the rule of law in societies not only transitioning from war to peace but also flourishing with stability, GLIN and INPROL both house a broad range of

Karamah

A memorandum of understanding was signed on March 18, 2008 by “Karamah: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights” and GLIN. Through this agreement, Karamah, a DC-based non-profit organization, was accepted into GLIN as an Associate Member. Karamah is a charitable, educational organization that focuses on the domestic and global issues of human rights for Muslims, especially women. It comprises a global network of women jurists and leaders who produce articles and studies on a wide range of topics related to women’s rights



Dr. Rubens Medina and Dr. Azizah Al-Hibri

GLIN Training Offered to Gabon and Indonesia

GLIN Central welcomed representatives from Indonesia and Gabon to a GLIN training session held from February 25-29, 2008. The participation of these countries in the training supports the goal of the GLIN Network to expand its membership to nations in regions currently underrepresented in the GLIN database such as Africa and Asia.

The GLIN team from Indonesia was drawn from two organizations: the Indonesia-U.S. House Caucus and a non-governmental organization, the Indonesian Centre for Law and Policy Studies (*Pusat Studi Hukum dan Kebijakan or PSHK*). Representatives from the General Secretariat of the Government of Gabon, including the Director of the Official Publications Office who will serve as Director of GLIN-Gabon, attended the training as well.

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GLIN Station Gets Stronger

On 11 February the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica and its Costa Rica-GLIN Station signed a total of three agreements that will strengthen the GLIN Network; Rubens Medina, President of GLIN Executive Committee and Director of the Law Library of Congress, and Janice Hyde, Program Officer for GLIN participated in this activity.

Dr. Luis Paulino Mora Mora, President of the Supreme Court of Justice and Francisco Antonio Pacheco Fernández, President of the Legislative Assembly also participated in this event.

These agreements seek to implement the cooperation between the Assembly and the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice of Costa Rica, and the contribution of administrative jurisprudence, as well as the consolidated texts of laws issued by the General Attorney's Office and its National System of Enforceable Legislation -SINALEVI-, which will strengthen the presence of Costa Rica at the international level.

Another agreement was signed for the purpose of creating an affiliated station at the Technical Services Department of the Legislative Assembly, which will include its Technical Reports as legislative records, thus enabling the dissemination of legal studies issued by this legislative advisory entity through

the Network.

During the signing ceremony, the Director of the Costa Rica GLIN Station and Director of the Library Services, Documentation, and Information Department at the Legislative Assembly, Lic. Julieta Volio Guevara expressed: "Our expectations are twofold: to show the country's process of legislative work so people around the world may know it, and at the same time, to learn the state of legislation in other Governments in order to gain feedback and to generate legislation of a better quality, based on the experience of other countries."

Lic. Ana Virginia Calzada, the president of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice, pointed out in her speech: "For the Judicial Branch, this activity is particularly relevant since it marks the beginning of the union of information from all public entities in Costa Rica, through a worldwide network..._This incorporation has special interest, not only for the academic sector of our country, but also for all of the inhabitants of our nation, due to the importance of the right of access to public information, an area where the Constitutional Chamber has performed an important role as defender."

Lic. Ana Lorena Brenes, the General Attorney of the Republic also indicated, "We are getting together to make the constitutional principle of access to information even more effective, not only for the citizen that lives in our country and outside it, through access to the Costa Rican Legal Information System (SCIJ), but also to facilitate such access jointly and in a systematized manner with other countries around the world."

The agreements come to strengthen the growth of the Global Legal Information Network in Costa Rica, which began working in the year 2002, and three years later received the Model Station award, as recognition of compliance with all of the standards required by the network.



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(l) Dr Luis Paulino Mora Mora, President, Supreme Court, Costa Rica and (r) Dr. Rubens Medina, Chair, GLIN Executive Council

GLIN Has a New Associate in Universidad Politécnica de Nicaragua

Beginning April 2008, students of Law of the Universidad Politécnica de Nicaragua [Polytechnical University of Nicaragua] (UPOLI—in Spanish) will have access to Global Legal Information Network (GLIN).

Dr. Manuel Martínez Sevilla, Magistrate-President of the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ—in Spanish), and Ing. Emerson Pérez Sandoval, Rector of UPOLI, came together to sign an agreement that would make UPOLI a new associate to GLIN. By virtue of the agreement, the UPOLI formalizes its commitment to GLIN and articulates its role in contributing Legal Literature published by the School of Law of UPOLI.

Dr. Martínez Sevilla expressed the CSJ's interest in universities having access to the greatest amount of legal information possible.

Ing. Emerson Pérez Sandoval asserted the importance of the university's ability "to provide its student body with better services in the area of legal information, to ensure professional excellence." He remarked that GLIN is the "most recognized tool, at the international level, for research in Comparative Law." (*Upoli con acceso a Estación-GLIN*, LA PRENSA: EL DIARIO DE LOS NICARAGÜENSES, available at <http://www.>



(L to R) Emerson Perez Sandoval, President, UPOLI; Dr. Manuel Martinez Sevilla, Chief Justice, Supreme Court; MSc Ana Rosa Chavarria, GLIN Director Supreme Court

We want to hear from you!

The next issue of the GLIN Global Journal will be released in June. Please submit your article and photos to the Editor:

LeeAnne Buckley, Lbuc@loc.gov
Deadline: May 30, 2008



(L to R) Dr. Oscar Castillo Guido, Director of the Law School, UPOLI; Ing. Emerson Perez Sandoval, President, UPOLI; Dr. Manuel Martinez Sevilla, Chief Justice, Supreme Court; MSc Ana Rosa Chavarria, GLIN Director Supreme Court; Lic. Linda Grijalva, GLIN Legal Analyst; Ing. Jose Antonio Pereira, GLIN Technical Specialist.

NEWS & EVENTS...

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USIP/INPROL

digital materials on the Internet for on-demand use.

As an Associate Member of GLIN, INPROL will contribute selected INPROL documents, for instance, Consolidated Responses with legal content, and Rule of Law studies and briefings prepared by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) to the GLIN database. Both INPROL and GLIN are fortunate that Sandra Sawicki, formerly with GLIN Central until her retirement in October 2007, is heading the GLIN effort at INPROL in a voluntary capacity. Several items from USIP/INPROL have already been contributed to the legal literature module of the database.

GLIN Training

Access to current legal information from official sources from both countries has been difficult. Timely access to the laws of these countries will be possible through their participation in GLIN.

KARAMAH

under Islam. As an Associate Member of GLIN, Karamah will contribute scholarly writings to the database that will be linked to relevant national-level legislation and court decisions available in the GLIN database.

The agreement was signed on behalf of Karamah by its President, Dr. Azizah Al-Hibri, and Dr. Rubens Medina, Law

Librarian of Congress and Chair of the GLIN Executive Council signed for GLIN. In remarks preceding the signing, Dr. Medina noted that Karamah's "concerns span the globe and their goal is to educate and build bridges among peoples who may not yet understand each other very well. It is an acknowledgement that this objective is also shared by GLIN that brings us together today." Dr. Al-Hibri expressed the hope that "this affiliation will advance global dialogue on Islamic law and facilitate access to information and educational material on both websites critical to the advancement of human rights, especially those of women."

From the Desk of Dr. Medina...



Our members have agreed to adhere to strict standards of quality for the electronic processing and distribution of legal information. This concern with quality was viewed as a necessary factor for assuring that reliability of the legal data offered to our users was a well established value in GLIN. Accordingly, it was also agreed that a carefully designed training program was to be offered to every member of the national GLIN stations so that the teams would uniformly apply those standards in their operations across the globe.

Training of GLIN Team members is a basic requirement for the national stations to begin operations and be recognized as having the status of active participants. Training has been one of the responsibilities of GLIN Central and has been scheduled to take place in the facilities of the Law Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., two or three times a year.

Although all members of the network have complied with this initial responsibility punctually, teams have experienced difficulties in retaining members due to local circumstances. This situation has caused some disruptions on the normal flow of contributions of information thus compromising the completeness and currency of the country's data.

Completeness and currency of data are critical elements of the reliability we are committed to. It is therefore imperative that members have a contingency plan to avoid disruption in their contributions. GLIN Central has dedicated a segment of the training to discuss and recommend the need for team members to train one substitute each to cover such emergencies. Directors have been alerted of this issue and asked to be vigilant in this regard.

Additionally, GLIN Central has invested resources to develop an On Line Training Program to assist GLIN stations in mitigating the consequences of these emergencies. This program is currently available in English. Other languages will follow and will be announced as they become available.

I take this opportunity to remind Directors of their commitment to maintain the skills of their team members and provide for back up support.

Rubens Medina