



GLIN GLOBAL JOURNAL

Summer 2008

<http://www.glin.gov>

Volume 5

NEWS AND EVENTS ...

DR. MEDINA - 38 YEARS OF SERVICE



Dr. Rubens Medina, whose vision inspired the creation of GLIN, retired on June 30, 2008 after 38 years of service at the Library of Congress. As Chief of the Hispanic Division of the Law Library, a position he assumed in 1971, Dr. Medina quickly recognized the importance of timely access to official texts of laws as this information was critical to support the reference and research needs of the U.S. Congress, the courts, and the executive agencies—the primary clients served by the Law Library of Congress. He was among the first to see the value

FOUNDATION REPORT

At the most recent Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution that formally created an Advisory Council. The Council, made up of members of the public at large, will help the elected Board Members further the work of the Foundation.

The Council will meet as often as necessary, with at least two members of the Board Members present. It is currently composed of the following individuals: Mary Alice Baish (Associate Washington Affairs Representative, American Association of Law Libraries); Gail M. Leftwich (Executive Director, By the People/MacNeil/Lehrer Productions); Tedson Meyers (Chair, American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress); Joseph Pelton (Research Professor, Institute for Applied Space Research, George Washington University); Judge

GLIN DIRECTOR'S MEETING 2008

The 15th Annual GLIN Directors' Meeting will be held at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC from September 23-26, 2008. The annual meeting offers an opportunity for members to share their experiences and to provide input to help guide the future of the Network. It is the right and the responsibility of each member to participate in discussions and to vote on matters related to the organization, membership, and technology. Since the network has been expanding to include additional nations and institutions, this event will also provide a chance to meet new colleagues from around the world. We hope that you will make every effort to attend.

A draft program will be posted on the GLIN listserv soon, but some of the

News and Events Continued on Page 8

Contents

News and Events:	Field Focus:	GLIN Mexico	Costa Rica	From the Desk of
...Pages 1 and 8	GLIN-DRC	...Page 4-5	...Page 6-7	Charlie Doyle
	...Pages 2-3			...Page 8

Next GLIN Global Journal will be issued during the September Director's Meeting. If you wish to have an article published, please submit via email to LeeAnne Buckley (Lbuc@LOC.gov). Deadline: 8-31-2008

The RDC GLIN Station : A True Research Engine at the Disposal of the Institutions of the Republic

Role Played in the Reform of the Law

At the close of the 2006 elections, the institutions presented by the managers were put in place.

One of the tasks assigned to them was to change the existing laws and regulations with the purpose of adapting them to the evolution that occurred in all sectors of life and the new political options characterized by administrative decentralization.

This is how training seminars are regularly organized to review the laws governing specific areas.

In this way, the GLIN-RDC database has been put in use to generate contributions.

The last case is that of a seminar organized by the Permanent Commission for the Reform of Congolese Law concerning the rewriting of the Congolese Criminal Code, which met from April 14-19, 2008. At the seminar, the consolidated and updated texts in criminal matters were placed at the disposal of the experts gathered for that purpose.

To that effect, the special number of October 5, 2006 containing the Congolese Penal Code is uploaded into the www.glin.gov website; as we have mentioned, in order to consolidate the texts it is necessary to dispose of the old laws. In the case under examination, we refer to the Congolese Criminal Code, which encompasses texts that have become obsolete in some cases or are anachronistic in others.

The Congolese Criminal Code dates from 1886; since that time, different provisions have been added and a consolidation was prepared in 1888 and 1889; a definitive final version was prepared in 1940.

Provisions referring to new crimes were incorporated, including those that fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism in 2004, and against sexual violence in 2006.

Thus, it will be necessary to integrate these provisions within the Criminal Code to be drafted and to proceed to make the other changes the Commission has suggested.

Following-Up the Parliamentary Agenda

Additionally, the GLIN-DRC database allows tracking the parliamentary agenda for the adoption of laws by the National Assembly and the Senate, and the effectiveness of their promulgation by the President of the Republic and publication in the Official Journal.

Strengthening the Capacities of Provincial Branches Managers

Efforts have been made to allow managers of provincial branches to access the GLIN-DRC database to respond to users' requests. This is the reason why they were trained in July 2006 on the work methods of the network and the advantages it offers.

By Maurice Nyamugabo Mpova
Director of GLIN-DRC

(English translation provided by Dante Figueroa)



Figure 1: The Director of the GLIN-DRC Station in conversation with the expert Yenyi, Professors Boshab, Nyabirungu and Luzolo (from left to right) during the seminar on the rewriting of the Congolese Criminal Code.

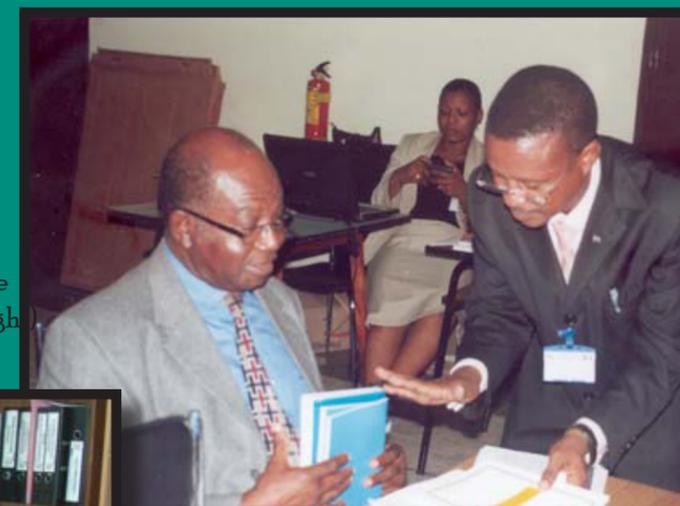


Figure 2: The Director of the GLIN-DRC Station (at right) delivering the coordinated texts of the Congolese Criminal Code to Professor Balanda, President of the Permanent Commission for the Reform of Congolese Law (at left).



Figure 3: Members of the Management of the GLIN-DRC Station during an evaluation and research session in support of the "Joint Commission of Justice." In the middle, Mr. Ivan PANEFF, Consultant; at left, Mr. Nkata and the Legal Analyst Brigitte Kambale.



Figure 4: The Manager of Distribution, the Director of the GLIN-DRC Station, the Assistant General Director of the Official Journal, and the managers of the provincial branches.



Figure 5: The Director of the GLIN-DRC Station with the manager of the provincial branches.



As every GLIN station knows, station activities include GLIN promotion in their own jurisdiction, within their own institution, and among other institutions. On two occasions, the GLIN Mexico station has presented the network to institutions within the jurisdiction.

The first promotion took place in early March 2008 at the “1st National Meeting of Legislative Libraries”, which was organized by the Commission of the Libraries System of the Congress.

The principal goal of the presentation was to familiarize the attendees with the services provided by the Congressional Library to the Representatives. The GLIN Mexico presentation occurred on the second day of activities.

The aim of the GLIN Mexico presentation was to explain:

- What Is GLIN?
- Advantages GLIN offers for legislative work.
- Countries in the GLIN family
- Location of GLIN Mexico on the web
- Accessing information on the GLIN Network



The second promotion was “The GLIN Mexico Presentation” on April 29, 2008. The purpose of the event was to increase use of the GLIN network as a Parliamentary and Judiciary tool supporting legislative work.



At this occasion, Dulce Maria Liauht, previous Director of GLIN Mexico, spoke about the origin and development of GLIN during its first 15 years. Jose Maria Serna de la Garza, researcher for the Legal Research Institution, mentioned the importance of access to global information.



COSTA RICA Strengthens GLIN

Dr. Mauricio Camacho Masís, Legal Analyst,
GLIN-Costa Rica

On June 27, 2008, the GLIN-Costa Rica station completed the process for establishing new affiliate stations, with the signing of the Fourth Agreement of Cooperation and Creation of the New Affiliate Station to the GLIN-Costa Rica Station—on this occasion with the University of Costa Rica (UCR), which, through its School of Law, will include within the Legal Literature Module national jurisprudence related to the norms already included in GLIN.

The signing ceremony was graced with the presence of: Dr. Yamileth González García, Rector of the University of Costa Rica; Dr. Francisco Antonio Pacheco, President of the Legislative Assembly of the Republic of Costa Rica; Msc. Isabel Zúñiga Quirós, Director of GLIN-Costa Rica; Dr. Rafael González Ballar, Dean of the School of Law; Lic. Virginia Vargas Ayales, Interim Director of the Department of Library Services, Documentation and Information for the Legislative Assembly; Lic. Anahí Alfaro, Director of the Affiliate Station-UCR; and Lic. Alcira Cascante, Assistant Director; as well as professors, students, legislative officials, and members of GLIN Stations.

The task of submitting legal materials and legal literature—following their own policies, while coordinating with authors to facilitate access to the full text of publications—will be the responsibility of the Legal Information Department with the support of the Library of the School of Law. This will allow for a more complete service for legal researchers and GLIN users.

At the signing ceremony, Dr. González remarked that the University of Costa Rica has made great efforts to provide the Institution with current documentation, to the extent that we are at the level of the first world if compared to those collections at Harvard University or the Catholic University of Chile.

Dr. Pacheco stressed that the signing of the agreement provides “the opportunity to offer . . . national and international users access to the GLIN database with certainty that the highest level of laws have been selected, as well as legislative records, and national legal doctrine and literature. The latter shall be included by our prestigious University of Costa Rica and its School of Law from this day forward, upon the installation and commissioning of the Affiliate Station.”

Dean González Ballar stated that the School of Law has taken on a commitment regarding the development of Costa Rican jurisprudence, for which the introduction of new technologies of information and communication appear to be first-class tools for projecting knowledge of the country’s jurisprudence nationally and internationally. He noted that the Faculty has been working for quite some time with the Center for Legal Information Online (CIJUL, in Spanish) and the System for Legal Doctrine of the School of Law (SIDOJU, in Spanish). Through the June 27 agreement, “it will be possible to offer complimentary legal literature to a national and international public, offering one more information tool for the pupil as well as the docent, judge, [and] attorney in their daily legal tasks,” he said.

The GLIN-Costa Rica station began work in 2002 and from that date through 2007 the station continually maintained the Law Module in GLIN; since 2008, the station has successfully provided information required in all modules of the GLIN database. We anticipate that the affiliate stations will be operating at 100 percent by 2009.

The former Director and Founder of GLIN-Costa Rica, Lic. Julieta Volio, was recognized by the University at the signing ceremony for her vision in creating an Affiliate Station within the School of Law.

(English Translation provided by Francisco Macias)



From left to right: Dr. Francisco Antonio Pacheco, MSc. Isabel Zúñiga Quirós, Dr. Rafael González Ballar, Dean of the School of Law, at the signing of the Agreement.



Dr. Yamileth González García (Rector of the University of Costa Rica) and Dr. Francisco Antonio Pacheco (President of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica) at the signing of the Agreement.

NEWS & EVENTS... *Cont. from page 1*

FOUNDATION REPORT contd.

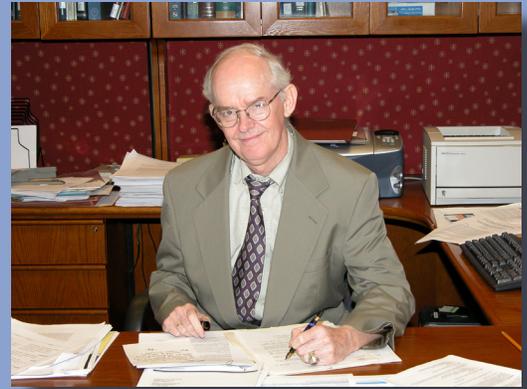
Law Library of Congress); Joseph Pelton (Research Professor, Institute for Applied Space Research, George Washington University); Judge William S. Sessions (Former Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation); Ginny Sloan (President and Founder, The Constitution Project); George Spina (President, The Global Legal Information Network Foundation); Stephen Joel Trachtenberg (President Emeritus and University Professor of Public Service, George Washington University), and Don Wallace (Chairman of the Board, International Law Institute).

Given a whole host of issues that the Advisory Council could be working on, the Trustees have asked this group to help focus on fundraising. During the course of the next few months the Council will be working on developing a plan of action that several of its noted fundraising experts can utilize as they begin preparing a detailed "case statement", background and presentation documents. The plan is to have this material ready so that it can be reviewed, by the Board of Trustees, at the Annual Meeting in September with the hope that the Council's fundraising experts will be able to begin their fundraising work at that point in time. END

DR. MEDINA contd.

of computer technology and how it could be used to store, sort, arrange, and make accessible legal information. In the era before Internet, he challenged information technology professionals to figure out a way to capture electronic texts of laws and enable analysts to create summaries from these online images—something that is commonplace today but was truly innovative at the time. But beyond the technology, Dr. Medina's biggest contribution stems from his passion for and commitment to sharing and collaboration. His belief that working together on a global scale toward the common goal of exchanging legal information so that we could learn more about each other propelled the development of GLIN and resulted in the unique partnership of nations and institutions that exists today. In 2007, Dr. Medina received a Federal 100 Award that recognizes individuals for their risk-taking, vision, and pioneering spirit. It is to his pioneering spirit that we owe the Network. END

From the Desk of Charles Doyle...



Dr. Rubens Medina, a guiding force in the Global Legal Information Network for almost two decades, retired as Law Librarian of Congress on June 30, 2008. I hope and expect, however, that we will continue to be able to draw on his wisdom and vision for some time to come. As Acting Law Librarian of Congress, I pledge to continue the Law Library's contributions and commitment to GLIN which provides legal information in support of the Law Library's mission to provide research and reference services to the U.S. Congress, the federal courts, and executive agencies. I understand that many of you represent institutions with similar missions and I hope that you will likewise remain committed to further this effort that was inspired by Dr. Medina's vision.

The Law Library is eager to host the 15th Annual GLIN Directors' meeting to be held September 23-26, 2008. I look forward to meeting those of you who are able to attend. I have heard much about the members of GLIN and it will be a pleasure to speak with you in person.

Charles Doyle
Acting Law Librarian of Congress

DIRECTOR'S MEETING contd.

highlights are noted here. First, in recognition of his service to the Network, a portion of the program will be devoted as a tribute to Dr. Rubens Medina. As is customary, each member will be offered the opportunity to report on the status of its GLIN station. The growth of the Network has presented many challenges, especially with respect to maintaining the participation of members. This year's meeting will include another session devoted to membership issues and the Executive Council has at least one policy proposal related to membership for consideration. Finally, a closing dinner will be held and we hope that you will be inspired by the remarks of the speaker.

If you have questions about the program, or require an invitation, please contact GLIN Central at glincen@loc.gov. We look forward to seeing you in September. END