



News from GLIN.Central

By Janice Hyde



The National Assembly Library of the Republic of Korea hosted the 17th Annual GLIN Directors' Meeting from September 6-10, 2010 in Seoul. Representatives from seventeen nations attended the first meeting of GLIN Directors to be held outside of Washington, D.C. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), on of the newest members of GLIN, as well as two potential GLIN members jurisdictions: Republic of Congo and Papua New Guinea. Dr. Jae Il Yoo, Chief Librarian of the National Assembly Library offered opening remarks. He commended the goal of GLIN to provide access to credible and authoritative legal information and expressed his hope that the meeting would be a turning point for the National Assembly Library to col-

laborate and become a hub for legal information. In his welcoming comments, David Mao, Deputy Law Librarian of Congress, stated that this year there have been some "remarkable efforts to move GLIN forward" including a comprehensive assessment of GLIN. Via a taped video recording, Law Librarian of Congress Roberta Shaffer welcomed attendees and extended her gratitude to the meeting hosts. She said that GLIN Central was eager to hear about the accomplishments and challenges of GLIN members and "to learn from your best practices and share ideas about future directions for GLIN."

Following presentations about several parliamentary support organizations, two keynote addresses were delivered. Representative Yoon Keun Woo, Chair of the Legislation and Judiciary Committee, Korean National Assembly spoke about "The Future of Legal Information Service: Promoting the Global Open Access." Mr. Woo emphasized the importance for legislators to have timely access to relevant information to do their job, but suggested that with the current flood of informa-

tion it is not always easy to select speedily what is useful from all that is available. He stated that any sufficient legal information database should "enable its users to search easily and use effectively the desired legal information any time anywhere." He urged GLIN members to implement such efforts through their "steady research and development of the GLIN service." The second keynote address, "Keeping Our Laws Safe," was delivered by Barbara Bintliff, Joseph C. Hutcheson Professor in Law and Director of the Tarlton Law Library and the J-mail Center for Legal Research, University of Texas at Austin. While we rely on laws to keep us safe, who, she asked, is keeping laws safe? We have moved from the print version of laws, where it is easy to determine if something has been changed, to digital versions, where it is impossible to detect alterations. She urged governments to keep their laws safe by authenticating them. "It stands to reason that, before governments can transition fully into the electronic information environment, they must develop procedures to ensure the trustworthiness

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GLIN Training
Washington, D.C.
March 21-25, 2011

How to...

Follow GLIN Policy for the Title Field

By Janice Hyde

To provide a little historical background, the title field in GLIN was not part of the first online version of the system that debuted around 1995. GLIN members specifically requested the addition of a title field because, they contended, for many jurisdictions the title serves as the primary tool for locating particular laws. Unfortunately, not all jurisdictions assign “official” or formal titles to laws. While other jurisdictions, such as the United States, may assign official titles the laws may be better known by shorter versions of the title or by “popular” titles. As a compromise, the title field was added in a later version of GLIN, but has remained as an optional (not required) field. The original policy for adding titles indicated that where an official or formal title exists, an English translation of this title should be entered into the field. For laws lacking official or formal titles, GLIN contributors could create and enter an appropriate English language title.

At the 16th Annual GLIN Directors’ Meeting held in September 2009, GLIN members ratified the Executive Council’s policy decision to require an English language title for all legal ma-

terials contributed to the database. Although the title field is still not a required field, it serves as a very helpful finding aid for GLIN users. In the current version of GLIN, the title is the first thing that users see on the search results list—appearing even before the jurisdiction name. In cases where the researcher chooses not to display the summary at all in the search results list (a preference that can be selected from the “More Options” search screen), the title serves as the primary source of information about the content of the law.

As GLIN has evolved, it has assumed a much more multilingual character, but the provision of metadata in one “core” language, which to date has been English, has not gone away. The current GLIN policy includes the requirement for an English language title. We urge all members to read the policy statement about titles which can be found on page 19 of the GLIN Policy Manual available from the GLIN member homepage under the “GLIN Network Information” link. Your compliance with this policy requirement facilitates global access to the legal materials you contribute to GLIN.



GLIN

www.glin.gov

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An official publication of the Global Legal Information Network (GLIN). The *GLIN Global Journal* encourages Directors and Staff of the different GLIN stations to submit articles and photographs of particular interest to the GLIN community. Submissions will be edited to convey the most relevant information.

Please submit text (preferably MS Word) and images (preferably .jpg) in separate digital forms via e-mail (cdove@loc.gov).

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GLIN Global Journal Welcomes Letters from GLIN Members and Associated Members

Members are invited to use the future Forum section for lively thought provoking topics that are relevant to GLIN’s operations. However, just as other newsletter editors exercise discretion over which letters to publish and how to edit them, we do too. In deciding whether or how much to publish, we consider content—including misstatements of fact, redundancy, and length (the limit for any article is 300 words—exceptions may apply).

Letters must be signed by the author, whose GLIN affiliation and e-mail address should be included so we can verify authorship. Letter writers should understand that when they sign their letters and release them to us for publication they are relinquishing privacy.—Ed.



Memorable Moments from the 17th Annual GLIN Directors' Meeting



GLIN Central News: Continued from page 1

of their electronic legal information, just as they ensure the trustworthiness of their print information.”

In 2010, the Law Library contracted for a comprehensive external evaluation of GLIN. The final report from the assessment was circulated to various stakeholders, including GLIN members, who were asked to provide input and comments during an open discussion session moderated by David Mao. There was a general consensus among members that the target audience for GLIN should be broad and include all potential users of legal information including citizens. There was also agreement on the importance of providing access to official, authentic texts of laws. Providing access to laws from sub-national governments was also suggested as important. Some members expressed an interest in having more European countries participate in GLIN while others said membership should not be limited. Information from “countries very different from ours may be very useful,” suggested the representative from Mexico. Concerning technology, mention was made of the importance of security features as was the adoption of XML to facilitate data exchange. A range of options for funding was discussed such as charging fees to download texts from GLIN; assessing membership fees; and commercializing GLIN by creating products such as comparative law studies that could be sold. Members expressed uneasiness with the idea of selling access to public information, and indicated a preference for membership fees

As in previous years, GLIN directors were given the opportunity to report on the status of their respective GLIN stations and to highlight accomplishments or new initiatives. Many members described efforts over the past year to promote GLIN and train a variety of users. The GLIN Director from the Democratic Republic of Congo reported training 1,000 judges who had recently graduated from universities and their outreach operation to inform university students about GLIN. The representative from the Nicaraguan Supreme Court of Justice told of their nation-wide campaign to reach out to all types of courts and target judges and legal professionals for training. In the case of judges, they made special efforts to conduct personal training for those who could not attend group presentations. The GLIN station in Ecuador conducted four workshops for legislators and staff to inform them about the availability of GLIN, and Kuwait reached beyond its borders to invite neighbors in the region to participate in GLIN.

Representatives from Saudi Arabia and Uruguay mentioned the development and distribution of brochures to inform potential users about GLIN, while other GLIN members are using newer technologies to disseminate information from the database. Taiwan offers RSS feeds and access through PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants) to GLIN. GLIN Mexico has created a Twitter account to post new laws and regulations from Mexico as well as laws from other GLIN member countries that are focused on topics

of legislative interest. The Twitter account was created to make legislators, internal and external researchers, and other users aware of GLIN and to facilitate comparative legal research.

Signing the GLIN Charter is the final step required to become a voting member of the Network. At this year’s meeting, the Charter was signed by three new members: Mr. Dinos Olouna, Technical Specialist for GLIN Gabon signed the Charter on behalf of his nation; Dr. Francisco Vergara, Secretary General of the National Assembly of Ecuador signed the Charter for Ecuador (formally transferring membership from a non-governmental organization to the legislature); and Jasmine Honculada, Director of GLIN WIPO, signed the Charter for the World Intellectual Property Organization.

At a concluding event, David Mao presented several awards to recognize ongoing excellence and special achievements. GLIN stations in Argentina, Democratic Republic of Congo, Costa Rica, Kuwait, Mexico, Paraguay, Romania, and Taiwan earned Exemplary Performance Awards given to previous recipients of the GLIN Model Station award that continue to lead by example. Two Special Achievement Awards were presented: to Uruguay in recognition of its success in recruiting over 20 affiliate stations to contribute sub-national legislation to the database and to the Supreme Court of Nicaragua for establishing high-quality standards for the contribution of judicial decisions. The 2010 GLIN Model Station award was presented to GLIN El Salvador.

Memorable Moments: Continued from Page 3



Memorable Moments: Continued from Page 4



Introducing the New Members of the GLIN Family



Appearing in the photo above, from left to right: Bassel Dohaini (GLIN.Lebanon); Charles Dove (GLIN.Central); Francisco Macías (GLIN.Central); Saleh Al-Mutairi (GLIN.Kuwait); Falih Al-Shalani (GLIN.Kuwait); Hyun Su Kang (GLIN.Korea); Mi Jeong Kim (GLIN.Korea); Janice Hyde (GLIN.Central); Amal Tarhini (GLIN.Lebanon); Houda van Zijl (GLIN.WIPO); Valérie Etim (GLIN.WIPO); Natalia Camacho Argüello (GLIN.Costa Rica); Connie Johnson (GLIN.Central); George Sadek (GLIN.Central); and Dante Figueroa (GLIN.Central)



From the Editor's Desk



This is the final issue of the GLIN Global Journal for 2010. In Washington, D.C. it is the time to find a quiet corner to keep warm. It is also the time of year for reflection on what has been accomplished and what yet needs to be done. In fact that is the theme of our winter issue—a retrospective look over the past months with an eye towards the future. The issue opens with a report on the 17th Annual GLIN Directors' Meeting that, along with the Year in Review 2010 column, provides the reader with a great summary of the Network's accomplishments over the past 12 months. We hope you enjoy the selection of photographs taken during the December training session and the Directors' Meeting in Seoul, Korea.

The next year promises a new release of the GLIN data system which will be a topic for a future issue of the GLIN Global Journal. I am also introducing a new feature suggested by several new Network members—reports on how GLIN teams are organized and what are the variety of procedures that are used to accomplish the work of the Network. I will need your help: Please provide this information in a page-length report that will be published in the GLIN Global Journal. Please include the size of your staff, their respective roles, and any descriptions of your procedures, if you have created them. We will also continue to include reports from the field. So continue to send articles and photographs on the activities of your GLIN station.

The next issue of the GLIN Global Journal will be published in March 2011; therefore, please send your reports to me by the end of February. Finally, I wish everyone happy holidays and a great new year.

Year in Review 2010

- Release 4.1.1 was launched in November 2010. New features that were part of this release include improved security features; allowing for contributors and searchers to add multiple subject terms into the subject term box at the same time; enabling the system to recognize variations of words (e.g. plural forms) for searching the subject term index; and removing “used for” term matches when searching from the main search box (which provides for more precise, targeted search results).
- Letters of intent to participate in GLIN were received from Andean Parliament, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador (new institution), Indonesia (new institution), Uzbekistan, WIPO, and Yemen.
- Three training sessions were held at the Law Library of Congress in February, May and December 2010. Thirty four GLIN team members from the following jurisdictions participated in these sessions: Andean Parliament, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Karamah (NGO), Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Peru, Taiwan, and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
- The GLIN system received over 16 million hits and nearly 1.9 million visits. GLIN members added about 12,000 new legal resources and GLIN Central staff contributed over 2,000 new legal resources to the GLIN database. GLIN ends the year with a total of nearly 191,000 legal resources from 60 jurisdictions.



The photographs in the header and on page two were taken by Francisco Macías.