



**News from GLIN.Central**

By Janice Hyde



In spite of snow storms in February that shut down the GLIN.Central offices at the Law Library of Congress for nearly a week, GLIN.Central has been engaged in a number of activities in the first quarter of 2010.

The Law Library of Congress has contracted with Outsell, Inc. to undertake an evaluation of GLIN to gather data that will be used to plan its strategic future. A high-level technical assessment of the system has been completed. The study will now focus on users and potential users of GLIN and information will be gathered primarily through interviews and surveys. Many GLIN Directors will be asked to participate in interviews and all GLIN members will have an opportunity to take an online survey. You will be contacted soon with additional informa-

tion about these activities and GLIN.Central asks for your assistance in providing input for the evaluation. We value the opinions of GLIN members as we consider how to shape its future.

A training session was held at GLIN.Central from February 22-26. Under the sponsorship of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), representatives from the Andean Parliament, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru attended the week-long training (see photos on page 6). Additionally, the new Coordinator for GLIN.Dominican Republic took part in the training. The focus on countries of the Andean region is the final phase of the Bank's "GLIN Americas" Initiative which began in 2001 and divided Latin America and the Caribbean into four sub-regions (MERCOSUR, Central America, English-speaking Caribbean, and Andean region). This initiative led to the incorporation of ten new member jurisdictions in the network and we look forward to working with these most recent trainees to ensure their full participation in the network.

GLIN.Central continues to

engage in promotional presentations and events. In February, the American Bar Association sponsored a program at its mid-year meeting in Orlando, Florida to which representatives from many English-speaking Caribbean nations were invited. A complete GLIN overview and demonstration was presented to an audience comprising attorneys, law librarians, and practitioners. The Law Library has hosted several visiting delegations during this quarter and GLIN presentations were offered to representatives from Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, and China. In an effort to support the GLIN Foundation's request to the IDB for funding assistance for GLIN, representatives from Central American embassies in Washington were invited to attend a reception and GLIN presentation at the Law Library in advance of a meeting of IDB in Cancun, Mexico in March. We thank Isabel Zúñiga Quirós, Director of GLIN Costa Rica, for her leadership and assistance with this effort.

We continue to seek financial support for travel to the 17th Annual GLIN Directors'

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May 24-28, 2010:  
GLIN Training, Washington DC

September 6-10, 2010:  
17th Annual GLIN Directors' Meeting, Seoul, Korea

# How to...

## INCLUDING SUBNATIONAL LEGISLATION IN GLIN

**By Francisco Macías**

With the advent of GLIN Stations throughout the network needing to submit subnational legislation, the urgency to properly process and identify it has surfaced. As such, we've devised a short-term solution:

In the title field, the analyst should identify the record in the following manner:

[ S U B N A T I O N A L LEGISLATION]—this should be written in capital letters and in brackets before the title, in English and in the national language.

This way, when we have

decided or once we have the means of processing these records, we will be able to identify this type of legislation in GLIN.

In addition to this measure, we recommend the use of instrument classes as an additional layer of identification for subnational legislation. In the case of El Salvador, for example, the type of subnational legislation that has been submitted recently is municipal legislation, more specifically: Municipal Decrees; so, the instrument class "LOCAL LEGISLATION-Municipal Decree" was

created. If there were departmental legislation to submit, then the instrument class, similarly, would be preceded by "DEPARTMENTAL LEGISLATION." This way, there is a clearer hierarchy established of the instrument types included.

Also, please remember that if the instrument is not from the National Official Gazette, it is still necessary to properly identify the source by including the name of the publication in the corresponding authority tables. If you should need assistance in making this

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## SUBMITTING CANDIDATE TERMS:

### *Technical Procedure and Review Process*

**By Francisco Macías**

Recently there has been great enthusiasm from the member stations toward expanding the GLIN Thesaurus/ Subject Term Index. We therefore felt it was necessary to provide members with a brief review of the technical procedure for submitting "Candidate Subject Terms" and also to delineate the review process a term undergoes after it has been submitted.

Contributors wishing to propose a new term should go to the "Member Home" page. Under the "Contribute New"

section, you should click on the "Candidate Subject Term" link. This will open the "Candidate Subject Term" interface; please note that the fields that have an asterisk next to them are required fields. Below, we will explain the different fields and the information needed to complete them:

- \*Candidate term—This is the term to be considered for inclusion in the subject term index. Because the language of operations of GLIN is English, we prefer that the term be in English;

although, we realize that this isn't always possible.

- \*Scope—The scope note is a brief explanation similar to a definition of the term and how it should be applied in GLIN. Whenever possible the scope note should be drawn from the legislation because that is how the term is actually defined in the law. These are intended to be specific, in cases where there are similar terms, but broad enough to cover the concept as it may be expressed in different legal cultures and different languages. The

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# GLIN

www.glin.gov

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Executive Editor

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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.

## From the Field

### GLIN.Gabon Has a New Director

By Gladys Peggy Obame



By decision of the Council of Ministers in its meeting of February 11, 2010, Sir David Ickombolo, Civil Administrator, a graduate of the Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA), has been appointed Director of Official Publications. It should be noted that the Directorate of Official Publications (OPD) is the institution through which

the government publishes, among other things, the Official Journal of the Gabonese Republic. The GLIN Gabon station is housed within this department. In accordance with provisions that require the Director of the Official Journal to also serve as the Director of the GLIN station in Gabon, Sir David Ickombolo has now assumed responsibility to oversee GLIN Gabon.

Young and dynamic, the new Director of the station will implement, in conjunction with the GLIN-Gabon team members, the strategies needed to increase the number of contributions

while improving the quality of summaries produced. Currently, there are 702 legal texts from Gabon available in the GLIN database and 1000 legislative items will be passed by the end of May 2010. To plan a strategy to incorporate all this information, during a meeting held Friday, 26 February 2010 in the meeting room of the OPD, the GLIN Gabon team decided to apply SMART targets to mark the second anniversary of the station, which falls in the month of May. The detailed SMART objectives are:

Specific = Continue, what-

ever the cost, the work of the GLIN Gabon station;  
Measurable = Increase the number of contributions by analysts;  
Accessible = Improve the quality of work to make submissions available as soon as possible;  
Feasible = Increase the capacity of Internet connection;  
Temporalized = 2 months, short-term maturity.

The assignment has been given to all members of GLIN Gabon to check, on a daily basis, the evolution of our commitments.

### GLIN.Panama Holds Training for Legislative Officials

By Sonia R. González

During the week of February 22-26, 2010, the GLIN.PANAMA station--a dependency of the administrative structure of the Legislative Power, specifically within the General Directorate for Legal and Technical Adviso-

ry--trained personnel on the use of GLIN as a search tool to assist them in the performance of their daily activities. In addition to direct training, we used the online Distance Learning Program available on the GLIN home

page for members that offers an additional test-taking feature, which is a valuable tool for assessing the skills participants have acquired.

The participants who obtained satisfactory scores on the test will be presented a

certificate, issued by GLIN.Panama. The certificates will be presented by the Director of GLIN.Panama, Mr. Salvador Sánchez González, in a small ceremony taking place in the institution facilities.

### GLIN.DRC at the 10th International Law via the Internet Conference

By Maurice Nyamugabo Mpova



From left to right: Delegation from GLIN.Gabon; Lakhasara Mint Dié; Maurice Nyamugabo Mpoba, GLIN.DRC

The GLIN.DRC station was invited to take part in the 10th International Law via the Internet Conference 2009, held in Durban, South Africa by the South African Information Institute (SAFLII) from 26 to 27 November 2009. The Law via the Internet Conference is an initiative of the Legal Infor-

mation Institutes worldwide that constitute the Free Access to Law Movement. I was there to represent the Station and to share the Congolese experience on the dissemination of law by Internet.

It was a favorable opportunity to discover the "South African Legal Information

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**Candidate Terms: Continued from Page 2**

scope note usually generates the most debate by the GLIN Thesaurus Committee.

- **\*Broader terms**—These are terms that already exist in GLIN (or are being simultaneously proposed) that are broader than the Candidate term. For example, for the term WATER, there are three (3) broader terms: Environment; Natural Resources; and, Real property.

- **\*Narrower terms**—These are terms that already exist in GLIN (or are being simultaneously proposed) that are narrower than the Candidate term. For example, for the term WATER, there is one (1) narrower term: Drinking water.

- **\*Related terms**—These are terms that already exist in GLIN (or are being simultaneously proposed) that are related to the Candidate term. This usually encompasses a broader range of relation. For example, for the term WATER, there are thirteen (13) related terms; there could be more, though: Aquaculture; Biological diversity; Cholera; Conservation areas; Dams; Endangered species; Erosion of land; Greenhouse gases; Hydroelectric power; Invasive species; Planning; Pollution; Public lands.

- **Used for Terms (UF)**—

These are terms that are not part of the Subject Term Index that are other names or ways that users might search for the same Candidate term. For example, the term WATER says “Water laws”; this is to let the analyst know that any legislation concerning water should have the term WATER assigned to it. Or, for the sake of better illustrating used for terms, let’s go to BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY; here we can see that there are many terms that would be understood as Used For Terms: Animal genetic resources; Animal and plant diversity; Biodiversity; Biological diversification; Diversification, Biological; Diversity of species; Diversity, Biological; Ecosystems; Genetic resources, Animal; Genetic resources, Plant; Plant genetic resources; Plant and animal diversity; Species diversity. Note: Used For Terms may be different for different languages. For example, in the U.K. they might use the term petrol to find something related to petroleum, whereas in the U.S. we would search for gasoline.

- **\*Legislative Sources**—Every term that exists in GLIN is assigned to at least one (1) Legislative Source (i.e. GLIN record) that *is* in GLIN.

And each Candidate Subject Term must be assigned to at least one (1) Legislative Source, in order to be successfully submitted as a candidate term. The GLIN ID is all that is required to populate this field. If the analyst finds an instrument that would require a new Subject Term and would like to propose the term, the summary should be completed as fully as possible and be saved as draft until the term is available for assignment. The draft summary will generate a GLIN ID, which will satisfy the requirement of at least one legislative source and that ID can be used to complete this field.

- **Authority References**—These are optional fields. However, they serve not only to support the argument that a certain term is necessary, but also assist the proponent in refining the proposal process by seeing how other recognized institutions have handled the same term. This is supporting documentation.

- **\*Notes**—The notes field is a required field to complete the submission process. It is also the space where the proponent can further illustrate their argument in support of their term. The proponent is encouraged to be

generous with the information; however, this should be the most relevant information (definitions; URLs; etc).

Upon submitting the Candidate term using the Candidate Term interface on GLIN, the Thesaurus Administrator receives a notice that a term has been submitted. Ideally, if the proponent has satisfied all the fields, the term is then ready to be reviewed by the Thesaurus Committee. The Thesaurus Committee convenes on Thursday mornings, when there are submissions to discuss. Once the Thesaurus Committee has approved a term and its components, the term goes onto the next phase where it awaits translation. Translation of the terms is contingent upon two factors: the existence of a batch of terms to submit and the financial resources to request the translation—into the 14 GLIN languages. Therefore, although we encourage all contributors to submit candidate terms for any and all the terms they deem necessary, we also ask for your patience because this is a lengthy process—one that now takes nearly a year to complete.

**GLIN Central News: Continued from page 1**

Meeting in Seoul, Korea, although our search has not yet been successful. If anyone would like a letter or

**Subnational Legislation: Continued from page 2**

determination, please contact GLIN.Central.

In any case, we would be interested in hearing other

materials to support an application for funding from a government, foundation, or corporation, please let

ideas on how to process subnational legislation, especially from the stations that are currently submitting

us know. The meeting is scheduled for September 6-10, 2010. A preliminary program for the meeting

subnational legislation.

Again, for the time being the short-term solution is to tag the record as indicated

should be available soon and online registration will begin at the end of April.

above, and please make certain your team members are aware of this policy, until further notice.

**GLIN.DRC: Continued from Page 3**

Institute (SAFLII),” which collects and publishes legal materials from Southern and Eastern Africa for free online access and a network that brings together all the local institutes from those regions’ English-speaking countries.

I had the opportunity to present the Congolese experience in the dissemination law using the Internet via [www.glin.gov](http://www.glin.gov) and emphasized the particular characteristic that the

GLIN.DRC station is the most consulted station of Central and Western Africa and that the other countries of the region look to the Station as an example to follow.

The conference allowed to me to distribute a GLIN brochure and to speak and demonstrate the benefits of GLIN.

I’d also like to emphasize that it was the relentless efforts of Lakhsara Mint Dié that have made possible the expansion of GLIN

in Africa. Ms. Mint Dié shared her experience, and she spoke of some of the successes and also some of obstacles she’s encountered.

The Gabonese delegation also took part in this conference and corroborated our testimony and further promoted interest in GLIN.

Also, at the conference a new idea was suggested to create an African Legal Information Institute to serve the need for an Afri-

can global strategy of legal information diffusion using Internet and IT.

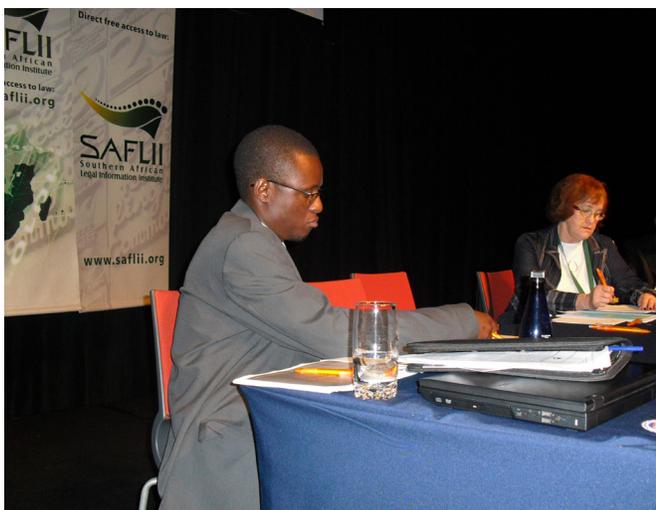
The SAFLII appreciated the experiment of the GLIN.DRC station and other countries of Central and North Africa in the diffusion of the law by Internet through GLIN. In the future, the SAFLII will intensify exchange with the aforementioned countries within the context of the comparative law and corporate law.



**GLIN.Gabon from left to right: Dinos Olouna, Technical Specialist; Gladys Peggy Obame, Legal Analyst; Meltchard Ondo Eko, Legal Analyst**



**Maurice Nyamugabo Mpova, Director GLIN.DRC**



**SAFLII represented at the 10th Annual International Law via the Internet Conference 2009**



**Lakhsara Mint Dié delivering a speech at the 10th Annual International Law via the Internet Conference 2009**

## Introducing the New Members of the GLIN Family



Colleagues from GLIN.Ecuador and GLIN.Colombia meet with staff members of the Law Library of Congress.



Dr. Francisco Xavier Vergara Ortiz, Secretary General of the National Assembly of Ecuador, signing a copy of the new Ecuadorian Constitution--a gift for the Law Library's collection.



Charles Dove, Project Manager, GLIN.Central



GLIN Graduation, Washington DC, Library of Congress James Madison Building, Friday, February 26, 2010. From left to right: Luis Federman Estrada Osejos, Legal Analyst, GLIN.Ecuador; Augusto Francisco Torres Bueno, Director GLIN.Ecuador; Dante Figueroa, Senior Legal Information Analyst, GLIN.Central; Sucre Zacarías, Coordinator GLIN.Dominican Republic; Beatriz Elena Ocampo Castro, Legal Analyst, GLIN.Colombia; Milagros Campos Ramos, Legal Analyst, GLIN.Peru; Carlos Alberto Martínez, Technical Specialist, GLIN.Andean Parliament; Eduardo Ghuisolfi, Special Training Consultant; Alejandro Callejas, GLIN.Andean Parliament; Janice Hyde, Director GLIN.Central; Milton Villamil, Technical Specialist, GLIN.Colombia; Roberto Tarazona Palma, Director GLIN.Peru; Jesús Alfonso Rodríguez Camargo, Legal Analyst, GLIN.Colombia; Victor Hugo Neciosup, Technical Specialist, GLIN.Peru; Trung Van Le, Technical Specialist GLIN.Central; Connie Johnson, Instructor, GLIN.Central; Carlos Chacón Monsolve, Director GLIN.Andean Parliament; Emilio Otero Dajud, Director GLIN.Colombia; Francisco Macías, Senior Legal Information Analyst, GLIN.Central; George Sade, Senior Legal Information Analyst, GLIN.Central. (Missing: Dr. Francisco Xavier Vergara Ortiz, Legal Analyst, GLIN.Ecuador; Charles Dove, Project Manager, GLIN.Central.)

# From the Editor's Desk



Please join me in welcoming Francisco Macías as Assistant Editor. Francisco is a GLIN Legal Analyst. Many of you who have taken GLIN training in Washington, D.C. will have met him as an Instructor who first helped you master the intricacies of GLIN. Francisco is responsible

for the attractive new layout of the journal this month. As you look through this month's issue you will find a change in the name of the Field Focus department to From the Field and the addition of two new departments, How to..., and Introductions. How to... is a section that provides technical instruction or policy guidance of general interest to the Membership. Introductions is a place to catch the first glimpse of new additions to the GLIN family. Please look for any corrections from the previous edition on the From the Editor page.

Finally, thank you Gabon, Panama and the Democratic Republic of the Congo for sending articles that report on the many activities of your jurisdictions. And for those of you yet to send in your first article, we welcome your contributions. Please follow the simple instructions found on page 2 of this issue and you will find yourself published in the GLIN Global Journal.

Charles Dove  
cdove@loc.gov

## Errata

In the last issue of *GLIN Global Journal*, Issue 3 December 2009, the article entitled "GLIN Has a New Associate Central American Court of Justice By GLIN Costa Rica" should have read:

"GLIN Has a New Associate Central American Court By GLIN Nicaragua."