



## Central



Training, Distance Learning, Egypt and Indonesia.....Page 4

## A message from

### Dr. Medina

Currency and Completeness.....Page 4

## Editor's Note

GLIN Foundation Update .....Page 3

## From Your Perspective...

Would you like to share your GLIN Station's successes or challenges? Do you have promotional ideas that would help other stations? We would like to make your contributions part of the GLIN Global Journal. Please send your story and photographs to: [LBUC@LOC.GOV](mailto:LBUC@LOC.GOV). *The deadline for the February issue: January 9, 2007.*

# Field Focus

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Submitted by Nyamugabo Mpova, Director of the DRC GLIN Station



*(TRANSLATION FROM THE FRENCH)*  
*The DRC GLIN station, a true motor propagating the law in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the post-conflict context.*

Since September 2005, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has joined GLIN, to the satisfaction of its users, researchers and law practitioners who, from now on, may access laws and regulations on line.

After a long period of war and dysfunction of the institutions, elections were organized and national and local authorities put into place.

Under the terms of article 68 of the Constitution, the institutions of the Republic are:

1. The President of the Republic;
  2. The Parliament;
  3. The Government;
  4. The courts and tribunals.
- The provincial institutions are:
1. The provincial Assembly;
  2. The provincial Government (art. 195 of the Constitution).

One of the concerns of the actual government is re-establishing the state authority over the entire

*continued on page 2*

## COSTA RICA

Submitted by Isabel Zúñiga Quirós  
Estación GLIN-Costa Rica  
*(TRANSLATION FROM SPANISH)*

### Progress

The GLIN-Costa Rica station has been working on the Judicial Decisions Module since the middle of the year 2007.

In a short period of time, we expect to link the Law Module with the consolidated texts of the database of the Attorney General's Office, which will allow us to offer greater legal certainty to the legal practitioner and to the user in general.

Currently the GLIN team is working arduously on the creation of two affiliated stations and plans the signing of the Charter of Cooperation with the Constitutional Court (Constitutional Chamber), to expedite the obtaining of information in a timely manner.

Also, in the Legislative Records



Module, priority has been given to the inclusion of technical reports produced by the Department of Technical Services of the Legislative Assembly, for which the Station has trained—during the month of October—three officers of the GLIN Station-Technical Services, who are acquiring the necessary skills for the management of the GLIN infrastructure. We anticipate that by 2008 we will be feeding information into this new module.

*continued on page 3*

## UNITED NATIONS

Submitted by Rosemary Noona  
GLIN-United Nations



On September 11<sup>th</sup>, the Dag Hammarskjold Library held an information fair for the delegates who are members of the UN's Committee on Information. The fair highlighted the electronic information resources that the library has to offer to the delegations and UN staff. A library staff member was at the GLIN table to both hand out the new brochures recently received from GLIN Central and to answer questions from the delegates.

Our plan to add the full texts of all six UN official languages to existing UN records in the Legal Literature database is progressing. This month, with the help of our student intern Minona Ciuca from Romania, we added 57 Chinese texts to existing records, corresponding to legal opinions published in the 1996, 1997 and 1998 UN Juridical Yearbooks.

We are determined to not let the temporary transfer of our indexer, Ms. Oguljeren Niyazberdiyeva, delay the input of data into the GLIN network. Ms. Rosemary Noona and Ms. Susan Kurtas, a librarian from the Dag Hammarskjold Library, will work on the creation of summaries and the assignment of subject headings for records from the 2004 United Nations Juridical Yearbook until a replacement is named for Ms. Niyazberdiyeva.

# Field Focus

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO *(continued from page 1, column 1)*



territory and to reverse the decline of the economy.

The role of the DRC GLIN station is essential within this new political and economic context; indeed, all the actions that the Government must take to re-start life necessitate the adoption of laws, ordinances, decrees and implementing regulations respectively by the National Assembly, the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and the Ministers. All these texts are published in the *Journal Officiel*, which traditionally was only published in a paper version. As a result of joining GLIN, these laws and regulations are now inserted in the site [www.glin.gov](http://www.glin.gov)

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has accepted free access for all, which constitutes a true opening to the world. Indeed, the possible investors need to have access to the various codes, in particular, the Mining Code, the Forestry Code, the Economic and Commercial Code, and the Investment Code before going ahead with their investments. They find on the site [www.glin.gov](http://www.glin.gov) all these codes of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In addition, in this country, which is taking many steps to reform and decentralize, the members of Parliament need to know other foreign legislation and the Congolese legislation to implement the necessary modifications and, in particular, laws on:

- The restructuring of public enterprises;
- The rules relating to the disengagement of the state from public enterprises;
- The general provisions applicable to public establishments; and
- The organization and management of the state.

The site is a sure ally for comparative law purposes, as it permits access to laws of the other GLIN members located in Asia, the Americas and Europe. The DRC GLIN station has produced multiple seminars and conferences to inform users about the existence of the site and its advantages. Various experts from the country use the site for their research; students and university professors find answers to their concerns.

At the level of the provinces, the provincial assemblies adopt “édits”; the province governors sign these texts and the local offices of the *Journal Officiel* collect and send them for publication on the GLIN site. This way, the site is a means of communication between national and local institutions.

It is an instrument of good governance and constitutes during this post-conflict period a means of propagating legal norms that contribute to peace, the management of the natural resources of the country and the administration of the territorial entities.

Translated by Nicole Atwill  
Senior Foreign Law Specialist  
November 2007



Top Left: GLIN associates gather outside for a group photo.

Above: Maurice Nyamugabo, Director, with members of the GLIN station team, display promotional material for GLIN .

Left: GLIN Congo team members meet at their station.

# Field Focus

**COSTA RICA** (continued from page 1, column 2)



On another matter, the agreement for the creation of

the GLIN Station-Attorney General's Office is coordinated by the Attorney General of the National System of Current Law (SINALEVI—in Spanish), Francisco Salas Ruiz, and Julieta Volio Guevara, Director of the GLIN Station (Costa Rica).

### *Legislative Dynamics: DR-CAFTA (Dominican Republic CAFTA) Progress in the Costa Rican Parliament*

The process of legal plans to bring about the entry into effect of the Free Trade Agreement with the United States, which was approved by referendum last October 7, has shown some progress. Although close to 1000 amendments to the Bill concerning the Protection of New Varieties of Plants were presented, only five were approved. This initiative is one of the laws necessary to fulfill the commitments acquired by Costa Rica within the frame of DR-CAFTA.

Thus far, at first debate, only the amendment to the “Law Concerning the Protection of Foreign Firms” (“Ley de Protección de Casas Extranjeras”—in Spanish) was approved on September 23, 2007.

On another note, the “*Addition of Various Articles to Law 8039 on Procedures for the Observance of Intellectual Property Rights*, and the *Amendment of Various Articles of Law 7978 on Trademarks and Other Distinctive Signs*, and of *Law 6867 on Invention Patents, Drawings and Industrial Models and Utility Models*,” were delegated to the Commissions with Full Legislative Authority for their review and approval.

The Legislative Plenary is aware of the bills concerning: “*Costa Rica’s Adhesion to the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure*”; the “*Approval of the Trademark Law Treaty and its Regulations*”; the bill on “*the Protection of New Varieties of Plants*”; the “*Law on the Strengthening and Modernizing of the Public Entities of the Telecommunications Sector*”; and the “*General Law on Telecommunications*.”

At the Permanent Legislative Committees, the discussion of plans concerning the schedule for implementation is kept constant: the Commission for Legal Affairs analyzes the bill on “*Amendment to Articles 56 and 345 of the Penal code, (Law 4573)*, and of *Article 55 of the Law Against Corruption and Unjust Enrichment in Internal Affairs, (Law 8422)* and the *Repeal of Article 343 Bis of the Penal Code*; the Commission for International Affairs and Foreign Trade analyzes the “*Approval of the International Agreement for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants*”; the Special Permanent Commission for the Environment discusses the “*Agreement Among the Governments of Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the United States of America on Environmental Cooperation*” (Environmental Cooperation

Agreement [ECA]); and the legislative organization in charge of economic affairs analyzes the bills on the “*Insurance-Contract-Regulation Law*” and the “*Securities Market Regulation Law*.”



(From left to right: Dr. Hernán Monterrosa Rojas, Inspector General; Julieta Volio Guevara, Director of GLIN-Costa Rica Station; Francisco Salas Ruiz, Attorney General of the National System of Current Law (SINALEVI—in Spanish); Dr. Mauricio Camacho Masís, Legal Analyst; and Isabel Zúñiga Quirós, Chief of The Legislative Information and Research Center (CEDIL—in Spanish) and Coordinator of the Station

## Editor's Note

Seasons Greetings from GLIN Central,

The first issue of the GLIN Global Journal received a very positive response! Thank you to all that sent emails. I enjoy hearing from you and that includes your suggestions and questions.

This issue features articles submitted by 3 GLIN stations. I hope you have taken a moment to read their stories. These personal accounts of activities “in the field” make the distance that separates us a bit smaller. I look forward to hearing from more stations in the coming month for our next publication.

One bit of news that I want to include comes from the GLIN Foundation:

The Global Legal Information Network Foundation will hold its next Board Meeting on December 11, 2007 at the offices of the Law Library of Congress. The meeting will be officiated by Chairman Jaime Nogales Torres. It is anticipated that the Board Members will have a full agenda of items to discuss ranging from Board Membership to Foundation Financial Status to Strategic Planning. A report on this meeting will be forthcoming in the next issue of this newsletter.

I hope that you find this issue to be a source of encouragement for your GLIN Station. We look forward to hearing from you!



Best Regards,  
LeeAnne Buckley  
Editor  
lbuc@loc.gov

# Central

GLIN Central has been busy since the Directors' meeting in September. First, a new contract was awarded at the end of September to continue the maintenance of GLIN. Advanced Technology Systems (ATS), the contractor responsible for the system upgrades since 2004, was awarded the new contract as well. GLIN Central is pleased to continue working with an organization that has such an in-depth knowledge of the system. Very little additional development work will be possible due to current funding constraints, but ATS will continue to maintain system operations to ensure ongoing availability.

A GLIN training session was held from October 15-19, 2007 that brought together representatives from both long-standing GLIN member nations as well as a new one. Six participants from the Congress of the Dominican Republic attended the training as the next step toward finalizing their membership in the GLIN Network. Although Costa Rica has been a member of GLIN since 2002, they sent a legal analyst to the training who will be responsible for contributing judicial decisions and legislative records which will augment the statutory materials that Costa Rica presently contributes to the database. A representative from the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) also participated in the training in anticipation of the contribution of some of its reports to the legal writings module of

GLIN. Finally, two staffers and a Member of Congress from the Congress of Guatemala attended the training session.

A group of 10 women judges from Egypt, escorted by the Assistant Minister of Justice, Mr. Osama Ataweya, visited the Law Library on November 13, 2007 to learn about GLIN. The Egyptian Ministry of Justice has pledged to join GLIN and will be sending a delegation to GLIN Central for training from December 3-7, 2007. The judges that visited on November 13<sup>th</sup> were interested in learning more about the GLIN effort and what rights and responsibilities Egypt will have as a GLIN member.

GLIN Central received a formal letter of intent to participate in GLIN from the House of Representatives (the unicameral legislature) of Indonesia. (A copy of this letter is available from GLIN Central upon request.) The Speaker of the House authorized the Chairman of the Indonesia-US House Caucus to take actions to ensure Indonesia's participation in GLIN. Toward that end, the Chairman of the Indonesia-US House Caucus designated a non-governmental organization, the Center for Law and Policy Studies (*Pusat Studi Hukum dan Kebijakan*) to represent Indonesia in the GLIN Network. The Center for Law and Policy Studies subsequently designated a GLIN team and preparations are being made for this team to be trained at GLIN Central

from February 25-29, 2008.

User Acceptance Testing was conducted on the GLIN Distance Learning Program (DLP) which is now available in English through the GLIN member homepage (click on the "My Training" link under "About GLIN"). Within the next three weeks, GLIN Central administrators will be undergoing training to support the new system. As soon as this training is complete, we will release a "quick start" guide and provide some additional information on using the online training program. Additional language versions—beginning with the languages of GLIN members--will be introduced over the coming months. GLIN Central may request the assistance of members to help review specific language versions.

Submitted by  
Janice Hyde



*Mr. Thaabit Albertus and Mr Momelizi Kula from the Parliament of South Africa visit the Law Library. They are accompanied by a US State Department escort and Ms. Donna Scheeder.*

## Currency and Completeness

I want to address these two topics once more because we, the members of the network, have agreed that they are essential factors in achieving and maintaining the quality and reliability of the content of our database.

There are two central areas to all digital information systems: the strength and friendliness of the technical infrastructure and the quality and reliability of its content. GLIN Central and the network have made considerable investment of time and other resources to the development and maintenance of the technical infrastructure. It is safe to state that we have developed a rather strong and friendly system. It has been recognized as such by a good number of highly qualified users. What remains to be done is ensuring that the content contributed by members of the network is indeed what we have agreed it should be.

I have been reminding our country directors at our annual meetings in Washington about the importance of first, maintaining the currency of the country's files and second, expanding its content in both dimensions: 1) retrospectively and 2) adding content to the available modules. It seems there is agreement among members that special attention be given to populating the modules in a hierarchical order. Codes, statutes and regulations, then the jurisprudence of the courts or case law, with legal literature and legislative records to follow. Founders and current members have agreed that we have committed our network to be the legal information resource of choice for our legislators, judges, lawyers, legal scholars, and others who depend on reliable legal information for serious decision-making. Let's all move to fulfill our commitments to the currency and completeness of our system.

Wishing you all a productive, prosperous and cooperative new year.

Rubens Medina.

