



Project on “Provision of Legal Training Components for Legal Institutions in Iraq”

*Workshop on “Developing the Training Curriculum at the Judicial Training
Institute (JTI) in Iraq”*

Background Paper

16 – 17 July, 2010

Monroe Hotel– Beirut

1. Introduction

In the context of the Project on **“Provision of Legal Training Components for Legal Institutions in Iraq”**, supported by UNDP Iraq, the Arab Center for the Development of Rule of Law and Integrity (ACRLI)¹ is organizing a workshop on **“Developing the Training Curriculum at the Judicial Training Institute (JTI) in Iraq”** to be held in Beirut on the 16th- 17th of July, 2010².

2. General Overview on the Project

The Arab Center for the Development of Rule of Law and Integrity (ACRLI) implements a Project entitled **“Provision of Legal Training Components for Legal Institutions of Iraq- LTI”**, hereinafter the Project, which comes within a broader Rule of Law (RoL) Programme implemented by UNDP Iraq.

The Project shall be implemented for a duration of 14 months, with an overall objective to increase the professionalism and accountability of Government of Iraq justice actors. More specifically, the Project aims to improve the overall functioning and effectiveness of the Higher Judicial Council (HJC), Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Judicial Training Institute (JTI), and the pilot courts in Baghdad, Erbil and Basra through a diverse set of legal training activities tailored for each institution.

The purpose of the HJC training program will be to train judges on strategic planning, judicial ethics and integrity, judicial independence, fair and just investigations, and anti-corruption in addition on training them on relevant areas of both substantive and procedural law; within the MoJ, the aim of the legal training will be to build capacity in strategic planning and provide training on the use of computerized court documents and manuals, and on judicial independence. As for the purpose of the pilot courts training process, it is to help the judges and staff of the pilot courts to fully adopt the new procedures of these courts.

Finally, with regards to the Judicial Training Institute in Iraq, the project aims to establish a comprehensive reform process on the curriculum of the JTI in terms of developing the curriculum and equipping the Institute with required working tools, in addition to providing specialized legal training in the areas of human rights, gender equity, gender-based violence, family law and juvenile justice.

¹ The Arab Center for the Development of the Rule of Law and Integrity (ACRLI) is an Arab regional, non-governmental and non-profit organization, based in Beirut with a number of national branches and partnership organizations in various Arab countries. ACRLI works with governmental agencies, the private sector and civil society organizations for the purpose of achieving its overall objectives through adopting means of scientific research, training, spreading awareness and knowledge building. ACRLI includes a number of leading experts in areas of judicial reform, human rights, combating corruption in the public and private sector, corporate governance, developing the environment of investment and businesses, legal informatics and others. For more information on ACRLI and its activities, please check the following website: www.arabruloflaw.org.

² This paper has been drafted for the purpose of providing basic background information on the workshop, the first activity carried out in the context of the Project on **“Provision of Legal Training Components for Legal Institutions in Iraq”**. For more information on ACRLI and the Project in general, kindly contact the Project Manager, Ms. Nelly RIHAN on the following email address: nrihan@arabruloflaw.org.

ACRLI will work with a number of entities and individuals in order to ensure that the legal training component is implemented successfully, and these include: (i) UN agencies, including, UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNAMI-HRO, UNICEF and others (ii) individual UN and international experts; and the (iii) Iraqi counterparts including the Higher Judicial Council (HJC), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), and the Judicial Training Institute (JTI).

For more information on the Project, kindly visit ACRLI's website: www.arabrulEOFlaw.org.

3. Event Description

The workshop on "Developing the Training Curriculum at the Judicial Training Institute (JTI) in Iraq" which shall be held in Beirut on July 16-17, 2010, makes up one of the two workshops which shall be organized on the Iraqi Judicial Training Institute within the framework of the project on "Provision of Legal Training Components for Legal Institutions in Iraq".

This workshop aims at discussing the first draft of the report prepared by the Arab Center for the Rule of Law and Integrity on "Developing the Training Curriculum at the Judicial Training Institute (JTI) in Iraq" which shall be fine-tuned and prepared in its final form in light of the participants' input during the workshop.

The first part of the report sheds light on the status of the Iraqi Judicial Training Institute and provides a preliminary analysis on it; whereas, the second part deals with the conceptual and developmental framework of the JTI's training curriculum, library and information system.

The report is based on data, texts and documents collected from Iraqi sources, in addition to results of a survey that was executed by ACRLI, and information gathered through direct contact with the JTI administration and through meetings held with its officials.

Based on the results of the survey and on the analysis of the JTI status and needs which have been detailed in the report and its annexes- which form an integral part of it, recommendations to develop the JTI curriculum were introduced. When developing the recommendations, international experiences and best practices were utilized, with a focus on the French experience in this area due to its significance and multiple acknowledgments of success.

It should be noted that ACRLI has adopted a practical approach when preparing this report, where it had taken into account the specificities of the Iraqi status, especially in terms of university-based educational programs in Iraqi law faculties and the current training curriculum adopted in the JTI.

This workshop constitutes a major step in the course of updating the curriculum of the JTI, since it provides the opportunity to present and discuss the needs of the Institute and the exchange of ideas between participants on the recommendations and the developmental Strategic Plan submitted; on this basis the report will be amended to become a basic tool, which shall make up the foundation for achieving the desired training curriculum.

Accordingly, the objectives of this workshop can be summarized as follows:

- Presentation and discussion of the status and needs of the Iraqi JTI for the purpose of validating the survey results and field data;
- Shedding light on the aspects and areas of developing the JTI curriculum;
- Presentation and discussion of educational materials and training methodology proposed;
- Shedding light on the equipment available at the JTI and discussing the equipment required to develop the work flow at the Institute;
- Presentation and discussion of the strategic plan and action plan presented in the report in order to set aspired reforms into action.

The outcome of the conference shall present recommendations that reflect the required amendments on the first version of the report on developing the JTI's curriculum, in order to adopt a final version in the latter phase.

- Participants: This workshop shall bring along representatives of the relevant judicial bodies in Baghdad and Kurdistan, as well as regional and international experts (ENM, UNAMI, UNHCR, UNDP and others).
- Logistics: ACRLI is organizing the mentioned workshop in Monroe Hotel, Beirut. For any queries about logistical details, please contact Ms. Romy Salem on: rsalem@arabrulEOFlaw.org or Ms. Rasha Jammal on the following postal address: rjammal@arabrulEOFlaw.org.

4. Programme of Workshop

The two day workshop includes four sessions, each with a duration of one hour and a half; a rapporteur for the sessions shall be appointed in order to summarize the results of the workshop and therefore modify the report in accordance with the final conclusions.

The **first session** of the workshop provides an overview on the project's background and the basic pillars for developing the training curriculum at the JTI. This session also sheds light on the correlation between curriculum reform at the JTI and general judicial reform, the correlation between curriculum reform at the JTI and other reforms (selection of educational bodies, selection of students, etc), correlation between training and education and the link between basic training and continuous training. Last but not least, this session shall also provide a brief overview on best practices around the world on judicial training.

Furthermore, this session shall also present the tasks carried out by ACRLI with regards to collecting information on the Iraqi Judicial Training Institute, reflecting the results of survey, field investigations and gathered data, which all form the basis for recommendations introduced in the various mentioned fields.

Session two of the workshop will discuss the current curriculum and training materials available at the Iraqi Judicial Training Institute, in addition to presenting methods of performance and methodologies adopted throughout the training process. This session shall also offer suggestions and recommendations prepared by ACRLI to develop the training curriculum, and thus determine the necessary training topics. It shall also propose new topics and modify adopted methodologies in order to obtain a modern educational curriculum.

The **third session** shall shed light on the additional components for developing the JTI's training

curriculum and the pillars that are associated with the curriculum; these pillars must also be developed in order to achieve a high degree of reform and acquired development. Examples of these are the following: conditions of student admission at the Institute, entry examinations, the system of graduation, evaluation and examination systems, selection of trainers and trainees; recommendations and proposals shall also be presented in this area in order to develop these themes.

The **fourth session** shall display the equipments required to enhance the work flow at the JTI in relation to developing and equipping the JTI library, providing it with legal references (paper and electronic), legal databases, modern tools and information systems as well as training personnel on retrieving legal information. Moreover, this session shall also cover the need to equip the JTI with modern tools and technologies used in the field of management and methodologies of modern education.

As for the **fifth session**, it shall present the proposed strategy to develop the JTI curriculum and the action plan put forward by ACRLI for implementing this strategy. The proposed strategic plan takes into account the complementation of developmental activities to achieve the desired end. ACRLI has worked on organizing the proposed reform activities within a comprehensive reform program with general and specific objectives; it has also identified specific projects that lead to achieving these objectives along with mechanisms for implementation.

Thus, **session six** shall address the principles of strategic planning and the perception developed by ACRLI supported by a work plan proposed for its implementation, in addition to standards and benchmarks that allow the measurement of progress and results achieved in the area of developing the JTI curriculum.

5. Final Remarks

This workshop is expected to form an important step in achieving one of the Project objectives namely, developing the Iraqi JTI which consists of drafting a comprehensive action plan to develop the training curriculum and educational materials, equipping the JTI with required equipments, in addition to implementing some training courses in specialized legal areas such as human rights, gender equity, gender-based violence, family law, juvenile justice, and others.

The conclusions and recommendations of the workshop shall be published on ACRLI's website: www.arabruleoflaw.org. For further questions and comments please contact the Project Manager, Ms. Nelly Rihan at the following address nrihan@arabruleoflaw.org.