



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”

Explanatory Paper



18 February, 2011

Beirut, Republic of Lebanon

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 18th of February 2011².

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

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.arabruleoflaw.org.

² This paper has been drafted for the purpose of providing basic background information on the workshop,. For more information on ACRLI and the Project in general, kindly contact the Project Manager, Ms. Nelly RIHAN on the following email address: nrihan@arabruleoflaw.org.

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.

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 February 18, 2011, makes up an important step in the development of the judicial training institute's curriculum, within the framework of the project on “Provision of Legal Training Components for Legal Institutions in Iraq”, and is an extension to the first JTI workshop organized by ACRLI and held on the 16th and 17th of July 2010.

This workshop aims at launching the final report on “**Developing the Training Curriculum at the Judicial Training Institute (JTI) in Iraq**” prepared by the Arab Center for the Rule of Law and Integrity which was finalized and fine-tuned and prepared in its final form in light of the participants' input during the first workshop, meetings with the Iraqi officials and concerned persons. This workshop aims as well at presenting the stages of preparation of this report, and the announcement of its outputs and the related implementation mechanisms by the Judicial Training Institute.

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 report was presented and discussed during the first workshop held in Beirut on the 16th and 17th of July 2011, attended by representatives of judicial bodies in Baghdad and Kurdistan, as well as international and regional experts (ENM, UNAMI, UNHCR, UNDP), where they all exchanged ideas on the proposed suggestions and reform strategic plan.. After that, the Center prepared a revised version of the report which took into consideration the observations made by the participants during the first workshop, and suggestions made by the Board of Directors of the Judicial Institute, and the recommendations from the various meetings held with concerned Iraqi officials.

- Participants: This workshop shall bring along the board members of the JTI, in addition to representatives from ENM.
- Logistics: ACRLI is organizing the mentioned workshop in Gefinor Rotana Hotel, Beirut. For any queries about logistical details, please contact the project coordinator Ms. Romy Salem on: rsalem@arabruloflaw.org .

4. Programme of Workshop

The workshop includes three sessions, each with duration of one hour and a half; in addition to the opening session.

The first session of the workshop provides an overview on successful experiences and best practices in Judicial Training. It will also present the importance of the training curriculum modernization in judicial training institutes and brief overview on International successful experiences and best practices in judicial training.

Session two of the workshop will discuss the Key points for reform and the perception of modernization of the Judicial Training Institute (JTI) curriculum in Iraq, through a brief overview on the philosophy of reform and the key points for the modernization of the training curriculum, and a presentation of the modernization strategy and the recommendations proposed by ACRLI regarding the amendment of the JTI curriculum, namely in terms of the adoption of new performance measures and training methodologies, and the suggestion of a training curriculum including, in addition to traditional training materials, the following subjects: Human Rights, Juvenile Justice, Gender Equity, Family Law and Gender Based Violence

The third and last session shall shed light on the implementation Mechanisms to be adopted by the Juridical Training institute- JTI, and the recommendations adopted by the JTI, as well as the

amendments that shall be implemented in light of the status and capabilities of the JTI. It will also present the JTI work plan for inclusion of suggested curriculum changes and amendments, and the implementation mechanisms especially in terms of adopting new training materials and recruiting experts / specialized trainers.

5. Final Remarks

This workshop forms an important step in achieving one of the Project objectives namely, developing the Iraqi JTI, where the final version of the report and its main findings and outputs shall be presented.

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