



International Legal Resource Center



The International Legal Resource Center (ILRC) was created in 1999 to enhance access to worldwide legal expertise for technical assistance and other development projects. UNDP, with over 160 country offices, is the main development branch of the United Nations system tackling problems as diverse as public health, conflict prevention and recovery, and the independence of the judiciary. In the seven years since its founding, the ILRC has complemented UNDP's on the ground efforts with the following services:

- Identifying legal experts for short or long term in-country assignments
- Conducting legal research and analysis based on international standards
- Compiling assessments of domestic legislation.

Some country offices, such as UNDP/Viet Nam, have consistently worked with the ILRC on multiple projects during the course of a year. In fact, a substantial number of the 90 UNDP country offices that have cooperated with the ILRC have been repeat beneficiaries of its services. The advantage of ILRC services, especially the recommendation of experts, is that they are free of charge to the country offices.

ILRC Guiding Principles

The ILRC is committed to providing high quality assistance to UNDP and is guided in its work by the following principles:

- **Cost Effectiveness:** By generally recommending pro bono experts from its database of over 1,300, the ILRC delivers tremendous benefits in a cost effective manner. Country offices recruiting experts who volunteer their time through the ILRC are solely responsible for covering business related expenses. Over a month, this could mean that pro bono expert costs are *one quarter* of a usual professional consultant's fee. The ILRC usually recruits already employed legal professionals with extensive experience in the requisite legal fields.
- **Timeliness:** The ILRC provides quick turn around responses to both recruitment and research requests. Requests for experts are answered in a one to two week period while general research and assessments take anywhere from two to six weeks to complete.
- **Flexibility:** The ILRC accesses a network of lawyers whose time commitments complement the needs of the fast paced UNDP environment. The short term assignments required for many missions fit well with ILRC professionals who can devote two to four weeks of their time and who have a deep interest in contributing to worldwide legal reform.
- **Diversity and Quality:** In addition to its database which includes highly experienced, multilingual legal experts, the ILRC benefits from the talent of its multicultural advisory board (with 25 members located on six continents), steering committee, and staff. Furthermore, the ILRC legal research internship program attracts students from top international law schools.

ILRC at a Glance (<i>as of March 2007</i>)
Number of Registered Experts: 1,305
Average Years of Experience: 17.5 (80% of experts have more than 5 years of experience)
Countries Represented in Roster: 91
Number of Primary Languages: 92
Percentage of Non-US Experts: 43.4%
Number of Countries Utilizing Services in 2007: 15