

Project Developments - 31 December 2006

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Key

Quarterly Accomplishments: During the first two months of this project, IWPR put in place staffing for this project, prepared training materials and consulted with local stakeholders. A summary of the key accomplishments are:

- Recruited and concluded staffing for the project, including all local staff and the international trainer/editor;

- Produced training manual in Arabic;

- Finalized streamlining the work-plan, including a detailed schedule for training and production;

- Completed recruiting and selecting trainees for the advanced training course

- Initiated consultation process with NGO leaders, editors and relevant governmental bodies;

- Started work on producing the first newsletter.

Consultation with experts and local key players

As part of the preparation for this endeavour, IWPR initiated a consultation process with key local players in this area, such as

civil society leaders, media management and editors, members of Iraqi parliament, representatives of local governments and representatives of the Iraqi Integrity Commission. Implemented via personal interviews and meetings, the consultations will continue throughout the implementation of the project.

The consultations provide:

- A better understanding of local governances and the role it plays in service delivery;

- An in-depth understanding of the methods and strategies currently used by local media to cover such issues;

- Enhanced networking capacity of the project;

- Debate on project issues;

- Assistance in preparing for dissemination of information;

- A better understanding of the mechanisms used for combating corruption;

- A contribution of experiences in developing training materials.

Production of training material

During the three years of continued IWPR training and reporting in and from Iraq, we have developed a series of training material in Arabic, Kurdish and English, including an advanced training handbook for local reporting in crisis areas in cooperation with ColumbiaUniversity in New York and CityUniversity in London.

Specific for this project, IWPR developed a special training module. During this quarter, the handbook was translated into Arabic to function as both a training handbook and a reference book for trainees. The final edit of the training manual will be conducted in the first week of January in anticipation of training latter in the month.

Trainee recruitment and selection of participant

Via our extensive contact network, IWPR advertised for participation of this project. The candidates were selected through a filtration process. All participants must:

- have substantial journalistic experience

- be actively working for at least one outlet

- have undergone the basic skills training provided by IWPR

- pass a general knowledge test

- pass a language test; Arabic or Kurdish, depending on region

- pass an in-depth personal interview

Through the above process a number of journalists were selected and will participate in this project. In addition, a number of anti-corruption activists and civil society actors recommended by IRI's field

office will participate in this training course.

**Final preparation for the production
of the first Iraq Good Governance Reader**

As part of the consultation process, a number of Iraqi key players contributed opinion articles covering the theory and practice of good governance, corruption and transparency in Iraq. The contributors include:

- Rend Rahim (Iraq Foundation),

- Bakhtyar Amin (former Human Rights minister),

- Luai Baldawi (editor of Almutammar),

- Twana Osman (editor of Hawlati),

- Hussein Aladeli (head of Watan Research Org),

- Mishkat Moumin (former minister of environment) and others.

Location: Iraqi Kurdistan
Iraq

Focus: Iraq

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