

HURIDOCs

EMBARGO

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H U R I D O C S E S T A B L I S H E D

The newly elected international Council of HURIDOCs announces today the establishment of an international Human Rights Information and Documentation System (HURIDOCs). This is the result of an international conference, presided over by Senator José Diokno (PHILIPPINES), which took place on 22-24 July 1982 in the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg.

The purpose of HURIDOCs is to promote and protect human rights through the wider dissemination of public information on human rights. The services of the system will be available to anyone but the responsibility for HURIDOCs will lie in the hands of the non-governmental organizations, institutes and individuals who are engaged in human rights activities.

1. The conference in Strasbourg adopted by acclamation a constitution and elected an international Council of which Ramendra N. Trivedi (INDIA) is the Chairman and Antonio Viera-Gallo (CHILE) the Vice-Chairman. Martin Ennals (UK) is the founding President of HURIDOCs and the Secretary is Hans Thoolen (NETHERLANDS). Friederike Knabe (FRG) is Treasurer. Other members of the international Council are: Juan de Castro, Asbjørn Eide, Kofi Kumado, Jonathan Kuttub, Adrian Nastase and Laurie Wiseberg. The conference is the outcome of exploratory and preparatory work undertaken over three years by an international working group based in London with an international team of consultants. Funds have been provided from a variety of sources, including the Ford Foundation, the Governments of the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, UNESCO, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights and a number of non-governmental organizations.
2. The Inaugural Conference of HURIDOCs in Strasbourg was preceded by a regional meeting in Quito, Ecuador, in June, where over fifty representatives from human rights organizations in twenty Latin American and Caribbean countries took part. At that meeting a coordinating committee was created for the region and representatives were nominated to attend the conference in Strasbourg. A coordinating committee for Europe was established in 1981.
3. At the inaugural meeting in Strasbourg over 80 participants from all regions of the world, most of whom travelled at their own expense, took an active part in the creation of the Human Rights Information and Documentation System (HURIDOCs), designed to strengthen existing networks and assist in the establishment of new ones. They included researchers, activists, documentalists, teachers and representatives of international and national organizations. A number of intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers. It is the view of the participants that too much information concerning human rights is wasted due to both lack of access to it and indeed knowledge that it exists.

A final report will be made available as soon as possible. For further information write to: HURIDOCs, P.O.Box 206,
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